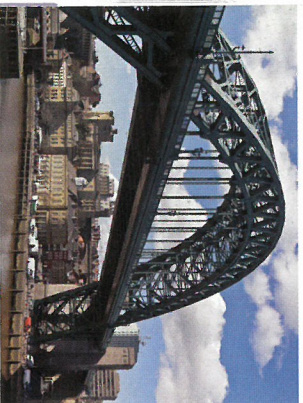


THE UK AND IRELAND

UK



AREA 241,857 sq km
POPULATION 62,698,000
MONEY Pound sterling
CAPITAL London

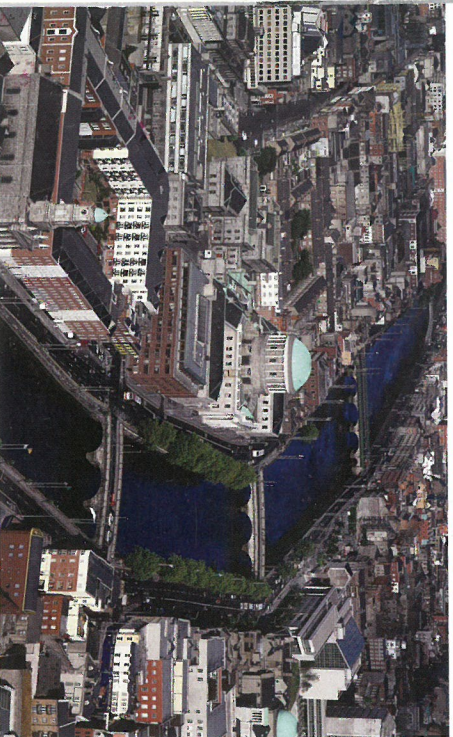


▲ **The city of Newcastle** has many bridges over the River Tyne. This steel arch is the same design as the Sydney Harbour bridge in Australia.

IRELAND



AREA 70,273 sq km
POPULATION 4,671,000
MONEY Euro
CAPITAL Dublin



▲ **Dublin, the capital of Ireland.** This air-photo shows us that Dublin is built on both sides of the River Liffey. How many bridges can you see? A quarter of Ireland's population lives in Dublin and its suburbs.

22

THE United Kingdom (UK) is made up of Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) and Northern Ireland. The UK parliament meets in London, but Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own parliaments.

Look at the high land on the map: it is in the north and west of Great Britain, where the rocks are older and harder than in the south and east. Many old factories and mines were in the north and west on the coalfields and they have closed now. The higher land gets more rain, and has pasture for cattle and sheep. Most of the arable farming is in the lower, drier and flatter south and east of Britain.



▲ **Windsor Castle** is the oldest and largest castle in the world that is still lived in. It is the official home of the Queen, although she also has palaces in London and Edinburgh. Windsor is a small town beside the River Thames, west of London. Tourists come from all over the world to visit historic places, and the 'tourist industry' is very important for the UK.

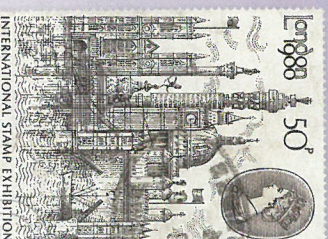


▲ **A reservoir in Wales** where the River Elan is held back by the Craig Goch dam (Welsh for 'Red Rock'). The water is piped from Wales, in the wetter west, to Birmingham. It is also used to make electricity.



▲ **The Somerset Levels**, south of Bristol in south-west England. The foreground was marshland which has been drained – it is below the level of high tides.

LONDON



Can you spot 8 famous London landmarks? (Answer on page 97.)

Highest mountain – Ben Nevis
Longest river – Shannon
Largest lake – Lough Neagh
Greenwich Meridian – 0°

THE UK AND IRELAND

as many people in Ireland 170 years ago as there are today. Many Irish people emigrated to the UK or USA to find work. Farming is still important, but new factories have been built in many towns.

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