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У посібнику «Велика Британія: географія, історія, мова» стисло викладено основні історичні події, які відбулися у Великій Британії з найдавніших часів і дотепер та подано відомості про географію країни. Опис історичних подій кожного періоду завершується фактами з історії розвитку мови, які дозволяють простежити їх взаємозв'язок.

Книга адресована студентам, які опановують англійську мову як другу спеціальність, учням старших класів ліцеїв та гімназій з поглибленим вивченням англійської мови, усім, хто цікавиться питаннями мови та історії Великої Британії.

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INTRODUCTION

English, as a language of global importance, became a world language in the past two hundred years and is likely to remain so, gradually consolidating its position. It happened so due to the virtue of the political and economic progress made by English-speaking nations from the 19th century onward.

A teacher of English should always be aware of its global role in modern world. As long as we realize and incorporate this perspective into our teaching, it allows students to encounter with global diversity.

The foreign language teachers are missionaries, bringing peace, tolerance and international cooperation to the world through the possibility of international communication. To understand the language and to present it better, a teacher of English should not only know the history of English-speaking countries, s/he must be ready to trace the connections between historical events and modern life.

We hope that this book will help the teacher of English to establish the ties between the historical facts and today's events, to understand better what influenced the development of English-speaking nations and led to the global spread of the English language.

The book contains different tasks and exercises, which can be used at the lessons of Country Study. It's possible to integrate History of English into these lessons and thus give the students an opportunity to understand the interconnection of these subjects. The book was primarily devised for the students, who study English as the second major, but it also may be used at specialized schools or as a separate source of material.

Each unit is dedicated to a particular theme (Geography, History) and provides tasks for different levels. Exercises may be used as separate sources of information, for warming-up activity, for testing students' knowledge, for making lessons interesting and bright. They aim at focusing students' attention at the necessary details and helping them to remember these details better.

Each unit of the book contains:

- Main facts and dates from the history and geography of Great Britain.
- Maps, schemes, tasks and exercises on the given topic.
- Cultural Focus.
- Language Focus.

The facts and dates from the history of Great Britain have been picked out to focus students' attention at the main events of the period.

Maps and schemes give the students' an opportunity to expand the exploration of the material.

Tasks and exercises are designed to help the students to memorize the given material better.

Cultural focus is to give the students an opportunity to trace the connection between history and modern life in related areas.

Language focus helps to see changes in the English language in different periods.

UK BASIC FACTS

Official name: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Local divisions: England — 387 local authorities; Wales — 22; Scotland — 32; Northern Ireland (Ulster) — 26.

Population: Over 59 million (England — 49.8 mln, Scotland — 5 mln, Wales — 2.8 mln, Ireland — 1.5 mln).

Area: 244,035 sq. km.

Ethnic groups: English 81%, Scottish 9.6%, Irish 2.4%, Welsh 1.9%, Ulster 1.8%, West Indian, Pakistani, Indian, others 2.8%.

Principal languages: English, Welsh, Scottish, Gaelic.

Chief religions: Anglican, Roman Catholic, other Christian, Muslim.

Capital: London.

Head of state: Queen Elizabeth II (from 1952).

Head of Government: Prime Minister.

Type of Government: Constitutional monarchy.

National Emblems:

National Flag: Union Jack is a combination of the banners of England (St. George's flag, a red cross with extended horizontals on a white field), Scotland (St. Andrew's flag, a white diagonal cross on a blue field) and Ireland (St. Patrick's flag, a red diagonal cross on a white field). The Welsh flag (a red dragon on a white and green ground) does not appear on the Union Flag.

The Royal Standard: Personal flag of the Sovereign bears the arms of England quartered with those of Scotland and Ireland.

Ensign: The British ensigns have a white, blue or red field with a Union Jack in the upper corner. The white ensign is worn by the Royal Navy and Royal Yacht Squadron.

The Royal Coat of Arms: The official coat of arms shows four quarters containing two lions of England in the first and fourth quarters, the lion of Scotland in the second and harp of Ireland in the third. The shield is surrounded by a garter and the motto on it "Honi soit qui mal y pense", which means "Evil be to him who Evil thinks". Wales is not represented on the shield.

The royal British lion and the silver Scottish unicorn support the design on either side.

Topping the crown is a small gold lion, also crowned, and facing outward.

Beneath the arms is the royal motto in gold letters on a white scroll: Dieu et Mon Droit (God and My Right [Hand]) - the battle call of Richard the Lionhearted.

National Anthem: "God Save the King (the Queen)"

God save our gracious Queen!

Long live our noble Queen!

God save the Queen!

Send her victorious,

Happy and glorious,

Long reign over us

God save the Queen!

I. GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

Pre-reading activities.

Brainstorming. Study the map of Great Britain (p.6) and answer the following questions:

1. What are the main geographic peculiarities of the region?
2. What parts of Britain are mountainous?
3. What are the main rivers in Britain?
4. What are the main groups of islands?
5. What seas and oceans are the islands washed by?
6. What are the northernmost and the southernmost part of the British Isles?
7. Why can Britain be called "a sea country"?

1. The British Isles

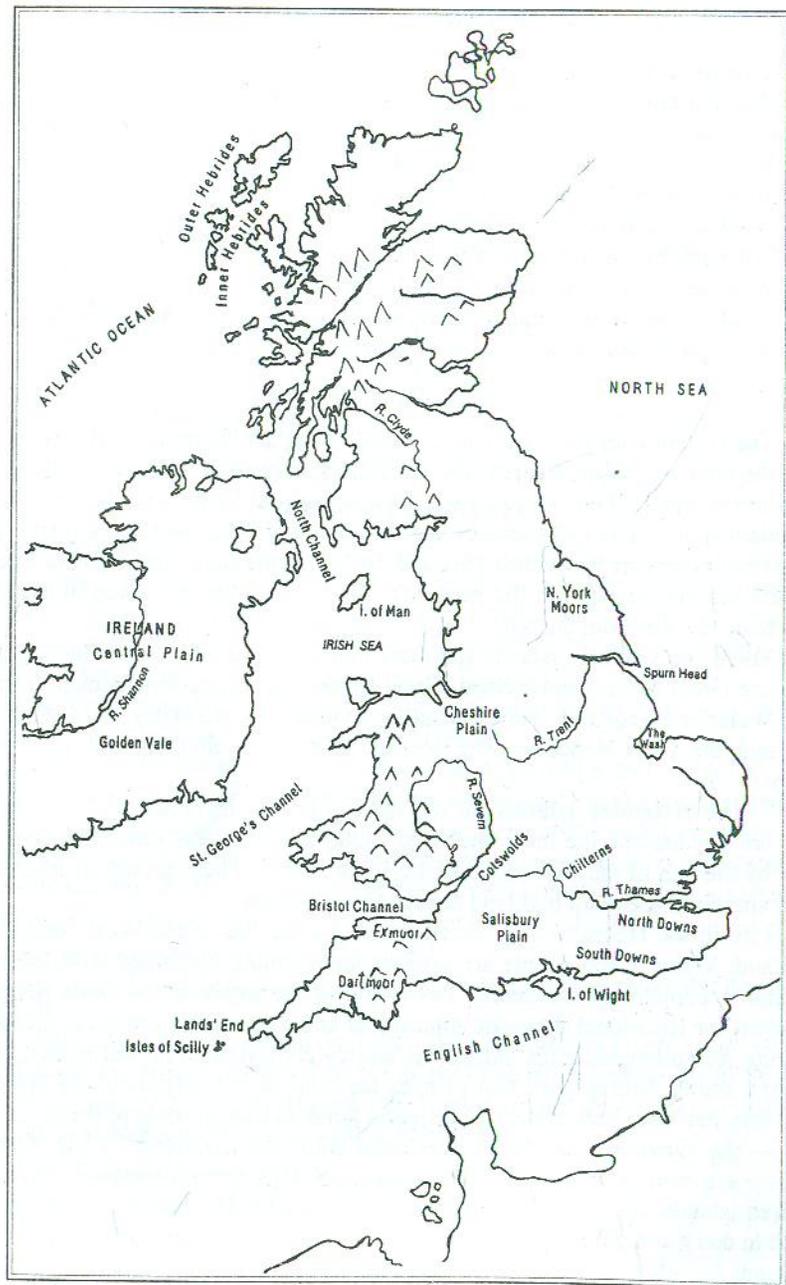
The British Isles form a group of islands lying off the north-west coast of Europe, the total area of the British Isles is 322,246 square km. The area of the United Kingdom is some 244,100 square km, of which about 99 per cent is land and the rest inland water. The UK stretches from south to north for over 900 km and is only 500 km across in the widest part and 60 km in the narrowest. Britain often is called a sea country due to the numerous bays and inlets. No place in Britain is more than 120 km from the sea.

There are two large islands and more than 5,000 smaller ones. The largest islands are Great Britain and Ireland. Great Britain comprises the mainland of England, Wales and Scotland, while Ireland is divided into two states — Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. The smaller islands are divided into some main groups:

— **the Hebrides Islands** lie off the north-western coast of Great Britain. They are divided into the Inner and Outer Hebrides, which are separated from each other by the Sea of the Hebrides and the Little Minch. These groups of islands are much similar to the main highland area of Great Britain.

Life in the Hebrides very much resembles the life of the West coast of the mainland. Many of the people are crofters and farming combined with fishing is the main occupation. The island of Lewis-Harris, the largest of the Outer Hebrides, is known for traditional domestic industry of spinning wool from local sheep and weaving it into tweeds. This industry is largely concentrated in Stornoway, which is also a minor fishing port. Out of over the total of 500 islands of the Hebrides more than half are inhabitable. Only several families live on some of them;

— **the Orkney Islands** are separated from the mainland by the Pentland Firth — a stormy seven-mile wide sea passage. This group comprises more than hundred islands, only one third of them are inhabited. Most of the people are engaged in dairy and poultry farming; bacon, cheese and eggs are exported to Central Scotland;



— **the Shetland Islands** are situated about 70 miles north of the Orkneys. The soil of the islands is thin and infertile, suitable only for rough pasture. The Shetland farmers are essentially crofters, but during the summer months they are actively engaged in the herring fishing. Apart from fish, the only exports from the islands are Shetland ponies and lace knitted from the wool of local sheep. Lerwick, the chief settlement, contains about 5,000 people, but the Shetlands are far from prosperous, and the population is still steadily decreasing;

— **the Isle of Man** lies in the middle of the Irish Sea and occupies the area of 571 square km. The island is administered by its own government and the Manx Parliament. It has a population of about 50,000 people mainly engaged in farming, fishing and tourist trade. The only big settlement is the holiday resort of Douglas (23,000 people);

— **Anglesey** is another important island in the Irish Sea, it is situated off the north coast of Wales. Anglesey contains only 52,000 people, and more of the working population is now engaged in industry than in fishing and agriculture. This are the tourist trade and several new industries;

— **the Isle of Wight** is in the English Channel. It is diamond-shaped, 40 km from west to east, and about 20 km from north to south. The Isle of Wight lies across the southern end of Southampton Water, and is separated from the mainland by the Solent river. With its sunny beaches and pleasant varied countryside, the island is one of the South Coast's most important tourist resorts. It is linked to London by ferry and rail services;

— **the Isles of Scilly** lie off the south-western coast of Great Britain. This is a tiny group of islands facing the very extreme southwest point of England — Land's End;

— **the Channel Islands** are to the south-west on the French side of the English Channel. The French know them as the Isles Normandes, and their position can be better seen from a map of north-west France than southern England. The Channel Islands form an archipelago, detached by shallow waters from the Cotentin peninsula in Normandy. These islands were attached to the English Crown as part of the Duchy of Normandy during the Norman Conquest in 1066.

The population of the Channel Islands — over 133,000 people is distributed over a total area of only 194 sq km. This leads to a high density of population — 686 per square km — throughout the islands, greatly increased in summer by holiday-makers. The Channel Islands belong to "Crown Dependencies" — they have internal self-government.

In rural areas many people speak a French-Norman dialect, but the official languages are English and French, the former gradually becoming more important. The chief islands of the group are Jersey and Guernsey. Jersey is the largest and most populous island; it occupies 60 per cent of the total area and has almost 60 per cent of the Islands' population.

Task 1. Match column A with the column B.

A	B
1. The Hebrides	a) The group comprises more than 100 islands, but only more than 30 of them are inhabited.
2. The Orkney Islands	b) These islands have their own government — they are 'ruled' by a Lieutenant Governor appointed by the British government.
3. The Shetland Islands	c) They face "Lands' End" of England.
4. The Channel Islands	d) It's one of the most important English tourist resorts.
5. The Isles of Scilly	e) They are divided into the Inner and Outer parts and are separated by the sea.
6. The Isle of Wight	f) These islands are the home of famous breed of ponies.

2. Seas, Channels and Coastline

Long ago the British Isles formed the part of the continent. The separation took place thousands of years ago, after the last Ice Age. When the ice melted, the level of the oceans rose and the low-lying coastlands round the continents became drowned. At that period the English Channel was formed — it became a shallow stretch of sea. It was a change, which greatly affected the history and geography of these islands — the Channel separated the British Isles from Europe.

Melting of ice during the post-glacial period caused various results in different parts of the islands — in western Scotland glaciated valleys formed sea-lochs, the smaller islands were separated from Great Britain and Ireland, and in England the lower parts of many river valleys formed deeply penetrating inlets.

Today the British Isles are separated from the European continent by the English Channel and the North Sea. The English Channel, in its widest western part is 220 km wide, and in the narrowest part that called the Strait of Dover, is only 32 km. The average depth of the Channel is 60 m, and the depth of the Strait of Dover is only 30 m. Here the opposite coasts of England and France come so near, that on a clear day the cliffs of each side can be quite well seen from the opposite shore. The Anglo-French Channel tunnel built across the strait of Dover Unites the country with France and Belgium.

In the west the British Isles are washed by the Atlantic Ocean, in the east — by the North Sea. The Irish Sea and two channels — the North Channel and St. George's Channel — separate the two largest islands of the British Archipelago, Great Britain and Ireland, from each other.

The coasts of the North Sea belong to six European countries besides Britain — France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Norway, and for

some of them this sea is the only exit to the World Ocean. The most important sea routes pass through the English Channel and the North Sea linking Europe with the Americas and other continents. This advantageous geographical position of Great Britain created favourable conditions for the development of shipping, trade and the economy as a whole.

A place on the continental shelf has been of great advantage to British fishing industry — the shallow waters above the continental shelf have long been rich fishing-grounds. Later other valuable resources were discovered and exploited beneath the continental shelf — oil and natural gas.

The British Isles are known for their greatly indented coastline. Therefore there are many bays and harbours, peninsulas and capes, which were formed in the process of the geological development of the islands. Due to its extreme identity the coastline of Great Britain is 8,000 km long.

Very much indented is the western coast, especially the coasts of Scotland and Wales. The highlands here rise abruptly from sea level, so westward-flowing rivers are short and swift. There are many long narrow lochs, or lakes, especially in the North-West Highlands. Along the west coast there are many inlets that are called lochs, such as Loch Pyne. These are sea lochs, or fiords: the ends of glaciated valleys, which were submerged by the sea.

The east coast is more regular than the west coast — there the land goes gradually down to the low seashore and the coastal lowlands are frequently flooded.

Task 2. Complete the sentences.

1. The English Channel was formed after _____.
2. The great number of isles near Scotland, sea lochs and indented coastline are the result of _____.
3. The English Channel has the following characteristics — _____.
4. Great Britain and Ireland are separated from each other by _____.
5. The North Sea washes six other European countries besides Britain — _____.
6. The position of Great Britain is favourable due to _____.
7. The coastline of Great Britain is very long because _____.

3. Climate. The Gulf Stream

The climate of Britain resembles the climate of the north-western part of Europe. Very often Great Britain is depicted in films and fiction as the country of constant rains and foggy weather. This is not always true. Though the amount of rain in Britain does not exceed the amount of rain in many European countries on the continent, English weather is much more changeable. It rapidly changes from day to day or even during the day. A warm and dry morning can be followed by cold and rainy afternoon.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
I. Geographical Survey.....	5
II. Early Britain.....	18
III. The Germanic Invasions.....	32
IV. The Norman Conquest.....	54
V. England in the Middle Ages.....	70
VI. England in the 16 th century.....	97
VII. Britain in the 17 th century.....	116
VIII. Britain in the 18 th century.....	136
IX. Britain in the 19 th century.....	152
X. Britain in the first half of the 20 th century.....	167
XI. Britain in the second half of the 20 th century and the beginning of the 21 st century.....	179

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