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"Moderné vzdelávanie pre vedomostnú spoločnosť/Projekt je spolufinancovaný zo zdrojov EÚ "
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1 VŠEOBECNE O ANGLICKY HOVORIACICH KRAJINÁCH
ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES

There are a lot of countries in the world where their inhabitants speak English, but only a few of them speak English as their native language. Among these countries belong:

- The UK
- The USA
- New Zealand
- Canada
- Australia
The Constitution
The UK is a constitutional monarchy. This means that the official head of State is the monarch, but his or her powers are limited by the constitution.

However, the UK constitution is not written in any single document. It is a set of rules, many of which are customs and conventions which have become established through the fact of being observed without ever having been formally enacted.

Parliament is the supreme legislative body and the highest authority in the UK. The executive power is exercised by the Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister.

The Queen
The Queen is only a formal head of state. According to the constitutional doctrine "she reigns but does not rule".

As the symbolic head of the nation she performs a wide range of social and ceremonial functions (she holds receptions, dinner parties, visits various parts of Britain, etc.). She pays State visits to foreign countries.

As the symbolic head of the executive the Queen:
1. summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament
2. appoints all ministers in the Government
3. appoints the archbishops and bishops of the Church of England
4. makes appointments to all important State offices
5. confers peerages, baronetcies, knighthoods and other honours

But the Queen acts only on the advice of the Prime Minister - so the effective head of the executive is the Prime Minister.

The Queen is also an integral part of the legislature - laws passed by the Parliament do not become effective until the Queen has given her Assent. But this is also a pure formality.

In appointing the Prime Minister the Queen is bound to appoint the leader of the political party which has a majority in the House of Commons.

Honours
Twice a year (on New Year's Day and on June 6th - the Sovereign's Official Birthday), the Queen awards various titles and orders ("honours"). The honours granted include:
1. peerages,
2. knighthoods and baronetcies,
3. other orders and distinctions.

Most honours are conferred by the Queen on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The honoured people are men and women who have distinguished themselves in their careers, e.g. in politics, industry, science, art, literature, sport, etc.
Parliament
The British Parliament is a very old institution. It is composed of the Sovereign, the House of Lords (the Upper House) and the House of Commons (the Lower House). Collectively these three elements form the legislature.

There are over a thousand peers in the House of Lords. None of them is elected. Some are life peers, who can attend the House of Lords until they die but cannot pass on this right to their sons or daughters. These are usually people who have occupied an important position in public life (former MPs, trade union leaders, industrialists, bankers). Others are hereditary peers whose right to sit in the House of Lords was passed to them by their fathers and grandfathers. The bishops and archbishops of the Church of England and the Law Lords (judges created peers for life to assist the House of Lords in the performance of its judicial duties) also sit in the House of Lords.

The House of Commons consists of more than 650 elected members, each of whom represents one constituency. In each election, the candidate who gets the largest number of votes in a constituency or electoral district wins the seat in Parliament.

Parliament's main functions are law-making, authorizing taxation and public expenditure and controlling and examining the actions of the Government.

The Government
The Government includes Cabinet ministers (about 20) and politicians who have been appointed by the Monarch (on the advice of the Prime Minister) to help run Government departments (there are several politicians in each department). In this sense there are about a hundred members of the Government.

The Cabinet is responsible to Parliament, which means that the Prime Minister can remain in office only so long as he is supported by a majority in the House of Commons.

Political Parties
The first organized political parties on the modern pattern, the Conservative and Liberal parties were successors to the Tories and Whigs of the 18th and early 19th centuries. Since the 1880s the Conservative Party has been a party representing the interests of finance capital. The Liberals became more and more a party of the middle class, to the left of the Conservatives.

So already in the 19th century Britain had a "two-party" system. At the beginning of the 20th century Labour Party was formed and within about thirty years had replaced the Liberals in the Parliament. Labour Party represents the interests of the working class.

Law
The UK as a whole does not have a single body of law but there are separate systems: the legal systems and law courts of 1. England and Wales, 2. Scotland, 3. Northern Ireland. But a large volume of modern legislation applies throughout the UK. Certain basic features are common to all systems in the UK, e.g. the sources of law, the distinction made between civil law and criminal law.

The sources of law in the UK include:
1. written law (statutes) - comprise acts of Parliament and subordinate legislation
2. unwritten law (Common Law and Equity) - the doctrine of judicial precedent upon which all law in England other than statute law is based.
There are two branches of law - Civil Law and Criminal Law. Civil Law is concerned with the rights, duties and obligations of individual members of society between themselves (family law, the law of property, copyright law, etc.). Criminal Law is concerned with wrongs against the community as a whole. Criminal offences range from minor offences tried without a jury to the more serious offences usually tried on indictment (written formal accusation) before a judge and jury.

3 ZEMEPIS SPOJENÉHO KRÁĽOVSTVA VB A SEVERNÉHO ÍRSKA
GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

The UK is situated in the northern part of west Europe and it is occupied by the North Sea in the east, by the Irish sea in the west and by English Channel in the south.

The United Kingdom is a country consisting of four countries:

England,
Northern Ireland,
Scotland, and
Wales.
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**, **Exmoor** and **Dartmoor**. The lowland areas are typically traversed by ranges of low hills, frequently composed of chalk.

The **physical geography** of **Scotland** 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.

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

The **geography of Ireland** includes the **Mourne Mountains** as well as **Lough Neagh**, at 388 square kilometres (150 sq mi), the largest body of water in the UK.

The overall **geomorphology** of the UK was shaped by the combined forces of **tectonics** and **climate change**, in particular **glaciation**.
4 ANGLICKO

ENGLAND

England is a country that is part of the United Kingdom. It shares land borders with Scotland to the north and Wales to the west. The Irish Sea lies north west of England, whilst the Celtic Sea lies to the southwest. The North Sea to the east and the English Channel to the south separate England from continental Europe. The country covers much of the central and southern part of the island of Great Britain, which lies in the North Atlantic; and includes over 100 smaller islands such as the Isles of Scilly, and the Isle of Wight.

The area now called England was first inhabited by modern humans during the Upper Palaeolithic period, but takes its name from the Angles, one of the Germanic tribes who settled during the 5th and 6th centuries. England became a unified state in the 10th century, and since the Age of Discovery, which began during the 15th century, has had a significant cultural and legal impact on the wider world. The English language, the Anglican Church, and English law – the basis for the common law legal systems of many other countries around the world – developed in England, and the country's parliamentary system of government has been widely adopted by other nations.¹ The Industrial Revolution began in 18th-century England, transforming its society into the world’s first industrialised nation.

England's terrain mostly comprises low hills and plains, especially in central and southern England. However, there are uplands in the north (for example, the mountainous Lake District, Pennines, and Yorkshire Dales) and in the south west (for example, Dartmoor and the Cotswolds). The capital of England is London, which is the largest metropolitan area in the United Kingdom and the largest urban zone in the European Union by most measures.¹

¹ The population of over 53 million comprises 84% of the population of the United Kingdom, largely concentrated around London, the South East, and conurbations in the Midlands, the North West, the North East and Yorkshire, which each developed as major industrial regions during the 19th century.

England – the capital city is London. The patron is Saint George. The symbol is a rose. The flag consists of white oblong and red cross.
History of England

During the 14th century, the Hundred Years' War started. The Black Death epidemic hit England; starting in 1348, it eventually killed up to half of England's inhabitants.

During the Tudor period, the Renaissance reached England through Italian courtiers, who reintroduced artistic, educational and scholarly debate from classical antiquity. England began to develop naval skills, and exploration to the West intensified.

Henry VIII broke from communion with the Catholic Church, over issues relating to his divorce, under the Acts of Supremacy in 1534 which proclaimed the monarch head of the Church of England. In contrast with much of European Protestantism, the roots of the split were more political than theological. He also legally incorporated his ancestral land Wales into the Kingdom of England with the 1535–1542 acts. There were internal religious conflicts during the reigns of Henry's daughters, Mary I and Elizabeth I. The former took the country back to Catholicism while the latter broke from it again, forcefully asserting the supremacy of Anglicanism.

Henry VIII was also known as a king who had six wives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Six Wives of Henry VIII</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wife Number One. Catherine of Aragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife Number Two…Anne Boleyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine was the youngest daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. She was married to Henry’s brother Arthur but he died in 1501. Catherine married Henry in 1509 but only one child, a girl, Mary, survived. Henry believed that he did not have a male heir because he had married his brother’s wife. He had found a passage in the Bible to back his belief. Henry had also fallen in love with Anne Boleyn. Catherine refused to give Henry a divorce, so he began the Reformation in England. This meant he could divorce Catherine in 1533. She died three years later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Boleyn was born in 1501. At the age of fourteen she was sent to the French Court. When she returned to England she caught the King’s attention. Henry married Anne in 1533 after she became pregnant. Henry was annoyed when she gave birth to Elizabeth in September 1533. Anne became pregnant twice more but the babies were born dead. She was charged and found guilty of adultery in 1536 and beheaded the same year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jane Seymour was a quiet shy girl who Henry married just 11 days after the death of Anne Boleyn. He was 45 years old, Jane was 28. Henry was delighted when she gave birth to a son, Edward, in October 1538. Henry was very upset when Jane died a month later. On his deathbed, Henry requested to be buried next to Jane.

Anne was the 24 year old daughter of the Duke of Cleves. Henry agreed to marry her having only seen her painting. When he saw her face to face he was horrified and tried to find a way out of the marriage but could not. He married Anne in 1540 and divorced her the same year.

Henry married 15 year old Kathryn in 1540, he was 49. Kathryn found life with Henry boring and had many younger friends. Katherine's actions led to her being accused of adultery and subsequently executed in 1542.

Henry married twice widowed Katherine Parr in 1543. She was a good stepmother to the King's three children. She was also an excellent nursemaid and looked after Henry when he was sick. After Henry's death she married Edward's uncle, Thomas Seymour. Katherine Parr died in childbirth in 1548.

The sixteenth century was called the Elizabethan period.

The 17th century brought much suffering to London. In 1665 more than 75 000 people died from a plague epidemic and a year later, in 1666, the Great Fire of London destroyed four fifths of the city. During the following decades hectic building activity started. In the latter half of the 17th century Lloyd’s Insurance Company was established, in 1694 the Bank of England, and later, in 1773 the Stock Exchange.

During the Napoleonic Wars, Napoleon planned to invade from the south-east. However this failed to manifest and the Napoleonic forces were defeated by the British at sea by Lord Nelson and on land by the Duke of Wellington.
HOUSING IN ENGLAND

The English like to live in family houses. A typical English house has two floors. On the ground floor there is a kitchen, a hall, a living room. There is a bedroom, children's room and a bathroom upstairs. In front of the house there are flowers and the typical English lawn. In England there are often semi-detached houses. Many houses in the streets look the same.

ENGLISH PUBS

Wherever one goes in England one finds pubs. Pub is the short form for public house. The local pub is a kind of club where people go to have a drink and have a chat with their friends. Pubs are opened until 10.30 at night. In England pubs are not only popular, but are also a part of English history.

LIFE IN BRITAIN AND THEIR HABITS

The British are said to be conservative. In addition to the well-known fact that they still use their traditional system of weights and measures. They drive on the left and they still wear traditional school uniforms at some schools, it is important to know that Britain is the oldest democracy in the world.

One of the typical characteristics of the English is their politeness. They don't shake hands and kiss hello so often as we do, only if they are introduced to each other or if they didn't see each other for a long time. They don't brake the speech of somebody else.

They criticise their government but they don't like foreigners to do it and don't like to criticise the Queen. English are famous for their dry humour. Everybody knows the English saying “My house is my castle” which demonstrates their right to privacy.

Their mania for tea at any time of the day is world famous. Their country is notorious for rainy weather but on the other hand probably this wet and mild climate makes the English lawns so green and fresh all the year round. People in Britain are allowed to walk on the grass and you can often see them picnicking on in.

The English have good table manners. They must come to dinner in time. If we are invited to dinner, we should bring a small present, e. g. champagne, a box of chocolate, etc. They don't click glasses when drinks are served before meals. In contrast to us they like to converse...
at table and they should finish eating at about the same time. The English word “gentleman” means an honest man with good manners.

The English like their old customs and traditions. The Queen symbolises old traditions. The Opening of Parliament is one of the oldest traditions. It’s a great ceremony. It takes place every October and the Queen comes to the Houses of Lords. She sits on her throne and reads her "Queen's speech". It is the programme of government for the next season. She is wearing traditional dresses.

“Bobbies” is what English policemen used to be called. It sounds nice, friendly informal kind of word – just the way most English people like to think of their policemen. There is one thing that sets British Policemen apart: not their uniforms, image of funny helmets, but the fact that they do not normally carry guns and most of them say they do not even want to. Policemen in other countries (especially in America) think this is crazy. According policemen, it would change their image and attitude and they prefer talking.

In every country there are little things which are somehow “typical”. In Britain, many things are in red. London buses, for example, surely one of the most common visual symbols of Britain. For many years, too, colour red has been associated with what used to be known as the GPO – the General Post Office or a “classical” British phone box. In many parts of Britain these days it is hard to find one of these, as many of them have been replaced during the process of modernisation. Their critics said they were old-fashioned and hard to keep clean.

**ENGLISH PUBS**

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PEOPLE IN THE UK

The 21st century Britain has a very diverse population. The UK has always welcomed immigrants and in the past fifty years numbers have dramatically increased, initially from former British Empire countries and more recently from EU partners. Britain has also welcomed many refugees.

The biggest changes have been in cities, where shops and restaurants sell food from many different cultures. Pupils in some London schools have more than 50 different home languages.

Smaller towns and villages may retain a more traditional British culture. It is illegal to discriminate against people in the UK because of their race, gender, sexuality or disability. The UK is a very tolerant society and most people live happily side by side.

Civil partnerships are legal ceremonies which give same-sex couples similar rights as marriage. Since civil partnerships became law in 2004, and around 8,000 couples a year have gone through the ceremony.

LANGUAGES

English is the official language of the UK. In Wales, around 20 per cent of the population also speak Welsh, and most official communications, including road signs, are in English and Welsh.

In Northern Ireland about 7 per cent of the population speak Irish. In Scotland, a small percentage speaks Scottish Gaelic and a third speak Scots. The most common other languages spoken by people living in the UK include Punjabi, Bengali, Urdu, Sylheti, Cantonese, Greek and Italian.

Students often ask about the different regional accents in the UK. These do exist but the pronunciation differences are smaller than would be found between British, Australian and American English. Teachers and host families will always speak very clearly for students, and they are unlikely to encounter any problems with local accents.

FAMILY LIFE

Two-thirds of mothers of young children go out to work in the UK, often part-time. Marriage rates are at their lowest since records began, as people increasingly live together. On average, women marry at nearly 30 and men at 32.

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MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

The British media is dominated by the public service broadcaster, the BBC. Anyone who owns a television set must buy an annual television licence, which funds the BBC.

The BBC broadcasts four main television channels, six national radio channels and has a widely-respected website which covers news, current affairs and entertainment. It does not show advertisements.
There are several other main television channels available on all television sets, and a large selection of digital channels only available with special equipment or through a satellite dish.

National newspapers range from the serious to the sensational. British people love word jokes – puns – and this is reflected in the headlines of all newspapers.

Public phones are not common now that most people have mobiles, but are available in pubs and hotels, as well as street phone boxes. They are coin or card operated.

Stamps for letters and cards can be bought in supermarkets and small shops as well as post offices. You can buy either first class or second class: first class is faster but more expensive. Red letter boxes for posting are on many streets.

**GETTING AROUND**

Transport links are good and it is possible to get to most places by plane, coach, bus and train. There are also cycle tracks in many towns and cities, and also long distance routes across the countryside.

**Flying:** There are now airports serving the UK's cities and many major towns, and it can often be cheaper to fly than take the train.

**Train travel:** All cities and most of the major towns have a train service. Most of the lines radiate out from London, which has four major railway stations sending trains to different areas. Long-distance services, such as between London and Edinburgh, are very fast: local services can be slower. Train travel can be very expensive. It is worth advising students to buy student travel tickets or to book in advance to get the best deals (www.nationalrail.co.uk).

**Coach travel:** National Express coach services cover most of the UK and are very cheap (www.nationalexpress.com).

**Driving:** They drive on the left in the UK. Students used to automatic cars may need to specifically request this if they want to hire a vehicle. If your driving licence was issued outside the UK there may be restrictions on what and for how long you can drive here. Click here for more information.

Roads are often very busy in the morning and evening, particularly on Fridays and before national holiday weekends. Radio traffic reports are broadcast regularly www.nationalrail.co.uk.

**Coach travel:** National Express coach services cover most of the UK and are a very cheap way to travel. www.nationalexpress.com

**Driving:** Unlike most of the world, cars drive on the left in the UK. Students hiring cars may need to specifically request one with an automatic gear change if this is what they require. Major roads and those in the cities can become very crowded at peak times in the morning and evening, particularly on Fridays and before national holidays. Radio traffic reports are broadcast regularly.

If you are a visitor, resident or student and have a driving licence issued in the country you have come from, there are certain conditions that affect how long you can drive, and what you can drive in the UK.
LOCAL TRAVEL

**Inside London:** London's underground train service, often called the Tube, is the quickest way to get around most of the city although it has limited stops south of the River Thames. It runs till late at night. There is also an extensive urban overground railway network. The bus is a good way to see London and to travel to most areas, though it can be slower than the Tube. Buy Travelcards (daily, weekly, monthly or annual), or get an Oyster card which can be topped up with cash for the cheapest way to use London's public transport. For details see [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk). Black cabs (taxis) can be hailed from the pavement. These are much safer than any other car service in London.

Driving: This is not the best way to get around London as there is a central area toll (the congestion charge), it is busy, and parking is difficult and expensive.

**Outside London:** Major cities have good bus services and often a metro or tram. Cycle lanes are common on roads and pavements. Towns usually have bus services. Taxis/private hire cars/minicabs: Taxis are the safest option for getting home late at night. Drivers are regulated and checked often. Taxis can be hired with a wave on the street. Private hire cars (also known as mini-cabs) are also regulated but must be booked.

**Travelling outside the UK**

The UK is a perfect base for travelling in Europe. There are ferry ports along the east and south coasts, with direct services to Scandinavia, Holland and France. It is also easy to get to France through the Channel Tunnel, either on the Eurostar train from London St Pancras or driving from Dover.

Europe is a short flight from most airports and many airlines offer low-cost tickets. A Schengen visa allows non-EEA nationals the right to enter any of the 25 Schengen countries as a visitor for a maximum stay of 90 days in a 6 month period. The United Kingdom is not currently a member of the Schengen Visa Scheme.

If the student is visiting only one country in the Schengen area, they should apply to the embassy of that country. If visiting several of the 25 countries, they should apply to the embassy of whichever country is their 'main destination' - the country in which they plan to spend the most time during their trip.

If visiting several countries in the Schengen area without having a main destination, they should submit an application to the embassy of the country where they will first enter the Schengen area.

**LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

**Eating and drinking**

There are an enormous range of things to do in the UK during the evenings and weekends. British people like to socialise in pubs and bars, and this is usually a popular option with overseas students.

Eating out in the UK is often very good as Britain now has some of the world's top restaurants and an excellent range of cheaper ones. It is possible to sample food from all over the world even in small towns, which will have at least a Chinese and Indian restaurant or takeaway, a fish and chip shop and a pub serving food. In Scotland, takeaway food is called a carry out. Pub food is often (but not always) very good, especially in "gastropubs" which concentrate as much on food as drink.
MONEY MATTERS

Even the youngest students will use British currency. One UK pound (£) is worth 100 pence. Every British coin and bank note has a picture of the Queen on one side. The most common banknotes are £5, £10 and £20. £50 notes are usually available from banks rather than cash machines.

Anything smaller than a pound can be called a pence or a pee. £1 coins are fat and gold. £2 coins are larger. Less valuable coins are the 50p, 20p, 10p and 5p which are silver coloured, and the 2p and 1p which are bronze.

Banks are usually open Monday to Friday from 9-5, and sometimes on Saturdays. They are usually found in town centres.
Cash machines are found outside banks and supermarkets. There are sometimes cash machines at petrol stations and inside small shops and pubs, but these may charge extra to withdraw money. Many cash machines accept international bank cards. Britain has not adopted the Euro.
5 ŠKÓTSKO, WALES A SEVERNÉ ÍRSKO
SCOTLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

WALES is the land full of mystery and beauty, it's sometimes called the “Land of castles”. Symbol of Wales is a daffodil. The best known is Cearnarvon, where Prince Charles was invested as Prince of Wales in 1969. The capital city is Cardiff. The patron is Saint David.

SCOTLAND is the land of many special traditions which cannot be found elsewhere in the world. The most characteristic things about Scots are their national “tartan kilts”, which are woollen, checked skirts worn by men; playing the bagpipes, typical Scottish instrument; wearing quality tweeds and woollen knitwear; and drinking Scotch Whisky.

The north of the country is a large and magnificent mountains and lake area. The highest mountains are Ben Nevis in Scotland (1 342m) and Snowdon in North Wales (1 085m). The longest rivers are the Severn and the Thames in Britain. The biggest lake is Loch Mont and Loch Ness is famous for its Loch Ness Monster. The capital city is Edinburgh. The patron is Saint Andrew. The symbol of country is thistle (bodliak). The flag consists of blue with white diagonal (uhlopriečka).

NORTHERN IRELAND has 412 kilometres border in the south and the west with the Irish Republic. The capital is Belfast where we can find the Queen's University. The life of people of Northern Ireland is dominated by religious and economic problems. There are many disagreements between Protestants and Catholics. The capital city is Belfast. The patron is Saint Patrick. The symbol is a shamrock. The flag consists of white with red diagonal.
6 MESTÁ V ANGLICKU
CITIES IN ENGLAND

Besides London there are many more places of interest in Britain which are worth seeing. The white chalk cliffs of Dover and Dover Castle may be the first sights to see when you approach Britain by sea.

Brighton and Dover lay not far along the coast. Brighton is a fashionable seaside resort and a spa whose prosperity began with the building of the Royal Pavilion by King George IV in the 19th century. He had it built in oriental style as his summer residence.

Stratford-upon-Avon is the birthplace of William Shakespeare.

Oxford and Cambridge are old university towns. Both are lively places full of fascinating museums and galleries, theatres, an improving restaurant scene and pubs. The colleges themselves, which together have produced more Nobel Prize winners than any university in the world, are masterpieces of Medieval, Tudor and Jacobean architecture.

Winchester was the capital of England, it houses one of the oldest Public Schools in England, Winchester College.

Stonehenge is a megalithic monument dating from about 2800 B.C. There are ruins standing in the centre of a huge circle. Stonehenge is a prehistoric monument located in southern England. This ancient ruin was built sometime around the late Stone Age. It is probably the most famous megalith from ancient times. Nobody knows exactly why Stonehenge was built.

Reading is largely a commercial center, important in the IT and insurance industries. True, it is within a very short distance of some of England's iconic sites - Windsor Castle, Eton, as well as a raft of stately homes, scattered across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire worth visiting. It's not far from the scene of the Henley Regatta and it does have a large university population.

Bath has been one of the oldest spas in the valley of the river Avon. Liverpool is a very important sea port and the city of Beatles.

Other towns: Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, Manchester, Bristol.
London is the capital of the United Kingdom. It is the ninth largest city in the world – its population is about 10 million (with suburbs). London is situated on the river Thames in south-east England. It was founded as a Roman settlement. The Great Fire in 1666 destroyed almost all the city.

It is an economic, cultural and important political centre of Great Britain. In spite of the fact that London is not situated on the coast it is the biggest port because the river is deep enough and ships can go up the river. The longest rivers are the Severn and the Thames.

There are many quarters in London: The City, the West End and the East End.

THE CITY is the historical centre of London around St. Paul's Cathedral. The City was founded by Romans in 43 AD. There are many banks (the most important is the Bank of England) and offices here (e.g. Mansion House—the Lord Mayor's home).

THE WEST END is the centre for shopping. The best shops are in Oxford Street, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus or Bond Street. We can find many theatres and cinemas in this quarter. The houses are very expensive here and that's why only rich people can afford to live there.

In THE EAST END there are many factories. The London port and docks are situated in this part. The houses and flats are cheaper and many workers live there. There we can meet people from all over the world.

There are many places of interest. We can see them by walking or by various means of transport. London's famous red double-deckers go almost everywhere. For last transport we can go by the Underground. It is the oldest underground in the world. There are also three airports in London: Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.
The Houses of Parliament were built in gothic style but are only about one hundred years old. There is also a famous clock tower with Big Ben which strikes the hours with its characteristic bell-ringing. The bell weighs 13.5 tons and was named after Sir Benjamin Hall in 1858. Sir Benjamin Hall was one of the ministers in the middle of the last century. He was nicknamed "Big Ben" because he was very tall.

Whitehall is the street where the government offices are. Horse Guards Parade takes place here.

Downing street 10 is the official home of British Prime Ministers since 1731.

Westminster Abbey was founded in the 11th century. It is situated just a few minutes walk from Victoria Station. Westminster Cathedral – one of the biggest Roman Catholic churches in England – was built of the red brick typical for many other buildings scattered throughout the country.

It is the place where Britain's Kings and Queens are crowned.

England's greatest poets, artists, statesmen and other famous people are buried here in the Poets Corner (e.g. Newton, Wordsworth, Handel, etc.). The Abbey is an excellent example of gothic architecture. Since 1066 the Abbey is the place where many state occasions and royal weddings take place.

Tower Bridge is one of the most famous symbols of London. It was built only in the last century. It can open in the middle and let large ships go through.

Trafalgar Square was named after Admiral Nelson's victory over Napoleon at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Nelson's statue is situated on a high column. This monument is surrounded by four huge statues of lions and fountains. It is a very popular place for various meetings and demonstrations. You can come to meet friends or to feed pigeons. At Christmas time a big Christmas tree stands here and on New Year's Eve people gather here at midnight, sing and dance.
The British Museum is the largest museum in the world. It houses the biggest collection of all kinds of animals and minerals and rocks. There is a collection of fine arts of all countries, periods and styles, e.g. antiquities from ancient Greece, Rome and the Orient, Egyptian mummies, Middle Ages manuscripts. The British Museum's Library is the largest library in the world.

The National Gallery of British Art, better known as the Tate Gallery, was given to the nation by a rich sugar merchant, Sir Henry Tate, who had a taste for the fine arts. The Gallery contains a collection of British painting from the 16th century to the present day, e.g. the work of Turner and Blake, modern foreign painting from approximately 1881, and modern sculpture. The Tate Gallery, of all the London galleries, is the young people's gallery. It has been stated that three-quarters of its visitors are under twenty-five.

Buckingham Palace has been the official London residence of the Sovereigns ever since 1837. Queen Victoria was the first monarch to live there and her statue stands in front of the Palace. Today Buckingham Palace is the London home of Queen Elizabeth II. The Royal Standard is flown when the queen is in residence. There are the guards in red uniforms in front of the palace. Changing the Guard normally takes place at 11.30 a.m. every day from May to September, and on every other day from October to April. On state occasions the Queen drives out of Buckingham Palace with an escort of the Household Cavalry and then along the Mall. The Mall is a straight broad road over a half a mile long and leads to the Palace.

The Tower was built in the 11th century. It served as a royal palace first, then prison and fortress. It is now a museum of arsenal of weapons and the Crown Jewels in Jewel House. It is guarded by the “Yeoman Warders”, also called Beefeaters, who still wear their traditional Tudor uniforms. They can be also helpful to visitors. The name Beefeaters comes from when the Queen paid the quards with beef while people in England were starving. Today, they live in small houses in the Tower and they look after the Tower. Eight ravens are kept in the Tower to protect the whole Kingdom. “Only so long as they stay will the crown stand” the old legend says. It means that if they ever leave the Tower, England will suffer a great disaster, and so their wings are clipped to stop them flying away.
**Piccadilly Circus** is the busiest and noisiest place in London. With Leicester Square, which is very near, it is a centre of night clubs, theatres, cinemas, restaurants, ... . The most beautiful view of the square is at night when it is lit by many colourful advertisements. In the centre of the Circus at the top of the fountain stands *Eros, the Greek God of Love.*

**The Post Office Tower** is the tallest building in Great Britain. It is adapted for telephone and TV services. It is nearly 190 m high.

**St. Paul’s Cathedral** is one of the largest cathedrals in the world. It stands in the City on the site of the previous cathedral which was damaged by *the Great Fire of London* in 1666. This great renaissance dome is the masterpiece of the famous architect Sir Christopher Wren and it was built after 35 years in the 18th century. The Cathedral is known for its *Whispering Gallery* which has very good acoustics. Standing on this Gallery you can clearly hear what is whispered on the opposite side 107 feet far from you. During the World War II it was badly damaged by bombs. In 1981 Prince of Wales (Prince Charles) and Lady Diana were married here.

**The London Eye** is the world’s largest observation wheel. It is 135 m high. Each of the 32 capsules which are like big glass bubbles, can hold 25 people. It was built beside the River Thames to celebrate the new millennium. On a fine day you can see over 25 miles (40 km) in any direction. The 360 degree ride lasts for about half an hour.

**Windsor Castle** is the residence of nearly all the British sovereigns outside London. It’s the largest inhabited castle in the world.

**Eton College** probably the most prestigious English Public school; it’s located not far from Windsor

**Kew Gardens** are *the Royal Botanical Gardens* with the largest collection of living plants in the world.

**Greenwich** is the seat of *the National Maritime Museum* where *the Royal Observatory* is, here is a strip which marks the prime meridian.
**Thames Barrier** is London’s most expensive work of twentieth-century engineering. There are gates that normally rest on the estuary floor (na dne pri ústi riek). The pillars that hold the gates are wide enough to allow ships to pass through. If a dangerous high tide (vrchol prílivu) is expected these gates can be raised and the water held back.

**Madame Tussaud’s Museum and Planetarium** is the most famous waxworks in the world. Visitors can see replicas of the famous models, politicians and royalty under the same roof.

**The Monument** is a very tall column which was built after the year 1666 to commemorate the Great Fire of London. The fire, started by a baker, spread quickly as there were a lot of wooden houses at that time.

**MARKETS**

London has got many markets. The most famous market is *Covent Garden*. It includes a wonderful mixture of theatres, many specialist shops, lively pubs, clubs and restaurants. You can buy almost anything there! If you don’t like shopping, you can watch street artists. You can see dancers, musicians, mime, even fire-eaters! Covent Garden is London’s 3rd biggest shopping destination, after *Regent Street/Oxford street and Knightsbridge* (Harrods).

**PARKS**

There are many parks in London. *St. James's Park* is the oldest.

*Regent's Park* is perhaps London's most elegant park with its attractive gardens, lakes and a zoo. There are also many other parks in and outside the centre (Green Park or *Richmond Park*).

*Hyde Park* is the most popular and the largest. In the west, Hyde Park continues with Kensington Gardens. There is also Kensington Palace. It’s still a home of the royal family but the State Apartments are opened to the public. You can see the private rooms of Queen Victoria and some other kings and queens. The Palace also houses a collection of uniforms and dresses, including Princess Diana's wedding dress.

It has *the Serpentine*, a little lake and *Speakers Corner* where anyone can come and choose a theme and he can start speaking about it. Hyde Park is a large green area. You can come and relax or have a picnic with your friends or family.
Some people go fishing in the Serpentine or boating as well. Lots of people go for walks and jogging here on Sundays.

Every year there is one of Europe´s biggest one day pop concerts here. It is a charity event and the money from the tickets go to a charity called the Prince’s Trust.

**CULTURE**

London is with its 40 theatres and music halls the centre of Britain’s theatre life. Famous places and classical music centres are the National Theatre, the Royal Festival Hall, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, Barbican Hall or Wembley Arena.


- schools: London is a seat of London University (with 45 000 students from all over the world)
- Places for sporting:
  * football takes place in Wembley
  * tennis takes place in Wimbledon
  * horse-racing takes place in Ascot near Windsor

There is much to see in London and still is true, what an English writer Samuel Johnson said two hundred years ago:

„When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life.“

"Moderné vzdelávanie pre vedomostnú spoločnosť/Projekt je spolufinancovaný zo zdrojov EÚ " 24
8 ZÁVEREČNÉ OPAKOVANIE
FINAL REVISION

1. What do you know about geography / climate / the system of government in GB?
2. What do you know about Wales / Scotland / Northern Ireland / Britain?
3. What are famous traditions and habits in Britain? Describe their way of life.
4. What are the main quarters in London? Describe them.
5. What do you know about some interesting places in London? (Choose at least 7.)
6. Which places would you choose if you went to England?
7. Describe other places of interest in Great Britain.
8. Describe British flag.


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