



Read the following text and answer the questions.

UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or UK, is in Western Europe. It comprises the island of Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and the northern one-sixth of the island of Ireland (Northern Ireland), together with many smaller islands.

The mainland areas lie between latitudes 49°N and 59°N (the Shetland Islands reach to nearly 61°N), and longitudes 8°W to 2°E. The Royal Greenwich Observatory, near London, is the defining point of the Prime Meridian. The United Kingdom has a total area of approximately 245,000 km².

The UK lies between the North Atlantic and the North Sea, and comes within 35 km (22 mi) of the northwest coast of France, from which it is separated by the English Channel.

It shares a 499 km international land boundary with the Republic of Ireland. The Channel Tunnel bored beneath the English Channel, now links the UK with France.

The physical geography of the UK varies greatly. England consists of mostly lowland terrain, with upland or mountainous terrain only found north-west of the Tees-Exe line. The upland areas include the Lake District, the Pennines, North York Moors, Exmoor and Dartmoor. The lowland areas are typically traversed by ranges of low hills, frequently composed of chalk, and flat plains.

Scotland is the most mountainous country in the UK and its physical geography is distinguished by the Highland Boundary Fault which traverses the Scottish mainland from Helensburgh to Stonehaven. The faultline separates the two distinctively different regions of the Highlands to the north and west, and the Lowlands to the south and east.

The Highlands are predominantly mountainous, containing the majority of Scotland's mountainous landscape, while the Lowlands contain flatter land, especially across the Central Lowlands, with upland and mountainous terrain located at the Southern Uplands.

Wales is mostly mountainous, though south Wales is less mountainous than north and mid Wales.

Northern Ireland consists of mostly hilly landscape and its geography includes the Mourne



climate change, in particular **glaciation** in northern and western areas.

The **tallest** mountain in the UK (and British Isles) is Ben Nevis, in the Grampian Mountains, Scotland. The longest river is the River Severn which flows from Wales into England. The largest **lake** by surface area is Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland, though Scotland's Loch Ness has the **largest** volume.

1. One sixth of the island of Ireland belongs to the UK

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know

"It comprises the island of Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and the northern one sixth of the island of Ireland."

2. The distance from the UK to the coast of France is...

- a. 499 km.
- b. 35 km.
- c. 150 km.

"and comes within 35 km of the northwest coast of France"

3. The UK is linked to France through the Channel Tunnel.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know.

"The channel tunnel bored beneath the English channel, now links the UK with France"

4. The most mountainous country is...

- a. Wales.
- b. Scotland.
- c. England.

"Scotland is the most mountainous country in the UK"

5. The largest lake in the UK is in Wales.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know.

"The largest lake by surface area is Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland"

6. The tallest mountain in the UK is in Scotland.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know.

"The tallest mountain in the UK is Ben Nevis in the Grampian Mountains, Scotland."



ENGLAND NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM



The England national football team represents England (not the **whole** United **Kingdom**) in international football competitions **such** as the **World Cup** and the European Championships. It is **controlled** by The Football Association, the **governing body** for football in England.

Partly thanks to historical **accident**, and continuing national **sentiment** among them, each of the **four** Home Nations of the United Kingdom **possesses** its own separate football association, **domestic** league and national team. Because the IOC does not accept regional **representative** teams, England, like the **other three**, do not **compete** in Olympic football.

England are by far the most **successful** of the Home Nations,⁶ having won the 1966 World Cup and the British Home Championship **outright** thirty-four times, as many

the other three nations have won **outright** altogether.

For the first 80 years of its existence, the England team **played its home** matches at different **venues** all around the country; for the first few years it used **cricket** grounds, before later moving on to football clubs' **stadiums**.⁷ England **played** their first match at Wembley Stadium in 1924, the year after it was completed, **against** Scotland, but for the next 27 years would only use Wembley as a **venue** for Scotland matches; other **opposition** were still **entertained** at club grounds around the country.

May 1951, Argentina **became** the first team other than Scotland to be **entertained** at Wembley. By 1960 **nearly** all of England's home matches were **being** played there. Between 1966 and 1992 England did not play a **single** home match anywhere else.

England's last match at Wembley before its **demolition** and **reconstruction** was against Germany on October 7, 2000, a game **which** England lost 1-0. Since then the **team** has played at 14 different **venues** around the country, with Old Trafford **having** been the most often used. The FA have **ruled** that when the new Wembley is completed in mid-2006, England's travels will end, and the **team** will play all of their home **matches** there **until** at least 2036. The **main** reason for this is financial. The FA did not own the old Wembley **stadium**, but it does own the new one, and has **taken** on debts of **hundreds** of **pounds** to pay for it. Thus it needs to maximise the revenue from England matches, and does not wish to **share** it with the **owners** of other grounds.

1. The Football Association is the governing body for football in England.

a. True.

b. False.

c. We don't know

The football association, the governing body for football in England.

2. England has never won the World Championship.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know

Having won the 1966 world Cup and the British home Championship

3. England has won the British Home Championship four times.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know

British home championship outright thirty-four times

4. Wembley Stadium was completed in 1923.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know

Before later moving on to football clubs stadiums, England played their first match at Wembley stadium in 1924

5. The new Wembley Stadium will be completed by 2036.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know

The new Wembley is completed in mid 2006

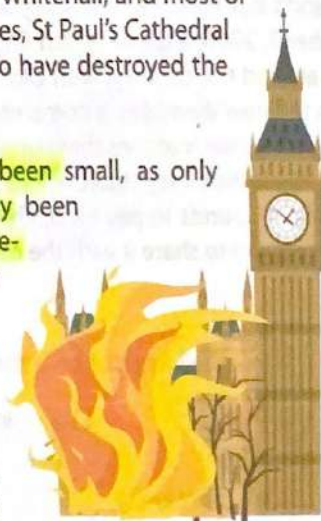
GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

The Great Fire of London was a major conflagration that swept through the central parts of the English city of London, from Sunday, 2 September to Wednesday, 5 September 1666.

The fire gutted the medieval City of London inside the old Roman city wall. It threatened, but did not reach, the aristocratic district of Westminster, Charles II's Palace of Whitehall, and most of the suburban slums. It consumed 13,200 houses, 87 parish churches, St Paul's Cathedral and most of the buildings of the City authorities. It is estimated to have destroyed the homes of 70,000 of the City's 80,000 inhabitants.

The death toll is unknown but traditionally thought to have been small, as only six verified deaths were recorded. This reasoning has recently been challenged on the grounds that the deaths of poor and middle-class people were not recorded, while the heat of the fire may have cremated many victims leaving no recognisable remains. A melted piece of pottery on display at the Museum of London found by archaeologists in Pudding Lane, where the fire started, shows that the temperature reached 1700 °C.

The Great Fire started at the bakery of Thomas Farriner (or Farynor) on Pudding Lane, shortly after midnight on Sunday, 2 September, and spread rapidly west across the City of London.



The use of the major firefighting technique of the time, the creation of firebreaks by means of demolition, was critically delayed owing to the indecisiveness of the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Thomas Bloodworth. By the time large-scale demolitions were ordered on Sunday night, the wind had already fanned the bakery fire into a firestorm which defeated such measures.

The fire pushed north on Monday into the heart of the City. Order in the streets broke down as rumours arose of suspicious foreigners setting fires. The fears of the homeless focused on the French and Dutch, England's enemies in the ongoing Second Anglo-Dutch War; these substantial immigrant groups became victims of lynchings and street violence. On Tuesday, the fire spread over most of the City, destroying St Paul's Cathedral and leaping the River Fleet to threaten Charles II's court at Whitehall, while coordinated firefighting efforts were simultaneously mobilising. The battle to quench the fire is considered to have been won by two factors: the strong east winds died down, and the Tower of London garrison used gunpowder to create effective firebreaks to halt further spread eastward.

The social and economic problems created by the disaster were overwhelming. Evacuation from London and resettlement elsewhere were strongly encouraged by Charles II, who feared a London rebellion amongst the dispossessed refugees. Despite numerous radical proposals, London was reconstructed on essentially the same street plan used before the fire.

1. Many suburban slums were burnt down

a. True.

b. False.

c. We don't know.

And most of the suburban slums?

2. How many inhabitants had their homes destroyed?

a. 13,200.

b. 70,000.

c. 80,000.

"It is estimated to have destroyed the homes of 70,000"

Do you SPEAK English?

3. There were many deaths recorded.

a. True.

b. False.

c. We don't know.

"on the grounds that the deaths of poor and middleclass people were not recorded."

4. The Lord Mayor of London decided to demolish the burnt buildings to control the fire.

a. True.

b. False.

c. We don't know.

"was critically delayed owing to the indecisiveness of the Lord Mayor of London, Thomas Bloodworth. By the large-scale demolitions were ordered on Sunday."

5. The city was rebuilt following a new street design.

a. True.

b. False.

c. We don't know.

"order in the streets broke down as rumours arose of suspicious foreigners setting fires."