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Interesting Facts about England - History, Geography, Polity, National Flag

Hey aspirant, welcome back to our capitative “**Know your Country**” series. This time, we invite you to join on an exploration of the remarkable country that is an **England**. England is a democratic country. where the power is held by people through elected representative.

England is known as **Great Britain**. The name "England" is derived from the Old English name **Englaland**, which means "**Land of the Angles**". England is a country that is part of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom or Britain, is an island country in Northwestern Europe, off the north-western coast of the continental mainland. It comprises England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Before looking at different aspects, one must know the country **symbols of the particular country**.



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England	
Official Name	Great Britain
Capital	London
Continent	Europe
Prime Minister	Rishi Sunak
Currency	Pound sterling
Language	English
Religion	Christianity
National Flag	
National Anthem	God save the king
National Game	Cricket
National Bird	The Robin
National Tree	The oak
National Flower	Tudor Rose
National	



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[Source: Business Travel Destination]

So now, let's move on the first aspect of the blog i.e. **History of England**.

History of England

On 12 July 927 the monarchs of Britain gathered at Eamont in Cumbria to recognise Æthelstan as king of the English. This can be considered England's 'foundation date', although the process of unification had taken almost 100 years. England became inhabited more than 800,000 years ago, as the discovery of stone tools and footprints at Happisburgh in Norfolk have indicated.

Ancient Period:

The earliest known humans arrived in these lands around 900,000 years ago. Prehistory stretches from then until the Roman invasion in AD 43. In the hundreds of thousands of years before history began, these lands underwent huge climactic, societal, political, technological and geological changes.

Medieval Period:

Generally, the medieval era is divided into three periods: the Early Middle Ages, the High Middle Ages, and the Late Middle Ages. This period saw the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the rise of Islam, and the creation of the new Holy Roman Empire in northern Europe. With the fall of Rome, much scientific knowledge was lost; kingdoms could not match the power of that empire.



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Colonial Period:

British colonial America is a term used by British historians to describe the years of 1585 -1783 where the English sent colonists, convicts, adventurers, and religious dissenters to the Americas. Over time most of the colonies rebelled against the crown. The British Empire began in its formative years in the sixteenth century and flourished and grew dramatically, lasting until the twentieth century.

Independence and Beyond:

English independence has been seen by its advocates as a way to resolve the West Lothian question in British politics: Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish MPs in the Parliament of the United Kingdom at Westminster being able to vote on matters affecting England, but English MPs not having the same power over equivalent.



[Source: The History of England Magazine]

Before going further we will get discuss about **The events of the country.**

Here is the timeline of some key events in England:

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- **1707:** The Treaty of Union between Scotland and England United Kingdom of Great Britain was made, with a British parliament in Westminster.
- **1798:** Irish people fought against British rule, with support from the French. Nearly 30,000 people died. Eventually, the British won.
- **1851:** This trade fair in London showed 100,000 of the most amazing objects from the British Empire.
- **1914:** The war brought social change because women had to do the jobs of the men while they were fighting.
- **1939:** Famous moments included evacuating British soldiers from Dunkirk in France (1940), the Battle of Britain.
- **1951:** An exhibition in London that celebrated British industry, art and science.
- **1973:** Strikes by coal miners meant there was not enough fuel for power stations.
- **1981:** There were riots in London and some other cities in response to racism by police
- **2005:** Same-sex couples gained the same rights as married couples.

The timeline showcases England as a rich and diverse history in a simple way. Let's move on to the next aspect of this blog i.e. **Geographical Aspects**.

Geographical Aspects of England

England's topography is low in elevation but, except in the east, rarely flat. Much of it consists of rolling hillsides, with the highest elevations found in the north, northwest, and southwest. This landscape is based on complex underlying structures that form intricate patterns on England's geologic map.



[Source: Britain Visitor]

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England's rivers offered a dual advantage. Fast-flowing rivers were a source of water power to fuel machinery, and throughout the nation rivers provided inland transportation routes for industrial goods. In addition, England's excellent natural harbors were a benefit to merchant ships.

Demographical Aspects:

The United Kingdom is an ethnically diverse society. The largest ethnic group in the United Kingdom is White British, followed by Asian British. The United Kingdom's total population was 67.62 million in January 2023. Data shows that the UK's population increased by 229 thousand between 2022 and 2023. 50.6 percent of the United Kingdom's population is female, while 49.4 percent of the population is male.

Soil and Vegetation:

The soils of England and Wales are differentiated by observable or measurable characteristics of the soil profile. Chalk and limestone soil types are alkaline based, which is extensively located across the UK. Chalky soil is most commonly shallow, stony and free-draining where organic matter can decay quickly, diminishing its level of fertility.

The United Kingdom lies in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 6 through 9 with some variations across regions and seasons. It enjoys a temperate maritime climate characterized by cool winters and warm summers.

Climate and Weather:

The UK has a temperate climate. In general, this means that Britain gets cool, wet winters and warm, wet summers. It rarely features the extremes of heat or cold, drought or wind that are common in other climates. In England, the central-southern part of the island of Great Britain, the climate is oceanic, with quite cold, rainy winters and very mild or pleasantly warm.

The best months for travel in England with regard to the weather are May, June, July, August, September and October. Of course the weather is not totally predictable in any month but as a general rule if we have rain in the summer months it will only last for a few hours rather than all day.

Now, let's look at the **Political Aspects of England**.

Political Aspects of England

The British Political tradition has been the tradition of having and successfully working an unwritten, unitary, flexible and a convention-based liberal democratic system working through a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary system of governance.

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[Source: The Atlantic]

- **Legislature:** The parliament of the United Kingdom is the supreme legislative body for the United Kingdom and the British overseas territories with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland each having their own devolved legislatures.
- **Judiciary:** The judiciary works alongside the executive and legislative branches to uphold the laws. The judiciary's role is to ensure laws are properly implemented. It does this by interpreting the law and then enforcing it.
- **Executive:** In a parliamentary system, these powers are in reality used by the President only on the advice of the Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers have support of the majority in the Lok Sabha and they are the real executive.

The politics of the United Kingdom functions within a constitutional monarchy where executive power is delegated by legislation and social conventions to a unitary parliamentary democracy.

So now, let's look at the **Culture of England**

Culture of England

Historically, England was a very homogeneous country and developed coherent tradition, but, especially as the British Empire expanded and the country absorbed peoples from throughout the globe, English culture has been accented with diverse contributions from Afro-Caribbeans, Asians, Muslims, and other immigrant.

Language:

English is a West Germanic language in the Indo-European language family, whose speakers, called Anglophones, originated in early medieval England.

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Cuisine:

A few foods are often called the national dish of England, including beef, pudding, roast, and banger and mash. Chicken tikka masala is also considered one of the national dishes of England.

Festivals:

The biggest festival in England is the Greenfield Festival Glastonbury. It remains the largest festival since the 1970s.

Performing Art:

The live performing arts are an important training ground for participants in other creative industries, whether content creators, performers or producers, including film, television, radio, the music industry and advertising. The history of sculpture in England is rooted in the Christian church. Monumental crosses of carved stone, similar to the Celtic crosses of Ireland.

Sporting Culture:

A number of modern sports were codified in England during the nineteenth century, among them cricket, rugby union, rugby league, football, field hockey, bandy, squash, tennis, and badminton.

Art and Craft:

The Arts and Crafts movement emerged during the late Victorian period in England, the most industrialized country in the world at that time. Anxieties about industrial life fueled a positive revaluation of handcraftsmanship and precapitalist forms of culture and society.

Cultural values:

Humour, tradition, and good manners are characteristics commonly associated with being English. England has made significant contributions in the world of literature, cinema, music, art and philosophy.

Multiculturalism:

There is still a strong connection between many of the old colonies and most of these nations are still part of the Commonwealth of Nations. Due to this history, immigrants from all over the world come to the UK and bring with them their food, religion, and music.

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Indigenous Heritage:

Aboriginal people were subjected to a range of injustices, including mass killings or being displaced from their traditional lands and relocated on missions and reserves in the name of protection.



[Source: Learn English]

Education of England

Education in the United Kingdom is a devolved matter with each of the countries of the United Kingdom having separate systems under separate governments. The British education system has four level Primary, Secondary, Further, and Higher education. The primary and secondary levels are mandatory and are divided into different stages based on different age groups.

Economy of England

The UK's economy is dominated by services industries, which include retail, hospitality and finance, as well as public services like health and education. Two-thirds of production is devoted to livestock, the other to arable crops. The main crops that are grown are wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, sugar beets. England retains a significant and large fishing industry.

Although the United Kingdom is expected to avoid a recession this year, the country faces a challenging economic outlook. The energy price shock due to Russia's war in Ukraine.

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[Source: Wikipedia]

Now, let's check out **some interesting facts about England**.

Interesting Facts about England

England's terrain chiefly consists of low hills and plains, especially in the centre and south. Upland and mountainous terrain is mostly found in the north and west, including Dartmoor, the Lake District, the Pennines, and the Shropshire Hills.

1. **Buckingham Palace:** It is a royal residence in London and the administrative headquarters of the monarch of the United Kingdom. Located in the City of Westminster, the palace is often at the centre of state occasions and royal hospitality.
2. **Big ben:** It is one of the most prominent symbols of the United Kingdom and parliamentary democracy, and it is often used in the establishing shot of films set in London.
3. **Hackney carriage:** It is a carriage or car for hire. A hackney of a more expensive or high class was called a remise. A symbol of London and Britain, the black taxi is a common sight on the streets of the UK.
4. **Oxford:** The city of Dreaming Spires known for its prestigious university, Oxford is a charming city with stunning architecture and beautiful gardens.

England is one of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom, and it's the largest of them by landmass and by population. In this Teaching Wiki, you can learn all about England's history, geography, famous places, people, and more.

So, this is all for today. If you like this blog, do check out our blog on the country [Indonesia](#) . We will meet again with some another interesting facts about some other countries. Till then stay tuned!