

SECTION
2

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Great Britain became an industrial leader with a worldwide empire. Today, it no longer has a great empire, but it remains a respected European power.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Britain's history as an industrial and colonial power has shaped its culture. Britain's increasingly diverse population continues to enrich its cultural life.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

Briton a British person

Gaelic any of the Celtic family of languages spoken in Ireland or Scotland

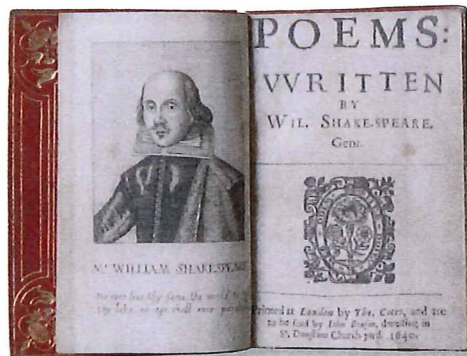
multicultural relating to or including many different cultures

Church of England the official church of England headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury

William Shakespeare an English playwright and poet during the late 16th and early 17th centuries

REVIEW

immigrant a person who leaves one area to settle in another



Visual Vocabulary William Shakespeare

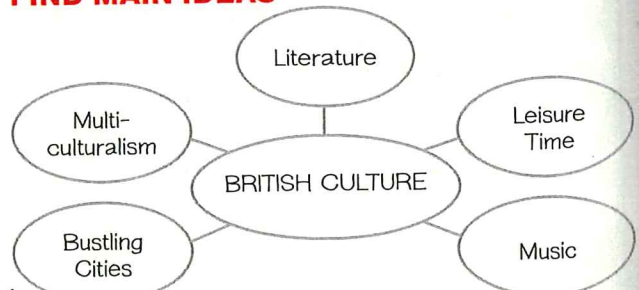
▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the web diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the diagram to help you find main ideas about British culture.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R4

FIND MAIN IDEAS



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Go to Interactive Review @ClassZone.com



SECTION
2

CULTURE

From Shakespeare to J. K. Rowling

Connecting to Your World

Have you ever read a Harry Potter book? One day in 1990, an idea for a book popped into the head of J. K. Rowling, a British author. She wanted to write about a young boy named Harry who could do magic. Today, millions of people around the world know about this boy. Rowling's Harry Potter books have made publishing history, selling out at bookstores hours after they are put on the shelves. Rowling is just one part of Great Britain's rich cultural heritage.



Harry Potter Fans Like these boys, many fans dress up as their favorite Harry Potter characters.

Life in the United Kingdom

KEY QUESTION What influences have made British culture more diverse in recent years?

Before World War II, most British people shared the same ethnicity and religious beliefs. Today, people of many different faiths and customs make their home in the United Kingdom. Many of them have immigrated from the former colonies of the British empire. The influence of these newcomers can be seen throughout Britain. Although some changes have caused tensions, the mix of old and new traditions is making many British cities lively places to live.

Tower Bridge The Tower Bridge, built in 1894, spans the Thames River near London's modern City Hall, the round building at right.



Bustling Cities For many centuries, Great Britain was a largely rural country. The Industrial Revolution sparked urban growth. Today, nine out of ten **Britons**, or British people, live in cities. London, the capital of the United Kingdom, is by far the largest city, with over 7 million residents. While London is the biggest, the nation has several other major cities. The map below shows the location of Britain's largest cities by population, most of which fall within industrial areas.

By the 1800s, London was already a busy city. Today, it is a multi-level city with a subway system below ground and skyscrapers above. It is a global center of culture and commerce. It also has many tourist attractions that draw millions of visitors each year.

Edinburgh People stroll down a street in Edinburgh, Scotland, during a festival.

10 Biggest Cities in Great Britain



City	Population
London	7,172,036
Birmingham	977,091
Leeds	715,404
Glasgow	629,501
Sheffield	513,234
Bradford	467,668
Liverpool	439,476
Edinburgh	430,082
Manchester	392,819
Bristol	380,615

Sources: National Statistics UK Census 2001 and Scotland Census 2001

CONNECT to Language Arts

Would you know what to do if someone told you to go find a bobby? If you were British, you would know to look for a police officer, like those shown below. Although British English and American English are similar, some of the words used by Britons are very different—and some can be difficult to translate.



Activity

Translate British to American English

Materials

- flipcards
- pencil
- dictionary




1. Write each of the words listed below on one side of a flipcard:
biscuit, bloke, boot, chemist, jumper, lift, lorry, mate, petrol, and zebra crossing.
2. Think about what each word might mean. Write your guess next to each one.
3. Look up each word in the dictionary. Look for the definition identified as British. Write the definition on the other side of each flipcard.

Multiculturalism Each region in the United Kingdom—England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland—has its own customs. English is Great Britain's official language. In Scotland and Ireland, however, some speak **Gaelic**, the language brought to the British Isles by the Celtic people. In Wales, about one-fifth of the population speaks Welsh, another Celtic language.

Over the years, the United Kingdom has welcomed **immigrants** from around the world. After World War II, the nation saw an increase in immigration from former colonies in South Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. Today, about one in ten people in Britain is an immigrant. These newcomers have added variety to British culture and influenced tastes in food and music. They have made the United Kingdom one of the most **multicultural** countries in the world, meaning that it includes many cultures. This has also caused tensions, however, as diverse customs and viewpoints occasionally clash.

Immigration has also had an impact on religion in the United Kingdom. Many Britons belong to the **Church of England**. As the nation's official church, it combines both Catholic and Protestant traditions. In Northern Ireland, about two-fifths of the population are Roman Catholics. However, Great Britain also has many religious minorities, such as Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs. Their faiths are reflected in the temples and mosques found in many British cities.

 **EVALUATE** Explain why British culture has become more diverse.

Fun Facts!

CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA

At one time fish and chips was England's favorite dish, but no more. Now Britons prefer an Indian-influenced dish called chicken tikka masala. The dish is an Indian meal called chicken tikka, to which the Britons have added a masala sauce to satisfy their love of gravy. The new creation is a true combination of British and Indian culture.



A Rich Cultural Heritage

KEY QUESTION What cultural achievements is Britain known for?

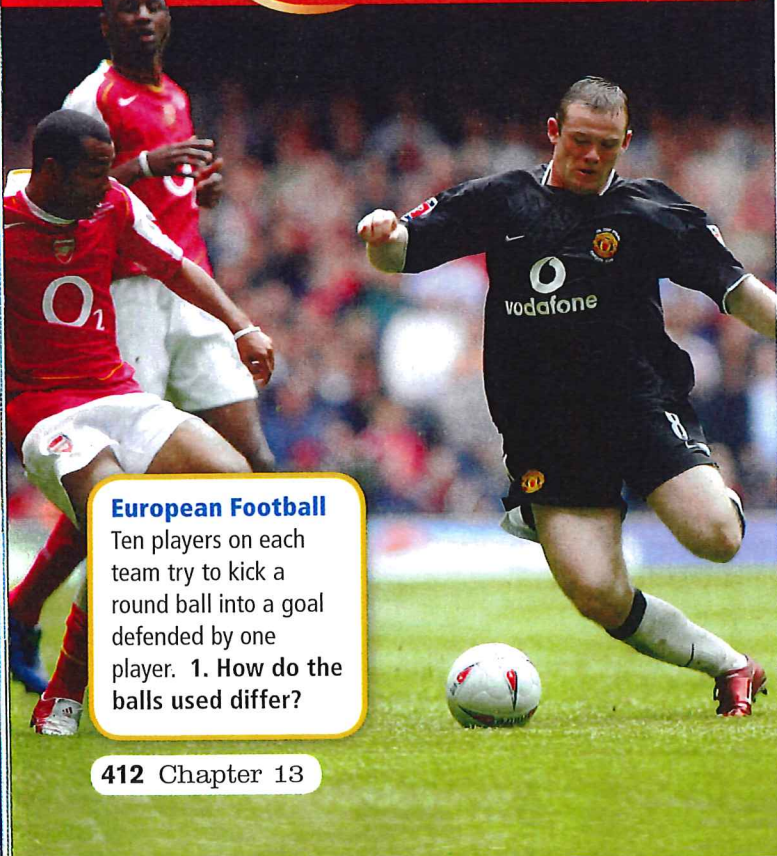
Many of the United Kingdom's most treasured exports don't come from factories. Literature, music, and popular culture make up a rich cultural heritage. With its history as an imperial power, the nation has been exporting its culture around the world for centuries.

Literature Many consider English playwright and poet **William Shakespeare** the finest writer of all time. His plays have entertained audiences for over 400 years. In 1997, a replica of the Globe Theatre—where Shakespeare's plays were originally performed—opened in London, introducing a new generation of Britons to his work.

Many talented authors followed Shakespeare. Jane Austen wrote about British life in the late 1700s and early 1800s in such books as *Pride and Prejudice*. In books such as *Oliver Twist* and *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens explored Britain's social problems. Modern British authors have written many stories for young people. C. S. Lewis crafted fantastic tales in the *Chronicles of Narnia*. J. R. R. Tolkien created the magical world of the *Lord of the Rings* series. Most recently, J. K. Rowling's young wizard Harry Potter has charmed readers of all ages.

Leisure Time Many Britons are sports fans. Soccer, known as football in Europe, is the nation's favorite sport. The modern form of the game played worldwide is thought to have originated in England.

COMPARING Sports



European Football

Ten players on each team try to kick a round ball into a goal defended by one player. 1. How do the balls used differ?



American Football

Teams of 11 heavily padded players carry or throw an oval ball across a goal line. 2. Which version uses more padding?

Two other games invented in Britain have become popular in its former colonies. Cricket is played with a bat and a ball. Teams from the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth nations such as India and Pakistan often compete in international games. Rugby, a sport like football, is popular in Australia and South Africa.

The United Kingdom has also produced some well-known films and television shows that have been exported around the world. One British reality television program, *Pop Idol*, allowed viewers to vote for their favorite singers each week. The show was an instant success. Versions of it spread to over 30 countries, including the United States.

Music In the 1960s, the United States faced an unusual kind of invasion, not by soldiers but by music. American teenagers went crazy for British rock 'n' roll. Mobs of screaming fans greeted "British Invasion" bands like the Beatles and the Rolling Stones wherever they performed. Since then, many other British bands, such as Coldplay, have gained popularity with Americans.

SUMMARIZE Describe British cultural achievements that have had a global impact.



Playing Cricket Some Pakistani Muslim boys use a traffic cone to play cricket on a London street.

Section 2 Assessment



ONLINE QUIZ

For test practice, go to
Interactive Review
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TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

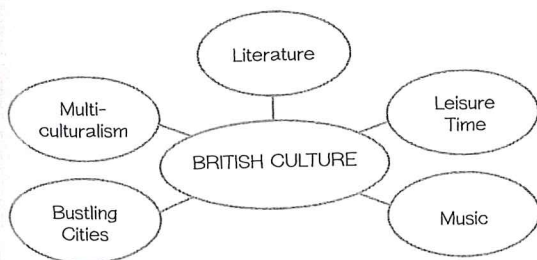
- Briton
- Gaelic
- multicultural
- Church of England

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. Find Main Ideas

Use your completed web diagram to answer the following question:

What British authors have written books for young people?



KEY IDEAS

3. In addition to English, what other languages are spoken in the United Kingdom?
4. How have immigrants changed British culture?
5. What early writer helped make the United Kingdom well known for its literary achievements?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Draw Conclusions** How did British sports become popular in countries like India and Australia?
7. **Form and Support Opinions** What are the advantages of having a diverse British population?
8. **CONNECT to Today** What challenges might the United Kingdom face if the diversity of its population continues to grow?
9. **WRITING Create a Brochure** In 2012, London will host the Summer Olympic Games. Use a word processor to create a brochure telling Americans why they should come to London for the 2012 Olympics. Find a picture to illustrate your brochure.