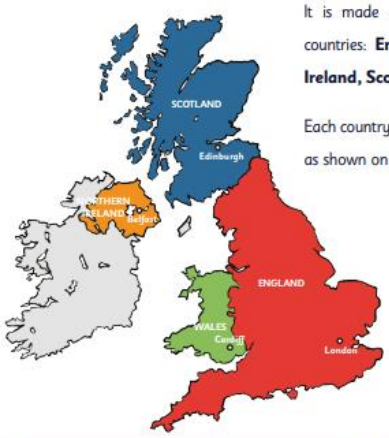
The United Kingdom and my region

Year 3

Knowledge Organiser

The United Kingdom

The **United Kingdom of Great Britain** and **Northern Ireland** is an **island country in Europe**.



It is made up of four smaller countries: **England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales**.

Each country has a **capital city**, as shown on this map.

Regions

England is split up into smaller sections called **regions**.

Each of these **regions** contains **counties**, **cities**, **towns** and **villages**.



Counties

Counties are areas of land made up of **countryside** and **different settlements**. Here are some **interesting facts** about counties.



Settlements

There are three main kinds of settlement: **villages, towns and cities**. They are classified depending on how **big or small** the settlements are and the kinds of **housing and facilities** they have.

What is a village?

- not many houses
- quiet roads
- a post office and shop
- a pub
- a church
- a primary school

What is a town?

- lots of houses
- busy roads
- shops, restaurants, pubs and hotels
- places of worship
- secondary school
- swimming pool
- supermarket

What is a city?

- a cathedral
- lots of different places of worship
- museums and galleries
- parks
- shopping centres
- lots of restaurants, cafes and bars
- office blocks
- lots of different houses, including blocks of flats
- warehouses and factories
- a university

Compasses

A compass is a **magnetic instrument used for finding directions**. The four directions on a compass are called **cardinal directions**. They are **north, east, south and west**. The needle within the compass will always point towards the **north**.



Four-figure grid references

Four-figure grid references are **four numbers used to pinpoint a particular location on a map**. Numbered lines called **eastings and northings** are used to pinpoint a **square section on a map**.

How to use them:

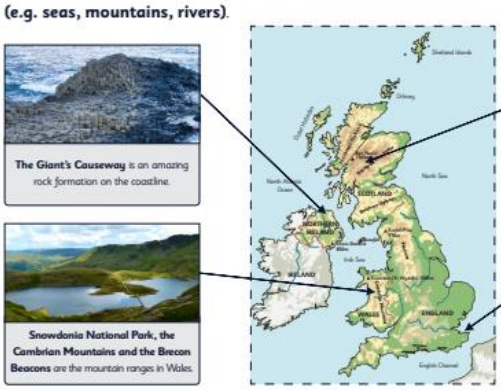
1. Look at the **eastings** and find the **1st number**.
2. Then look at the **northings** until you find the **2nd number**.
3. When you have found the **correct corner**, look at the square to the **top right of the corner**.

grid reference: 3243



Physical features of the UK

The landscape of the UK is very varied. **Physical features** would be here even if there were no people around **(e.g. seas, mountains, rivers)**.



The Giant's Causeway is an amazing rock formation on the coastline.



The Northern Highlands and the Grampian Mountains are the mountain ranges in Scotland.

Snowdonia National Park, the Cambrian Mountains and the Brecon Beacons are the mountain ranges in Wales.



The cliffs on the coastline are famous here. They are called the **White Cliffs of Dover**.

Human features of the UK

A human landmark is a **human-made feature** of a landscape or town that is recognisable from a distance.

Glenfinnan Viaduct, Inverness-shire, Scotland





Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff, Wales

Titanic Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland





Stonehenge, Wiltshire, England