

SECTION
3

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

British culture is changing as the population becomes more diverse.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

The United Kingdom's government is a constitutional monarchy. Its economy is strong and adapts to global changes.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

constitutional monarchy a government in which the powers of the king or queen are limited by a constitution

unwritten constitution a framework for government that is not a single written document but includes many different laws, court decisions, and political customs

devolution the process of shifting some power from national to regional government

Good Friday Agreement an agreement between Northern Ireland's unionists and nationalists that set up a new government

wind farm a power plant that uses windmills to generate electricity

Channel Tunnel the underwater railroad tunnel between France and England under the English Channel



Visual Vocabulary wind farm

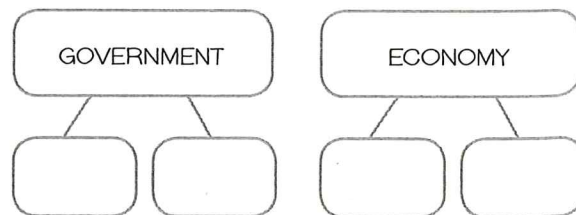
▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the web diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the web diagram to help you summarize information about the government and economy of the United Kingdom.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R5

SUMMARIZE



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

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Parliament and Free Enterprise

Connecting to Your World

Most Americans know that the United Kingdom has a monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. You may have seen pictures of her, her son Prince Charles, or her grandsons Prince William and Prince Harry. While most Americans have heard of Queen Elizabeth II, many aren't sure exactly what role she plays in British political life. Does she help govern Britain? Does she control the nation's foreign policy or manage its economy? Keep reading to learn more about how the British government works and how monarchs and elected leaders fit into it.



Queen and Parliament

KEY QUESTION How are the regions of the United Kingdom governed?

The British sovereign, or monarch, serves as an important symbol of the British nation, but not as the leader of the government. Elected leaders govern the country. The sovereign is not above the law, and he or she rules and acts with Parliament's approval. The king or queen performs mostly ceremonial duties, which can include attending formal dinners or appointing ambassadors to other countries.

The Royal Family

Queen Elizabeth II (above) with her grandsons, William and Harry. The queen uses this gold coach (below) for special occasions, such as a parade celebrating her reign.



Constitutional Monarchy The United Kingdom is a **constitutional monarchy**, in which the monarch's power is limited by a constitution. Unlike most countries, it has an **unwritten constitution** made up of laws, court decisions, and political customs. Parliament, the United Kingdom's legislature, can change it as needed.

Parliament is made up of two houses and the sovereign. Members of the House of Lords are mostly appointed. This house has little real power. The House of Commons, the key lawmaking body, consists of elected officials. Usually, the leader of the party with the most seats in the House of Commons becomes prime minister. The prime minister heads the executive branch of the government. He or she governs with the support of the Cabinet. Tony Blair served as prime minister until 2007, when he was replaced by Gordon Brown.

Regional Governments All four regions of the United Kingdom—England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland—are represented in Parliament. In the late 1990s, Parliament shifted some power from the national level to regional governments, a process called **devolution**. Scotland and Wales set up parliaments. They took over their domestic affairs, while Parliament kept charge of foreign policy and defense.

COMPARING U.S. and British Governments

U.S. GOVERNMENT

U.S. citizens elect representatives and the President for the national government.

CITIZENS



CONGRESS

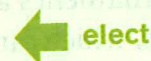


PRESIDENT

BRITISH GOVERNMENT

British citizens elect members of the House of Commons. The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party.

CITIZENS



HOUSE OF COMMONS

leader of majority party becomes



PRIME MINISTER

CRITICAL THINKING

Compare and Contrast Where do citizens more directly choose their leader?

Establishing a government in Northern Ireland has been more difficult. The English first expanded into Ireland in the 1100s. The Irish, who had their own culture, bitterly resented the English. In 1949, the southern part of Ireland became the Republic of Ireland. Since the 1920s, Northern Ireland has been divided by conflict between two groups. The nationalists, who are mostly Catholic, believe Northern Ireland should unite with the Republic of Ireland. The unionists, mainly Protestants, want to stay part of the United Kingdom. In 1998, both sides signed the **Good Friday Agreement**, which set up a new government. In 2002, however, renewed violence led to the government's shutdown. Recent efforts toward self-government have failed, but violence between the two sides has decreased and talks continue.

SUMMARIZE Explain how the United Kingdom governs its regions.

The British Economy

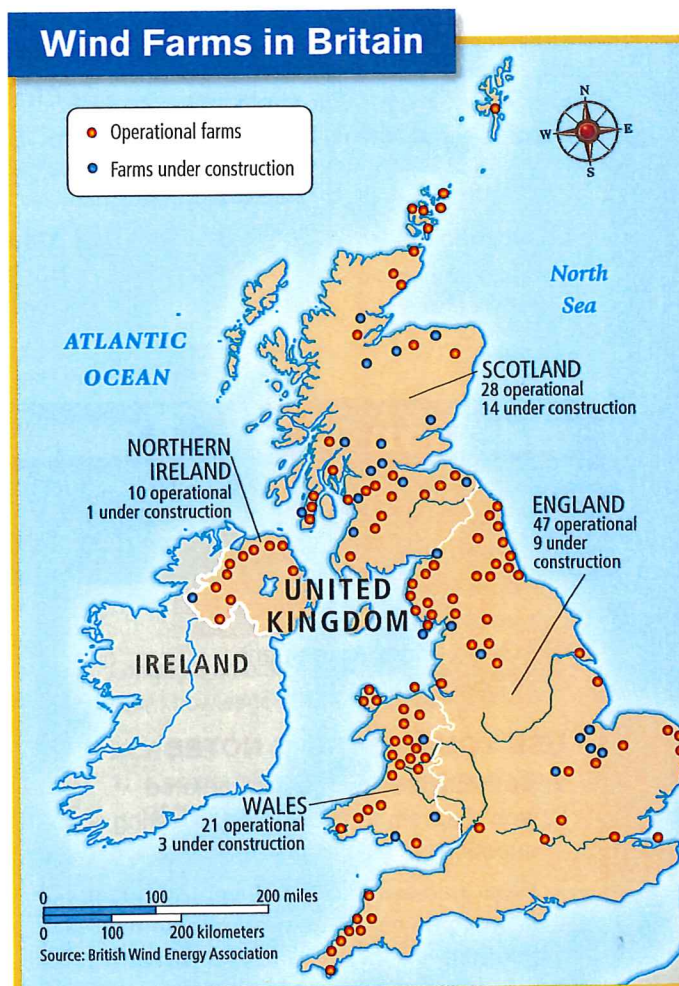
KEY QUESTION How has the United Kingdom's economy changed?

Today, the United Kingdom is a densely populated urban nation. Cities cover most areas that were once farmland. The country also lost its empire, which had boosted its economy. These changes have forced it to adapt.

A Powerful Economy For decades, manufacturing formed the basis of Great Britain's economy. It was fueled by natural resources such as iron ore, coal, and oil deposits in the North Sea. As these resources are depleted, British scientists have begun looking for sustainable energy sources, including wind energy. The map at right shows Britain's development of **wind farms**, power plants that use windmills to generate electricity.

At one time, Great Britain was known for its textile and steel industries. While it remains a leader in the production of textiles, chemicals, and motor vehicles, it has fewer manufacturing jobs than before. Over three-fourths of Britain's labor force now works in service industries. The nation is a world leader in insurance and financial services. London's banks and stock exchange have made it one of Europe's leading business centers.

Wind Farms in Britain



CONNECT Geography & Economics

- Human-Environment Interaction** Are more wind farms located inland or near the coast?
- Region** Which of the four regions has the most wind farms under construction?



The Channel Tunnel Trains like this one, operated by a company called Eurotunnel, shuttle passengers and freight through the Channel Tunnel. In June 2006, the 100 millionth passenger traveled on the train.

Participating in the Global Economy Winston Churchill once said of Great Britain, "We are with Europe but not of it." In some ways the nation still stands apart. In 2002, most European Union members agreed to replace their own currency with the euro. Britain chose to continue using its national currency, the pound.

In most other ways, however, the United Kingdom is now closely tied to Europe through participation in the European Union and trade with industrial and developing nations. The nation has a trillion-dollar economy. Because of its prosperity, it can trade with other countries. It has goods and services that other nations want. Most of the United Kingdom's trade is with other EU members.

Technology has also drawn the United Kingdom closer to its neighbors in Europe. In 1994, British and French workers completed construction of the 31-mile under-sea **Channel Tunnel**. The tunnel links Britain to France by train. Every day, an average of 45,000 people make the 35-minute journey to the European mainland.

ANALYZE EFFECTS Explain how the United Kingdom's economy has changed.

ONLINE QUIZ
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Section 3 Assessment

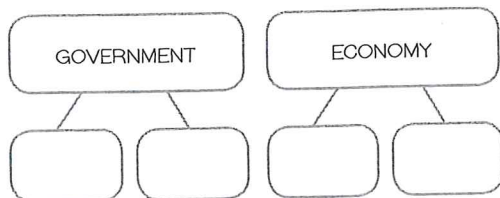
TERMS & NAMES

- 1. Explain the importance of**
 - constitutional monarchy
 - unwritten constitution
 - Good Friday Agreement
 - Channel Tunnel

USE YOUR READING NOTES

- 2. Summarize** Use your completed web diagram to answer the following question:

What decision did the United Kingdom make that kept its economy separate from the rest of the European Union?



KEY IDEAS

- 3.** Why is the United Kingdom said to have an unwritten constitution?
- 4.** What are the roles of the monarch, prime minister, and Parliament within the British government?
- 5.** What are the United Kingdom's most important service industries?

CRITICAL THINKING

- 6. Compare and Contrast** How are the British Parliament and the U.S. Congress alike and different?
- 7. Analyze Causes and Effects** Why might a long history of conflict make it hard for Northern Ireland to set up a workable government?
- 8. CONNECT to Today** How might London's growing cultural diversity help it expand its global financial and business services?
- 9. WRITING Write a Report** Choose a major British industry to research. Write a paragraph explaining why it is important to the United Kingdom's economy.

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Key Idea 1

Many developments, including the Industrial Revolution and a colonial empire, helped the United Kingdom grow into a major world power.

Key Idea 2

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

Key Idea 3

The United Kingdom's government is a constitutional monarchy. Its economy is strong and adapts to global changes.

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NAME GAME

Use the Terms & Names list to complete each sentence on paper or online.

- I am a famous English playwright.
_____ **William Shakespeare** _____
- I connect Britain with France by rail.

- I am the United Kingdom's official church.

- I am a British person. _____
- I am a government in which the powers of the king and queen are limited by a constitution.

- I am a document written in 1215 that limited the power of the English monarch. _____
- I am the language spoken by some people in Scotland and Ireland along with English.

- I am the process of shifting power from national to regional government. _____
- I am the legislative branch of the British government. _____
- I am the organization made up of former British colonies. _____

Briton
Channel Tunnel
Church of England
Commonwealth of Nations
constitutional monarchy
devolution
Gaelic
Good Friday Agreement
imperialism
Magna Carta
multicultural
Parliament
unwritten constitution
William Shakespeare

Activities

GeoGame

Use this online map to reinforce your understanding of the United Kingdom. Drag and drop each place name in the list to its location on the map.



Geo GAME

United Kingdom

Legend:
 - United Kingdom (orange)
 - Regional boundary (yellow)
 - Great Britain (red)
 - Capital of U.K. (circle with dot)
 - Regional capital (star)

London
 Edinburgh
 Wales
 Scotland
 England

Wales

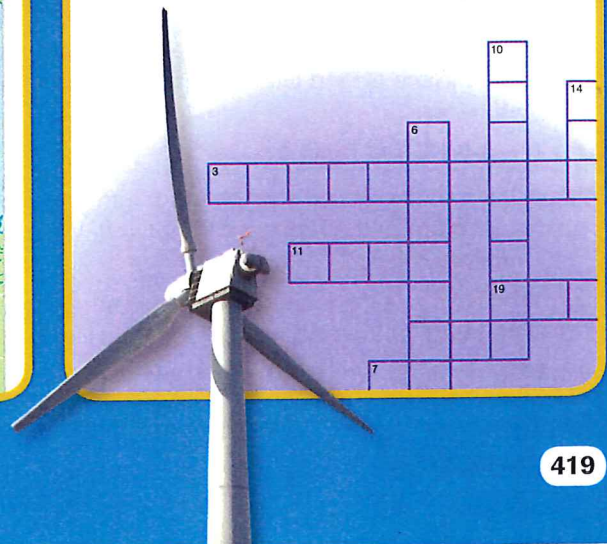
To play the complete game, go to Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com

Crossword Puzzle

Complete an online crossword puzzle to test your knowledge of the United Kingdom.

ACROSS

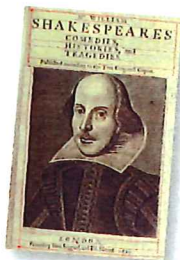
- a power plant that uses windmills to generate electricity



VOCABULARY

Explain the significance of each of the following.

1. Parliament
2. multicultural
3. Church of England
4. William Shakespeare
5. unwritten constitution
6. Good Friday Agreement



Match the item on the left with its description on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 7. Magna Carta | A. spoken in Scotland and Ireland |
| 8. Gaelic | B. limited the power of the monarchy |
| 9. Briton | C. connects Britain to France underwater |
| 10. devolution | D. a British person |
| 11. Channel Tunnel | E. shifting power from national to regional government |

KEY IDEAS

1 Building a British Empire

12. What four regions make up the United Kingdom?
13. How did Great Britain benefit from its empire?
14. What geographic factors led to the start of the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain?
15. Why did Great Britain's standing as a world power change after World War II?

2 From Shakespeare to Harry Potter

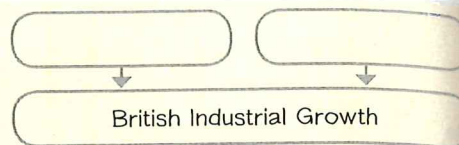
16. What is Great Britain's largest city?
17. What languages are spoken in Wales, Ireland, and Scotland besides English?
18. How did Shakespeare contribute to British culture?
19. In what areas has British culture influenced popular culture in the United States in recent decades?

3 Parliament and Free Enterprise

20. What has the United Kingdom done to give more self-government to the regions of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland?
21. Which part of the United Kingdom's economy is expanding, and which has become smaller?
22. How does the United Kingdom participate in the global economy?

CRITICAL THINKING

23. **Draw Conclusions** Create a diagram and include two factors that led to British industrial growth.



24. **Five Themes: Movement** How did the Industrial Revolution contribute to the urbanization of the United Kingdom?
25. **Connect Geography & Culture** How do sports keep Great Britain tied to its former colonies?
26. **Compare and Contrast** How does the selection of the British prime minister differ from that of the U.S. president?
27. **Connect to Economics** What effect might a decline in North Sea oil have on the United Kingdom's economy?
28. **Draw Conclusions** How is Britain's role in the global economy different today from its role during the height of the British Empire?

Answer the

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How did being an island nation influence the development of the United Kingdom?

Written Response Write a two- or three-paragraph response to the Essential Question. Be sure to consider the key ideas of each section as well as specific ideas about the United Kingdom. Use the rubric below to guide your thinking.

Response Rubric

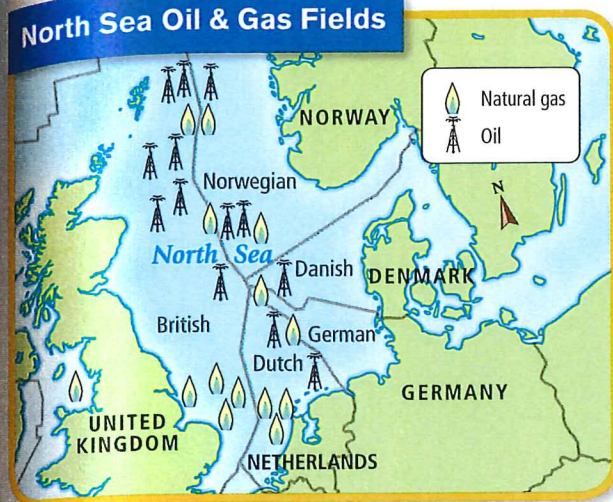
A strong response will:

- discuss how Britain's location, waterways, and natural resources influenced its development
- explain why Britain needed to look beyond its island home for resources and how it met this need through empire building and trade

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- Test-Taking Strategies and Practice at the front of this book

THEMATIC MAP

Use the map below to answer questions 1 and 2 on your paper.

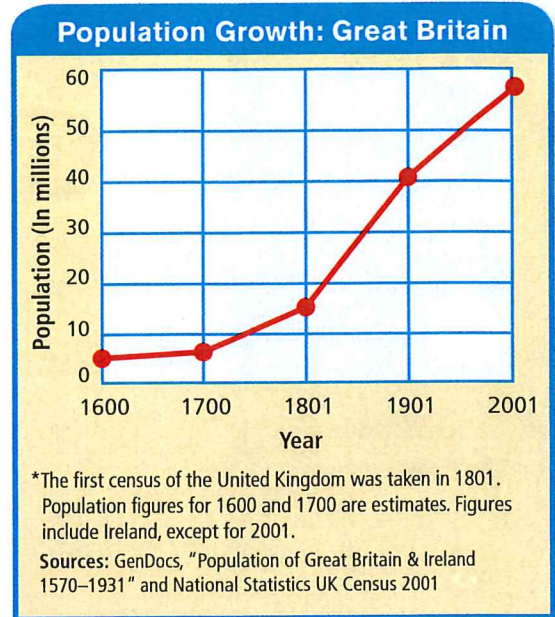


- The map above shows sectors of natural gas and oil fields in the North Sea. Which sector has the fewest oil fields?
 - Norwegian Sector
 - German Sector
 - British Sector
 - Dutch Sector
- How many oil fields are shown in the British Sector of the North Sea?

A. four	C. nine
B. seven	D. ten

LINE GRAPH

Examine the graph below. Use the graph to answer questions 3 and 4 on your paper.



- When did Great Britain experience the greatest population growth?

A. 1600s	C. 1800s
B. 1700s	D. 1900s
- What was the British population in 1901?

A. 416,000	C. 16.3 million
B. 4.8 million	D. 41.6 million

GeoActivity

1. INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY-LANGUAGE ARTS

Review the section on British literature. Pick one writer in this section. Find a short excerpt from one of his or her works to read aloud to the class. Introduce your choice and provide some information about the writer.

2. WRITING FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

Reread the part of Section 2 on British culture. Pick three things described in this section and write a paragraph on each explaining how they are similar to and different from your own culture.

3. MENTAL MAPPING

Create an outline map of the United Kingdom and label the following:

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- London
- English Channel
- Atlantic Ocean