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HISTORY AND CULTURE
OF GREAT BRITAIN

Regional Geography Textbook

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The textbook is about the geography, history, culture and famous person-
alities of the English-speaking countries. Every nation and every country has
its own traditions and customs. In Britain traditions play a more important role
in the life of people than in other countries. They say British people are very
conservative. They are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up.

The textbook is recommended to the university students, students of
translation courses.

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INTRODUCTION

A language is a systematic means of communication by the use of sounds or conventional symbols. It is the code we all use to express ourselves and communicate to others. It is a communication by word of mouth. It is the mental faculty or power of vocal communication. It is a system for communicating ideas and feelings using sounds, gestures, signs or marks. Any means of communicating ideas, specifically, human speech, the expression of ideas by the voice and sounds articulated by the organs of the throat and mouth is a language. This is a system for communication. A language is written and spoken methods of combining words to create meaning used by a particular group of people.

English came about in England's Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and what is now the south-eastern part of Scotland. Due to extensive influence of Great Britain and later, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland throughout the British Empire from the seventeenth to the mid-twentieth century, the language propagated widely around the world.

The United Kingdom has a long history of immigration, with large-scale European influxes in the 19th century and early 20th century. After the Second World War many West Indians were invited to help with the shortage of labor and they were followed around a decade later by immigrants from India and Pakistan. There was also a steady stream of Chinese, most notably from the former colony of Hong Kong.

Nowadays, the United Kingdom of Great Britain is a highly industrialized state and one of the leading countries in the world. London is one of the largest financial centers not only in the UK but also in the whole world. The country has a lot of banks and insurance companies abroad. It is known that 1/5 of all the world transactions are conducted in pounds. However, the UK economy has been exposed to continuous changes. The present day state of the economy is the result

of numerous changes which led the country to the top position in the world economy. The political leaders of the United Kingdom of Great Britain applied a great deal of efforts to bring the country's economy to the current state. Moreover, the present day characteristics of the UK economic structure depend on the different stages of the UK economic development.

The influence of Great Britain and the United States on international relations and political affairs for the past century had ensured acceptance and proliferation of English as the main language spoken in many countries. The widespread American pop culture acceptance has also made contribution to the primacy of the English language .

In colleges and universities of Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the United States and Great Britain which attract the most number of students from other countries, English is the primary language of instruction.

Many advanced-study institutes, medical centers and top business schools are located in Great Britain and North America and the language used in these higher- learning institutions' every activity happens to be English. Most technical periodicals and peer-reviewed journals that give international acclaim to technocrats, technologists, engineers and scientists are printed in English.

Chapter 1

GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

Geographical Position of Great Britain

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is situated on the British Isles – a large group of islands lying off the north-western coast of Europe and separated from the continent by the English Channel and the Strait of Dover in the south and the North Sea in the east.

The British Isles consist of two large islands – Great Britain and Ireland – separated by the Irish Sea, and a lot of small islands, the main of which are the Isle of Wight in the English Channel, Anglesea and the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea, the Hebrides – a group of islands off the north-western coast of Scotland, and two groups of islands lying to the north Scotland: the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands.

Historically the territory of the United Kingdom is divided into four parts: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The total area of the UK is 224 square kilometers.

Great Britain enjoys a humid and mild marine West-Coast climate with warm winters and cool summers and a lot of rainfall throughout the year.

The prevailing winds blow from the south-west. As these winds blow from the ocean, they are mild in winter and cool in summer, and are heavily charged with moisture at all times. As they approach the mountainous areas near the west coasts, they rise up the mountain slopes. Their temperature drops, which causes condensation of moisture in the form of rain. Therefore the wettest parts of Britain are those areas where high mountains lie near the west coast: the western Highlands of Scotland, the Lake District and North Wales. The eastern part of Britain is said to be in the rain-shadow, as the winds lose most of their moisture in their passage over the highlands of the west.

All parts of the British Isles receive rain at any time of the year. Still autumn and winter are the wettest seasons, except in the Thames District, where most rain falls in the summer half of the year. Oxford, for example, has 29 per cent of its rain in summer and only 22 per cent in winter.

As to temperature, Great Britain has warmer winters than any other district in the same latitude. It is due in large measure to the prevalence of mild southwest winds. Another factor is the Gulf Stream¹, which flows from the Gulf of Mexico and brings much warmth from the equatorial regions to north-western Europe.

Great Britain is rich in coal. There are rich coal basins in Northumberland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, South Wales and near Glasgow.

Among other mineral resources, iron ores found alongside coal layers are of primary importance, but the iron content of most of the ores is very low.

There are tin and copper mines in Cornwall and Devonshire, copper and lead mines in England. Lead and silver ores are also mined in Derbyshire and Cumberland and Lancashire.

The animal life of the British Isles is now much poorer than it used to be a few centuries ago. With the disappearance of forests, many forest animals, including the wolf, the bear, the boar, the deer and the Irish elk, have become practically extinct. There are foxes in most rural areas, and otters are found along many rivers and streams. Of smaller animals there are mice, rats, hedgehogs, moles, squirrels, hares, rabbits and weasels.

There are a lot of birds, including many song-birds. Blackbirds, sparrows and starlings are probably most common. There are many sea-birds, which nest round the coasts and often fly far inland in search of food or shelter in rough weather.

Questions:

1. Where is the UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland situated?
2. What islands do the British Isles consist of?
3. Which four parts is the territory of the UK historically divided into?
4. What is the total area of the UK?
5. What climate does Great Britain enjoy?
6. Which are the wettest parts of Great Britain? Why?

7. Why does Great Britain have warmer winters than any other district in the same latitude?
8. What mineral resources is Great Britain rich in?
9. In what parts of Great Britain are tin, copper, lead and silver deposits found?
10. Why is the animal life of the British Isles much poorer than it was a few centuries ago? What forest animals have become practically extinct?
11. What animals can be found in the most rural areas along many rivers and streams?
12. Are there many birds in Great Britain? Which are most common?

Economy

The United Kingdom was the first country in the world which became highly industrialized. During the rapid industrialization of the 19th century, one of the most important factors was that coal deposits were situated near the ground surface, which made mining easy. Coal mining is one of the most developed industries in Great Britain. The biggest coal and iron mines are in the north-east of England, near Newcastle, in Lancashire and Yorkshire; in Scotland near Glasgow; in Wales near Cardiff and Bristol.

Until recent times, Britain's heavy industry was mainly concentrated in the centre of England and in the London region. Such towns as Birmingham, Coventry and Sheffield produced heavy machines, railway carriages and motorcars. In the 20th century new branches of industry have appeared: electronics, radio, chemical industry and others.

Of great importance for Britain is ship-building industry. It is concentrated in London, Glasgow, Newcastle, Liverpool and Belfast.

Great Britain produces a lot of wool, and woollen industry is developed in Yorkshire. British woollen products are exported to many countries.

Sea-ports play a great role in the life of the country. London, Liverpool and Glasgow are the biggest English ports, from which big liners go to all parts of the world. Great Britain exports industrial products to other countries and imports food and some other products. Sheep-farming, cattle-farming and dairy-farming are also important branches of Great Britain's economy. Chicken farms produce a great number of chickens and eggs for the population.

The south of England is often called the «Garden of England», because there are many gardens and orchards there. In the orchards people grow apples, pears, cherries, plums and other fruits, and there are also large plantations of different berries.

Questions:

1. What was one of the most important factors of the rapid industrialization of the country in the 19th century?
2. What industry is mostly developed in Great Britain? Where are the biggest coal and iron mines situated?
3. Where was Britain's heavy industry mainly concentrated until recent times? What was produced in Birmingham, Coventry and Sheffield?
4. What branches of industry appeared in the 20th century?
5. What towns is ship-building industry concentrated in?
6. Great Britain has always been a great exporter of wool, hasn't it? Where is the woolen industry concentrated?
7. Do sea-ports play a great role in the life of Great Britain? Which are the biggest sea-ports of the country?
8. Why is the south of England often called «Garden of England»? What kinds of fruit grow in the orchards?

Chapter 2

POLITICAL SYSTEM

Constitution

Great Britain is a parliamentary monarchy. Officially the head of the state is the king or queen. The power of the monarch is not absolute but constitutional. The monarch acts only on the advice of the ministers.

The hereditary principle upon which the monarchy is founded is strictly observed. The now reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II is a descendant of the Saxon King Egbert.

The monarch, be it king or queen, is the head of the executive body, an integral part of the legislature, the head of the judicial body, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the crown, the head of the Established Church of England and the head of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Practically speaking, there is no written constitution in Great Britain. The term «English Constitution» means the leading principles, conventions and laws, many of which have been existing for centuries, though they have undergone modifications and extensions in agreement with the advance of civilization. These principles are expressed in such documents of major importance such as Magna Carta, a famous document in English history agreed upon in 1215 by King John and the barons, which set certain limits on royal power and which was later regarded as a law stating basic civil rights; Habeas Corpus Act, a law passed in 1679, which guarantees to a person arrested the right to appear in court of justice so that the jury should decide whether this person was guilty or not guilty; The Bill of Rights, an act of Parliament passed in 1689, which confirmed certain rights of the people; the laws deciding the succession of the royal family, and a number of constitution acts, separate laws and agreements.

Questions:

1. Who is the official head of the state of Great Britain?
2. The monarchy in Great Britain is founded on hereditary principle, isn't it? What does «hereditary principle» mean?
3. Is there a written constitution in Great Britain? What does the term «English Constitution» mean?
4. When was Magna Carta signed? Who signed it? What did Magna Carta set limits on?
5. When was Habeas Corpus Act passed? What does Habeas Corpus Act guarantee?
6. When did Parliament pass the Bill of Rights? What did The Bill of Rights confirm?

Three Branches of Government

Power in Great Britain is divided into three branches: the legislative branch, the executive branch and judicial branch.

The legislative branch is represented by Parliament, which consists of two chambers, or houses: The House of Lords and The House of Commons.

Parliament in Britain has existed since 1265. Having been organized in the reign of King Edward I, it is the oldest parliament in the world.

The House of Lords consists of more than 1000 peers, including «lords spiritual»: the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York, and 24 bishops of the Church of England. The peers (with the exception of the «lords spiritual») have the right to sit in Parliament during their lifetime and transmit their right to their sons.

During the present century a new practice of «creating» new peers has appeared. They are called «life peers», because their children do not inherit their titles like the children of hereditary peers. New peers are created by monarch on the Advice of the Prime Minister. Sometimes a prominent politician is made a peer, sometimes a leading civil servant who has served the country well. As a result, about one-third of the Lords today are not representatives of hereditary nobility but company directors, newspaper proprietors and other businessmen.

The members of the House of Commons are elected by a general election. The whole country is divided into constituencies, every one of which chooses one delegate. Big cities are divided into several constituencies each. Members of the House of Commons are elected for five years.

Parliament main function is to make laws. The procedure of making new laws is as follows: a member of the House of Commons proposes a bill, which is discussed by the House. If the bill is approved, it is sent to the House of Lords, which, in case it does not like it, has the right to veto it for one year. If the House of Commons pass the bill again the following year, the House of Lords cannot reject it. Finally the bill is sent to the Queen for the «royal assent», after which it becomes a law.

The executive branch is headed by the Prime Minister, who is appointed by the king (queen). According to tradition, the Prime Minister is the leader of the party that has won the elections and has the majority in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister appoints the ministers to compose the government. After that the newly appointed ministers of the government (about twenty) form the Cabinet. Members of the Cabinet make joint decisions or advise the Prime Minister.

The main function of the executive branch of the government is to administer the laws (to see to it that the laws are carried out, actually to rule the country).

The judicial branch interprets the laws. The highest judicial body is the Supreme Court of the Justice and the Court of Appeal. It is often said that English law is superior to the law of most other countries. Indeed, the English judicial system contains many rules which protect the individual against arbitrary action by the police and government.

The two main political parties in Great Britain are the Conservative Party and the Labour Party.

The Conservative Party is right-wing, tending to be opposed to great and sudden changes in the established order of society. It is against state control of industry.

The Labour Party, sometimes called the Socialists, has a close association with the Trade Unions, although it is now not as left-wing as it used to be. It has many supporters, especially among working-class and middle-class people.

Vocabulary:

«lords spiritual» – высшее духовенство
during their lifetime – пожизненно
transmit their right – передавать своё право
a leading civil servant – ведущий государственный служащий
hereditary nobility – наследственная знать
constituencies – избирательные округа
a bill – законопроект
«royal assent» – королевское одобрение
the Supreme Court of Judicature – Верховный Суд
the High Court of Justice – Высокий суд
the Court of Appeal – апелляционный суд
arbitrary – произвольные действия

Questions:

1. Which are the three branches of state power in the UK?
2. What body is the legislative power represented by?
3. The British Parliament is the oldest parliament in the world, isn't it? Since what time has it existed? How old is it?
4. Which are the two chambers of the British Parliament?
5. How many peers are there in the House of Lords? Who are the «lords spiritual»?
6. How are the members of the House of Commons elected? How often do general elections of the House of Commons take place?
7. What is the main function of Parliament?
8. Who is the executive branch headed by?
9. How is the Prime Minister chosen?
10. What is the procedure of forming the government?
11. What is the Cabinet? What is the work of the Cabinet?
12. What is the highest judicial body of the country called? Which two divisions does it consist of?
13. Why is it often said that English law is superior to the law of most other countries?
14. Which are two main political parties in Great Britain?
15. What is the Conservative party otherwise called? How can the general policy of the Conservative Party be described?
16. What is the Labour Party sometimes called? What organization does the Labour Party have a close association with? Where does the Labour Party have the majority of supporters?

The British Commonwealth of Nations

For centuries British sailors and merchants travelled all over the world, discovered new lands and claimed them for England. Large

territories in North America, Africa, the whole continent of Australia, New Zealand, India and a lot of islands in the ocean got under British rule. Thus, gradually, in the course of centuries, the huge British Empire came into being. After World War II, with the growth of national liberation movement in the world, the countries which were dependent on Great Britain and formed parts of British Empire began claiming independence. As a result of this movement, the British Empire fell apart. However, centuries-long economic, cultural and political ties of these former colonies and dominions with Great Britain were too strong for them to completely break away from each other, and it was found advisable to maintain the old ties. A new organization was established: the British Commonwealth of Nations, including about 50 independent states which were formerly parts of the British Empire. The British Commonwealth of Nations encourages trade and friendly relations among its members. The Queen is the official head of the Commonwealth.

Vocabulary:

claimed them for England – объявляли их владениями Англии

national liberation movement – национально-освободительное движение

fell apart – распалась

the British Commonwealth – Британское содружество нации

Questions:

1. How was the British Empire formed?
2. What international movement brought about the fall of the British Empire? When did this movement start?
3. Why didn't former dependent countries completely break away from Great Britain? Why was it found advisable to maintain the old ties?
4. What is the name of the new association of former British colonies and dominions?
5. What does the British Commonwealth of Nations encourage?
6. Who is the official head of the Commonwealth of Nations?

Chapter 3

HISTORY

The Early Days of Britain

Around 10,000 BC Britain was peopled by small groups of hunters and fishers. They followed herds of deer, which provided them with food and clothing.

In the course of time, different groups of people kept arriving in Britain, bringing their customs and skills. The Romans, who occupied Britain in the 1st century, brought the skills of reading and writing. The written word was important for spreading ideas and culture.

About 500-600 BC new people the Celts appeared in Britain. They were tall, strong people with long red or sandy hair, armed with iron swords and knives which were much stronger than the bronze weapons used by the native population. They crossed the English Channel from the territory of the present-day France. The Romans called these people Britons and the island – Britannia. In the course of centuries the Britons partly killed the native population, partly mixed with it.

The Britons were skilful workers. They made things of iron, bronze, tin, clay and wood, and decorated them with beautifully drawn lines and patterns. They made money out of gold and silver. They began to make roads, along which they travelled about the country, buying and selling things.

There were some good and rather big houses in Britain, which had many rooms and corridors. The richer Britons lived in these big houses. When they had feasts in their houses, they sat round low tables. There were no forks or spoons. They took big pieces of meat in their fingers and tore them apart, or cut them with their knives. They drank from big cups made of earthenware or silver.

Not all parts of Britain were civilized. In the mountains and forests of the west and north there were people who did not know the use of iron and did not use money. They had no real houses, but still lived in caves. The parts in the south-east of Britain were most civilized, because they were nearest to the continent, from which people got new knowledge.

The Britons were polytheistic, that is they believed in many gods. They believed that different gods lived in the thickest and darkest parts of the forests. Some plants, such as the mistletoe and oak-tree, were considered sacred. Some historians think that the Britons were governed by a class of priests called Druids who had great power over them. Stonehenge was the temple of the Druids, just as it had been the temple of the primitive men before. The Druids were cruel men and their ways of worshipping their gods were cruel too. They often declared that a god was angry, and to get the god's pardon the people had to offer up sacrifices of human beings. The Druids put men into huge baskets and burned them in the presence of the people.

The Britons often fought among themselves. The remains of forts built by Britons can be seen in different parts of the country. From time to time the Britons had feasts and entertainments. During a feast a minstrel usually sang songs about brave deeds of famous warriors. After the minstrel's songs his listeners began to boast of their own brave deeds. And when they had drunk too much, they began quarrelling and fighting, and usually some men were killed.

Questions:

1. Where did the Britons come from? How did they look? What were they armed with?
2. The Britons were skilful workers, weren't they? What could they do?
3. What do we know about the Britons' way of life? What kind of houses did they have? Did they have forks or knives? What did they make their plates and cups of?
4. Which parts of Britain were most civilized? Why?
5. What do we call the people who believe in many gods?
6. Where did the gods live, according to the early Briton's religion?
7. Who were the druids? How did they worship their gods?
8. How did the Britons entertain themselves during the feasts?

The Coming of the Romans

In the year 55 BC the great Roman general Julius Caesar sailed to Britain with about 12,000 soldiers in eighty ships. When they were near the coast, they saw the Britons armed with spears and swords, ready to fight. Still the Roman soldiers landed and fought against the Britons. They won the battle, but did not stay long and soon departed. In the following year Julius Caesar came to Britain again. This time, after fighting the Britons on the shore, the Romans marched north-west where London stands today. The British attacked them in chariots and on foot, but the Romans had better arms and armour, and were much better trained. The Britons could not stop them.

Having stayed in Britain for some time, the Romans left again and did not appear on the British shores for about a hundred years. Then, in the year 43 AD, the Roman Emperor Claudius sent a general with 40,000 men to conquer Britain all over again. The British fought bravely, but could not hold back the trained Roman army. Soon the whole of the south of Britain was conquered.

The Romans were very practical people, and the first thing they did in Britain was to make and fortify the ports where they landed their soldiers and supplies. The Roman ports were very well built, with stone quays and warehouses. There were big cranes, which lifted the cargo from the ships' holds, and many carts transported goods along the great Roman roads which ran in long straight lines to different parts of the country.

In the year 70 AD, when the Romans had been for nearly thirty years in Britain, many Britons could not remember the time when the country had been free, and it seemed quite natural to them to be governed, not by British kings or chiefs, but by Governors from Rome.

There were still three legions of Roman soldiers in the country, but everything was now so quiet that the soldiers spent most of their time enjoying themselves in sports or at the games in the amphitheatres.

Although Britain was now fairly peaceful, the Romans realized that at any moment some tribe might try to revolt. So they built forts in many parts of the country, in which they stationed small groups of soldiers.

For the next three hundred and twenty-five years Britain remained a Roman province, governed by Roman Governors and protected by the Roman legions. During this time there were long periods of peace, and Britain became a civilized country of towns and villages and good roads.

Wherever the Romans went, they built roads. If we look at the modern map of England, we see that there are great main highways running across the country, often in long straight lines, from one town to another. Many of these roads which are still in use today were built by the Romans.

The south of England was covered with the villas of wealthy Romans and Britons. There were large farmhouses, often with water supply and baths.

The Romans remained in Britain for three hundred and fifty years, and during that time they built many towns. Strangely enough, London was not the chief town in early Roman times. The capital city, from which the Romans governed the island, was Colchester.

Many of these towns were large. The walls of St. Albans, for instance, were two miles round, and the town covered two hundred acres of land. We know where the Roman towns stood from the names of the English towns which were later built on their ruins. The names of modern towns ending in -chester or -caster, like Dorchester or Lancaster, come from the Latin word *castra* meaning a camp or a fortified place.

Each large town had a theatre; open to the sky, with some seats in a great semi-circle. Many towns had amphitheatres like the Coliseum in Rome, but smaller. Here the soldiers did military exercises and played all sorts of games.

There were shops in all Roman-British towns. The shops were usually located on two sides of the main square. The shops were of all kinds: butcher's, baker's and greengrocer's; there were shoemaker's, and locksmith's, carpenter's and jeweler's shops. Tailors and leather workers could be seen at work behind their counters, and everywhere merchants invited the passers-by to buy their goods.

The customers were as varied as the merchants: Britons in rough woolen clothes, Romans in togas, soldiers in scarlet and brass, women in graceful dresses and cloaks, and slaves in short tunics. It was a busy scene.

The social centre of every Roman town was a great building of the baths. This building usually occupied one side of the main square and contained, in addition to the hot and cold baths, the law courts, the municipal offices, the school building and the gymnasium.

The Romans believed in keeping clean. They built wonderful baths and visited them two or three times a day. After the bath the young Romans went to a large high gymnasium to practice boxing and wrestling and all kinds of gymnastics.

At the same time the Roman gymnasium was much more than just a place for physical exercise. Many business operations were done in it. There were places, too, in this large building, where people could buy food and drink. In fact, a Roman citizen could go to the baths in the morning and spend the whole busy day there, without wasting a moment.

Questions:

1. How many times did Julius Caesar come to Britain? When was it? What did he do the first and the second time?
2. When did the Romans come and stay in Britain?
3. What facts show that the Romans were practical people?
4. How were the Roman ports built and what equipment did they have?
5. Why did it seem natural for many Britons to be ruled by Roman Governors?
6. How many Roman soldiers were constantly stationed in Britain?
7. Britain was now fairly peaceful, wasn't it? How did the Roman soldiers spend most of their time?
8. Why did the Romans build forts in many parts of the country?
9. What kind of the country did Britain gradually become under the Roman rule?
10. What reminds us of Roman rule when we look at the modern map of England?
11. What kind of houses did wealthy Romans and Britons live in?
12. How long did the Romans stay in Britain? What town was their capital?
13. How do we know from the name of a town that it was built in Roman times?
14. Were there theaters in large towns?
15. What were the amphitheaters for?
16. Where were the shops usually located? What shops were these?
17. What clothes did different groups of people wear?

Invasion by Anglo-Saxons

Towards the end of the 4th century Europe was invaded by barbaric tribes. The Romans had to leave Britain because they needed to defend their own country. The Britons were left to themselves, but they had very little peace. Very soon sea-robbers came sailing in ships from the continent. These invaders were Germanic tribes called Angles, Saxons and Jutes. They were wild fearless people, and the Britons could never drive them away. The Britons fought many battles, but at last they were forced to retreat to the west of Britain. Those who stayed became the slaves of the Anglo-Saxons.

For a long time, the tribes of Angles, Saxons and Jutes fought against one another for the supreme power. Britain split up into seven kingdoms: Kent, Sussex, Essex, Wessex, Mercia, East Anglia and Northumbria.

The Anglo-Saxons lived in small villages. Around each village there was a ditch and an earthen wall with a wooden fence on top. The earthen wall and the fence served to defend the village against the robbers and wild beasts.

The Anglo-Saxons were tall, strong men, with blue eyes and long blond hair. They were dressed in tunics and cloaks which they fastened with a brooch above the right shoulder. On their feet they wore rough leather shoes. Their usual weapons were a spear and a shield. Some rich men had iron swords, which they carried at their left side. The women wore long dresses with wide sleeves. Their heads were covered with a hood.

In their villages The Anglo-Saxons bred cows, sheep and pigs. They ploughed the fields and grew wheat, rye or oats for bread and barley for beer.

Questions:

1. What tribes was Europe invaded by towards the end of the 4th century?
2. Why did the Romans leave Britain?
3. What tribes invaded Britain after the Romans left?
4. What parts of Britain did the Angles, Saxons and Jutes settle in?
5. What did the Britons have to do? Did all of them go to the west? What happened to those who remained?
6. Why did the tribes of Angles, Saxons and Jutes fight against one another?

7. Which seven kingdoms were finally formed in Britain?
8. Did the Anglo- Saxons live in towns?
9. Why were the Anglo- Saxon villages surrounded by walls and ditches?
10. How did the Anglo- Saxons look? What clothes did they wear?
11. What weapons did the Anglo- Saxons have?
12. What domestic animals did the Anglo- Saxons breed? What did they grow on their fields?

Christianity

Christianity first penetrated to Britain in the 3rd century. It was brought there from Rome by Christian refugees who were fiercely prosecuted for their faith at home. In the year 306, the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great stopped the prosecution of the Christians and became a Christian himself. Christianity was made the Romans national faith. It was brought to all dependent countries. It became the official religion and was called the Catholic Church («catholic» means «universal»). The Greek and Latin languages became the languages of the Church all over Europe.

When the Anglo-Saxons, who were pagans, invaded Britain, most of the British Christians were killed. Those who remained alive fled to Wales and Ireland, where they lived in groups called Brethren (brotherhoods). They build churches and devoted themselves to worship. They told people stories of Christian martyrs and visitations by saints (called visions). Such stories were typical of the literature of that time.

Towards the end of the 6th century Christian monks began coming from Rome to Britain again. The head of the Roman Church at that time was Pope Gregory. He wanted to spread his influence over England by converting the people to Christianity. He sent monks to convert the Anglo- Saxons. The monks landed in Kent (the south-eastern part of Britain), and the first church they built was in the town of Canterbury. Up to this day Canterbury has remained the English religious centre and the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Established Church of England.

Questions:

1. When did Christianity first penetrate to Britain? Who brought it there?

2. When was the prosecution of Christians stopped in Rome? Who stopped it?
3. What was the new Christian religion officially called? What does Catholic mean?
4. What languages became the languages of the Church?
5. What happened to many of the early British Christians with the coming of the Anglo-Saxons?
6. Who were Brethren? What did they devote themselves to? What stories did they tell people?
7. In what century did Christian monks begin coming to Britain again?
8. Why did Pope Gregory want to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity?
9. Why is the town of Canterbury considered the English religious centre?

Uniting the Country

As we know, Anglo-Saxon Britain was not a united country. There were a lot of small kingdoms which constantly waged wars against one another for supreme power. As a result, these little kingdoms were weak and could not hold out against attacks from abroad.

Beginning with the 8th century, pirates from Scandinavia and Denmark began raiding the eastern shores of Britain. They are known in English history as the Danes. They were brave, cruel and merciless people. They landed their long boats, killed and robbed the population of the towns and villages and sailed away. They returned over and over again and continued killing and robbing the population. Gradually they began settling in Britain and seized more and more land.

The Anglo-Saxons understood that their small kingdoms must unite in order to struggle against the Danes successfully. In the 9th century Egbert, the king of Wessex, one of the strongest Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, united several neighboring kingdoms. The United Kingdom got the name of England, and Egbert became the first king of the united country.

Alfred, the grandson of Egbert, became king in the year 871, when England's danger was greatest. The Danes, who had settled on the eastern shores of Britain, continued robbing and killing the people of England and occupying more and more land. Alfred gathered a big army and gave the Danes a great battle at Maldon in 891. The Danes were defeated in this battle, but still they remained very strong

and dangerous, and Alfred hurried to make peace with them. He had to give the Danes the greater portion of England. The kingdom that was left in Alfred's possession was Wessex. There were some years of peace, and during this time Alfred built the first English navy.

Alfred is the only king of England who got the name «the Great». And he was really a great king. He was very well educated for his time. He had learned to read and write when he was quite young. He had travelled on the continent and visited France. He knew Latin. He is famous not only for having built the first navy, but also for having tried to enlighten his people. He worked out a code of laws. He translated the Church history and parts of the Bible from Latin into Anglo-Saxon. He started the famous Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which is the first history of the early Britons. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle was continued by various authors for 250 years after the death of Alfred.

Questions:

1. Who raided the eastern shores of Britain in the 8th century? Where did the pirates come from?
2. Why was it impossible for the Anglo-Saxons to hold out against the Danes?
3. What kind of people were the Danes? What did they do on the British shores?
4. Who was Egbert? What did he do?
5. When did Alfred become king of England?
6. Why did Alfred have to fight against the Danes?
7. In what year did Alfred win a victory at Maldon?
8. Why did Alfred have to give the Danes a great portion of the territory of England in spite of the fact that he had won a victory over them at Maldon?
9. How did Alfred use the time of peace that followed the battle of Maldon?
10. When did Alfred learn to read and write?

Chapter 4

MEDIEVAL BRITAIN

England after the Norman Conquest

William the Conqueror organized his English kingdom according to the feudal society which had already begun to develop in Europe. The central idea of feudal society was that all land was owned by the king but it was held by others, called vassals, in return for services and goods. The king gave large estates to his main nobles in return for a promise to serve him in war. The nobles also had to give him part of the produce of the land. The greater nobles gave part of their lands to lesser nobles, called knights, and other freemen. Some freemen paid for the land by doing military service, while others paid rent. The nobles kept serfs to work on their land. These serfs were not free to leave the estate and were often little better than slaves.

There were two basic principles to feudalism: every man had a lord, and every lord had land and vassals. At each level a man had to promise loyalty and service to his lord. On the other hand, each lord had responsibilities to his vassals. He had to give them land and protection.

For a hundred and fifty years after the time of Alfred the Great people were continually fighting one another all over England. What the country needed was a strong king who could keep order.

In France there was a young boy named William, who was the son of the Duke of Normandy. This was the boy who in the year 1066 came and conquered England.

The Duke Robert of Normandy, William's father, was a cousin of King Edward the Confessor of England, and when William was 24 years old he came to England to visit his relative.

When William saw what a green and pleasant country England was, he wanted very much to be its king. King Edward the Confessor liked his young nephew and promised him the crown.

At the same time there was in England a young Saxon named Harold, who was the son of the Earl of Wessex, one of the most powerful English nobles of the time. Most Saxon nobles did not want a French king, and after Edward the Confessor's death they proclaimed Harold King of England. William gathered a great army and sailed across the English Channel on hundreds of ships, Harold's army met him on the English coast. There was a great battle at Hastings on October 14, 1066. Harold's soldiers fought bravely, but William's army was stronger. Harold was killed in the battle, and with the death of their leader the English understood that the battle was lost.

William marched his army to London. Nobody tried to stop him on the way, and when he approached London, he found the gates of the city open. He was met by the Saxon bishops and nobles. They knew that they could not stop William, so they asked him to be the King of England without any more fighting.

So a Norman duke became King of England. He was crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas day, the 25th of December, 1066.

To protect himself from possible attacks of the Saxons, William ordered to build a strong tower on the left bank of the Thames. This tower still stands. It is called the White Tower because it is built of white stone. Later other buildings were added and the whole place was surrounded by a stone wall to form a strong fortress which we know now as the Tower of London.

William the Conqueror took lands from Saxon nobles and gave them to his Norman barons who became new masters of the land. William and his barons, as well as all the other Normans who had come with him, did not know the Anglo-Saxon language and did not want to learn it. And for a very long time two languages were spoken in the country. Norman-French was the official language of the court, law and government administration. Common Saxon people and the few Saxon nobles who remained alive spoke Anglo-Saxon.

There were many people in England who did not want to be ruled by a Norman king, and in many parts of the country there were rebellions. But with the strong army of his barons and knights, William cruelly put down all the rebellions. Lots of people were killed; villages and towns were completely destroyed.

William sent groups of men all over the country to make lists of all the population together with the information of how much land every family had and how much cattle and what other property they had on their land. All this information was put into a book which was called the Domesday Book. By means of the Domesday book, William's government knew exactly where everyone lived and how much property they owned. Thus, for the first time in the history of England, it was made possible to collect the right taxes for the king.

the Domesday book – земельная опись

Questions:

1. Why was it necessary for England to have a strong king?
2. Whose son was William? Where did he live as a boy? How was his father related to the English king Edward the Confessor?
3. When did William see England for the first time? Why did Edward the Confessor promise William the crown?
4. Who was Harold? Why was he proclaimed King of England after Edward the Confessor's death?
5. When did the battle of Hastings take place? How did it end?
6. Was William's march to London difficult? Why?
7. Why did the Saxon nobles and bishops in London ask William to be king of England? What church was William crowned in? When was it?
8. What fortress did William build on the bank of the Thames to protect himself? Why was it called the White Tower?
9. Why did William take lands from Saxon nobles?
10. How did it happen that for a long time two languages were spoken in the country? Who spoke Norman-French? Who spoke Anglo-Saxon?
11. There were rebellions against William's rule. How did he put down the rebellions?
12. What is the Domesday Book? How did William make it? What did he make the Domesday Book for?

English Kings of the 11th and 12th Centuries

After William the Conqueror's death in 1087, three more kings of the Norman dynasty ruled England: his two sons, William II (1087-1100) and Henry I (1100-1135), and his grandson, the son of his daughter, Stephen (1135-1154). After Stephen's death, the English throne passed to the Plantagenet dynasty.

William the Conqueror's son Henry I had a daughter, Matilda, who was married to the French count of Anjou, Geoffrey Plantagenet. Their son Henry Plantagenet was made King of England after Stephen's death in 1154.

Richard I the Lionheart (Richard Coeur de Lion) (1189-1199) was the second king of the Plantagenet dynasty. He was famous for his good education (he knew Latin and was fond of music and poetry) and courage. His contemporaries described him as a man of excellent manners, kind to his friends and cruel and merciless to his enemies. Richard was seldom seen in England, spending most of his time taking part in crusades in Palestine. At home the barons, in the king's absence, strengthened their castles and acted like little kings. Prince John, the king's brother, with the help of the barons, tried to seize the English throne. Common people were cruelly oppressed.

Richard the Lionheart was killed in one of the battles in the France, and the English throne passed to his brother John.

At that great time some territories in France belonged to England. Naturally, the French kings and nobles did not like it and wanted to win back these lands, so the English and the French waged continuous wars in France. King John wanted a lot of money to wage these wars. He made the barons give him that money, and the barons did not like it. There was constant struggle for power between the king and the barons. Finally the barons organized an open rebellion. In 1215 the king was made to sign a document called *The Great Charter (Magna Carta* in Latin). For the first time in the history of England, *the Great Charter* officially stated certain rights and liberties of the people, which the king had to respect.

Questions:

1. Who were the three kings of the Norman dynasty who ruled England after William's death? When did they rule?
2. What dynasty came to the English throne after Stephen's death? How was Henry Plantagenet related to William the Conqueror?
3. When did Richard I the Lionheart rule England? What was he famous for? How did his contemporaries describe him?
4. Richard did not have much time for ruling England, did he? Where did he spend most of his time?
5. What did Richard's brother Prince John try to do in Richard's absence? Why was the life of common people hard?

6. How did Richard the Lionheart die?
7. What fact caused constant wars between England and France?
8. How do you explain the fact that great territory of France belonged to England?
9. What caused an open rebellion of barons against King John in 1215?
10. What important document was the king made to sign in 1215? Why was the document very important?

Education. The First Universities

Before the 12th century most people were illiterate. Reading and writing skills were not considered important or necessary. Monasteries were the centres of education, and priests and monks were most educated people.

But with the development of such sciences as medicine and law, organizations of general study called universities appeared in Italy and France. Any university had four faculties: Theology (the study of religion), Canon Law (church laws), Medicine and Art, which included Latin grammar, rhetoric (the art of making speeches), logic, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy and music.

In the middle of the 12th century a group of professors from France came to Britain and founded schools in the town of Oxford in 1168. It was the beginning of the first English university. The second university was formed in 1209 in Cambridge. Towards the end of the 13th century colleges appeared around the universities, where other subjects were studied.

Getting an education in those times was very difficult. Printing had not yet been invented, and all the books were hand-written. That's why books were rare and very expensive. Only the richest people could afford buying books. If a man had twenty or thirty books, people said that he had a great library. Special rules existed for handling books. You were not to touch books with dirty hands or put them on the table at meal times. In almost any monastery you could find one or two or more monks spending hours every day copying books.

Printing was invented in the middle of the 15th century in Germany, by Johann Gutenberg. To England it was brought by William Caxton.

In his early youth Caxton was an apprentice to a company of London merchants. Later he lived in Flanders where he worked as a hand-copier of books for the royal family. He was a learned man and did translations from French into English. When he was on business in Germany, he learned the art of printing. In 1476, when Caxton returned to England, he set up the first English printing-press in London. Two years later, the second printing-press was set up in Oxford. During the next fifteen years Caxton printed sixty – five works, both translations and originals.

Theology – теология (богословие)

Canon Law – церковное право

Questions:

1. Were there many educated people in England before the 12th century? Who were the most educated people?
2. Where did universities first appear in Europe? Which four faculties did a medieval university have? What subjects were studied at each faculty?
3. How was Oxford University founded? When was it? When was Cambridge University opened?
4. It was difficult to get an education in those times, wasn't it? Why were books rare and very expensive? How many books did your library have to contain so that people might say that you had a great library?
5. Which were some of the rules for handling books? Wouldn't it be advisable to observe these rules nowadays?
6. When was printing invented? Who invented it? Who brought the art of printing to Britain?
7. When did Caxton set up the first printing-press in London? Where and when was the second printing-press set up? How many books did Caxton print during the next fifteen years?

Chapter 5

ABSOLUTE MONARCHY

The New Monarchy

During the Tudor period, from 1485 till 1603, England's foreign policy changed several times. Henry VII was careful to remain friendly with neighboring countries. His son Henry VIII was more ambitious, hoping to play an important part in European politics. He was successful. Mary allied England to Spain by her marriage. Elizabeth and her advisers considered trade the most important foreign policy matter, as Henry VII had done. For a them a country which was England's greatest trade rival was also its greatest enemy. This idea remained the basis of England's foreign policy until the 19th century.

Henry VII is less known than either Henry VIII or Elizabeth I. But he was far more important in establishing the new monarchy than either of them. He had the same ideas and opinions as the growing classes of merchants and gentry, and he based royal power on good relations with these classes.

Henry VII firmly believed that business was good for the state. Only a year after he became king, he made an important trade agreement with the Netherlands, which allowed English trade to grow. Henry understood that England's future wealth would depend on international trade. And he built a huge fleet of merchant ships. He also believed that wars ruined the country's economy, and so he avoided quarrels either with Scotland in the north or France in the south.

Henry was fortunate. Many of the old nobility had died or had been defeated in the recent wars, and their lands had gone to the king. This meant that Henry had more money than earlier kings. In order to strengthen his power, he forbade anyone, except himself, to keep armed men.

Henry's aim was to make the Crown financially independent, and the lands and the fines he took from the old nobility helped him to do

this. Of course it made him unpopular with the old nobility, but he kept the friendship of the merchant and gentry classes. Like them they wanted peace and prosperity. He created a new nobility from among them, and men unknown before became Henry's statesmen. But they all knew that their rise to importance was completely dependent on the Crown.

Henry VIII was quite unlike his father. He was cruel and wasteful with money. He spent so much on maintaining a rich court and on wars, that his father's carefully saved money was gone very soon.

Henry VIII wanted to have an important influence on European politics. But much had happened in Europe since England had lost its lands in France in the Hundred Years' War. France was now more powerful than England. Spain was even more powerful, because it was united with the Holy Roman Empire (which included much of the central Europe). Henry VIII tried to ally himself with Spain against France, and then he changed sides. When friendship with France did not bring him anything, Henry started talking again to Charles V of Spain.

Problems with the Catholic Church. Henry disliked the power of the Church in England: it was an international organization, so he could not completely control it. The power of the Catholic Church in England could work against Henry's authority. Besides, Henry had another reason for opposing to the authority of the Church.

In 1510 Henry had married Catherine of Aragon. But by 1526 she had still not had a son who could be the heir to the throne after Henry's death. Henry asked the Pope to allow him to divorce Catherine. But the Pope was controlled by Charles V, who was Holy Roman Emperor and king of Spain, and also Catherine's nephew. For both political and family reasons he wanted Henry to stay married to Catherine. The Pope did not wish to anger Charles V, and he forbade Henry's divorce.

Henry was extremely angry. He persuaded the English bishops to break away from the Catholic Church and establish a new Church in England, the head of which would be the English monarch. In 1531 the Church of England was established in the country, and this became law after Parliament passed the Act of Supremacy in 1534. Now Henry was free to divorce Catherine and marry his new love, Anne Boleyn. He hoped Anne would give him a son to follow him on the throne.

The Reformation. Henry's break with Rome was purely political. He simply wanted to control the Church and to keep its wealth in his own kingdom. He did not approve of the new ideas of Reformation Protestantism introduced by Martin Luther in Germany and John Calvin in Geneva. He still believed in the Catholic faith. But when he with broke Rome, he wanted to make the break legal. Between 1532 and 1536 Parliament passed several Acts, by which England officially became a Protestant country, even though the popular religion was still Catholic.

the Act of Supremacy – закон о главенстве английского короля над церковью
Reformation Protestantism – реформационное протестантство

Questions:

1. Henry VII established a new type of monarchy, didn't he? What did he base royal power on? What principle did he believe in? What did he avoid?
2. Why was the trade agreement with the Netherlands important for England?
3. Why did Henry VII build a huge fleet of merchant ships?
4. Why did Henry VII have much money?
5. What measure did Henry VII take in order to strengthen his power?
6. What made Henry VII unpopular with the old nobility?
7. Why did Henry VII keep the friendship of the merchant and gentry classes?
8. In what ways was Henry VIII unlike his father? Why did he soon spend all the money saved by his father?
9. Which European countries were more powerful than England? How did Henry try to influence European politics?
10. Why did Henry VIII dislike the power of the Church?
11. Why did Henry want to divorce his first wife Catherine of Aragon? Why did the Pope forbid him to divorce his wife? How did Henry get out of the difficulty? When was the Church of England established?
12. Whom did Henry VIII marry after the divorce with Catherine of Aragon?
13. Was Henry VIII really a Protestant? Who had introduced the ideas of Reformation Protestantism? Did Henry approve of the new ideas?
14. When did England officially become a Protestant country?

The Protestant – Catholic Struggle

Henry died in 1547, leaving three children. Mary, the eldest, was the daughter of Catherine of Aragon. Elizabeth was the daughter of

his second wife, Anne Boleyn, whom he had executed because she was unfaithful. Nine-year-old Edward was the son of Jane Seymour, the only wife whom Henry had really loved but who had died giving birth to his only son.

Edward VI, the son of Henry VIII, was only a child of 9 years old when he became king, so the country was ruled by a council. All the members of the council were the representatives of the new nobility created by the Tudors. They were keen Protestant Reformers because they had benefited from the sale of monastery lands. Indeed, all the new landowners knew that they could only be sure of keeping their new lands if they made England truly Protestant.

Most English people still believed in the Old Catholic religion. Less than half the English were Protestant by belief, but these people controlled religious matters. In 1552 a new prayer book was introduced to make sure that all churches followed the new Protestant religion.

Mary, the Catholic daughter of Catherine of Aragon, became queen when Edward, aged sixteen, died in 1553. Mary was unwise and made mistakes in her policy. For political, religious and family reasons, she married King Philip of Spain. It was a bad choice. The English people disliked the marriage. They were afraid that this marriage would place England under foreign control. Parliament agreed to Mary's marriage unwillingly and made a condition that Philip would be regarded as King of England only during Mary's lifetime.

Mary's marriage to Philip was the first mistake of her unfortunate reign. Then she began burning Protestants. Three hundred people died in this way during her five-year reign. For these mass executions she was called *Bloody Mary*.

When Elizabeth I became queen in 1558, she wanted to find a peaceful answer to the problems of the English Reformation. She wanted to bring together again those parts of English society (Catholic and Protestant) which were in disagreement. And she wanted to make England prosperous. As a result, Protestantism in England remained closer to the Catholic religion than to other Protestant groups. But Elizabeth made sure that the Church was still under her authority, unlike politically dangerous forms of Protestantism in Europe. In a way, she made the Church «part of the state machine».

The parish, the area served by one church, usually the same size as a village, became the unit of state administration. People had to go to church on Sundays by law and they were fined if they stayed away. Elizabeth also introduced a book of sermons to be used in church. Besides containing texts of the sermons based on the Bible, this book also taught the people that rebellion against the Crown was a sin against God.

Mary, the Queen of Scots. The struggle between the Catholics and Protestants continued to endanger Elizabeth's position for the next thirty years. There was a special danger from those Catholic nobles in England who wished to remove Elizabeth and replace her with the queen of Scotland, who was a Catholic.

Mary, the Scottish queen, usually called Queen of Scots, was the heir to the English throne because she was Elizabeth's closest living relative, as Elizabeth had no children. Mary quarreled with some of her nobles and had to escape to England, where Elizabeth kept her as a prisoner for almost twenty years. During that time Elizabeth discovered several secret Catholic plots aimed at making Mary queen of England. Finally, Elizabeth agreed to Mary's execution in 1587.

Many people approved Mary's execution. The Catholic plots and the dangers of a foreign Catholic invasion had changed people's feelings. By 1585 most English people believed that to be a Catholic was to be an enemy of England. This hatred of everything Catholic became an important political force.

Questions:

1. How many children did Henry VIII leave after his death? Who were they?
2. How old was Edward VI when he became King of England? Did he rule the country himself?
3. Whom did Mary marry? Why did the English people dislike this marriage? What were they afraid of? On what condition did Parliament agree to the marriage?
4. What was Mary's second mistake? Why was she called Bloody Mary?
5. When did Elizabeth I become Queen of England? How did she want to settle the problem of disagreement between the Catholics and Protestants? What was the result of her efforts?
6. How did Elizabeth ensure that the Church of England was «part of the state machine»? What is a parish? How did Elizabeth make the parish a unit of state administration? How were people punished if they did not go to church on Sunday?

7. What book did Elizabeth introduce for using in church? What did this book teach the people?
8. What did some Catholic nobles plan to do?
9. Why was Mary the Queen of Scots the heir to the English throne?
10. Why did Mary come to England? Why did Elizabeth keep her a prisoner?
11. Why did Elizabeth finally agree to Mary's execution?
12. Why did many people in England approve of Mary's execution?

Wool and Clothmaking Industry

Many landowners found that they could make more money from breeding sheep than from growing crops. They could sell the wool for a good price to the rapidly growing clothmaking industry. They needed more land for the sheep to graze, so they fenced off land that had always belonged to the whole village. This process of fencing off common land is known as enclosures. Enclosures were often carried out against the law, but because magistrates were themselves landlords, few peasants could prevent it. As a result, many poor people lost the land which they had farmed, as well as the common land where they kept animals.

The production of cloth, the most important of England's products, reached its greatest importance during the 16th century. Clothmakers bought raw wool and gave it to spinners. The spinners were mostly women and children, who worked in their poor cottages for very little payment. After the spinners the wool was passed to weavers. When the cloth was ready, it was sold.

Coal and steel. In the 16th century people learned to burn coal in stoves instead of wood. Coal gave greater heat when burning. By using coal instead of wood fires, people were able to produce greatly improved steel. Improved steel was used to make knives and forks, clocks, watches, nails and pins. Birmingham, by using coal fires to make steel, grew in the 16th century from a village into an important industrial city.

The problem of the poor. Enclosures caused the great damage. Peasants who lost their land could not provide for their families. People left their homes and went from place to place trying to find work or food. Many people stole in order to eat. In the middle of 16th cen-

tury there were over 10,000 people on the roads. Crime was increasing. In order to control the growing problem of wandering homeless people, Parliament passed a law forbidding people to move from the parish where they had been born without permission. Any person who was caught on the road homeless and unemployed could be executed. However, even these severe measures did not solve the crime problem.

There were years in which the harvest was very poor, and that made the problem of the poor still worse. In 1601 Parliament passed the first Poor Law. This law made local people responsible for the poor in their own area. It gave power to magistrates to raise money in the parish to provide food, housing and work for the poor and homeless of the same parish.

Domestic life. Everyday life in families was hard. Most women had between eight and fifteen children, and many women died in childbirth. About a half of children died at a young age. No one could hope for a long married life because the dangers to life were great. Both rich and poor lived in small family groups. Grown-up brothers and sisters usually did not live with each other or with their parents. They tried to find a place of their own. Over a half of the population was under 25 years of age, while only few were over 60. Queen Elizabeth reached the age of 70, but this was unusual. Most people worked hard and died young. Poor children started work at the age of 6 or 7.

In spite of the hard conditions of life, most people had a larger and better home to live in than even before. Chimneys, which before had only befound in the homes of the rich, were now built in every house. This made cooking and heating easier and more comfortable.

clothmaking industry – суконная промышленность

fenced off – обносили забором, огораживали

enclosures – огораживание

Questions:

1. Why did many landowners decide to breed sheep?
2. What did the big landowners do to get more land for their sheep to graze?
3. Enclosing land was often against the law, yet the peasants could not prevent it. Why?
4. What became the most important of England's products in the 16th century?
5. What did people learn to burn in stoves instead of wood in the 16th century? What was the advantage of burning coal? What did they make of improved steel?

6. What was the damage caused by enclosures?
7. What law did Parliament pass? With what purpose was this law passed? What was the punishment for wandering along the roads? Did these measures solve the crime problem?
8. What law was passed in 1601? What are the contents of this law?
9. What facts show that family life in the 16th century was hard?
10. How long did the people live?
11. At what age did the children of poor families start work?
12. What improvements in domestic life appeared in the 16th century?

Language and Culture

Since the time of Chaucer, in the mid-fourteenth century, London English had become accepted as Standard English. Printing made this Standard English more widely accepted among the literate public. For the first time people started to think of London pronunciation as «correct» pronunciation. Until Tudor times the local forms of speech had been spoken by lords and peasants alike. From Tudor times onwards the way people spoke began to show the difference between them. Educated people began to speak «correct» English, and uneducated people continued to speak the local dialects.

Literacy increased greatly during the 16th century. By the beginning of the 16th century about a half of the population of England could read and write.

Renaissance is the period in Europe between the 14th and 17th centuries, when, after the period of the Middle Ages during which there had been little education, people became interested in the art, literature and ideas of ancient Greece. This interest caused the appearance of outstanding thinkers, scientists, artists and writers.

England felt the effects of the Renaissance later than much of Europe because it was an island. In the early years of the 16th century English thinkers became interested in the work of the Dutch philosopher Erasmus of Rotterdam. One of them, Thomas More, wrote a book in which he described an ideal nation. The book was called Utopia. It was very popular throughout Europe.

The Renaissance also influenced religion, music and painting. In painting English masters developed their own special kind of painting, the miniature portrait.

In literature such names as Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson and William Shakespeare were very popular. The plays which they wrote were staged in all theatres, and the public enjoyed them. Shakespeare's popularity, as we know, has not died down until our time, and his plays are still staged in many theatres throughout the world.

Questions:

1. Since what time had London English become accepted as standard English?
2. Was there any difference between the way nobility and common people spoke before Tudor times? When did the difference become noticeable?
3. How did literacy increase during the 16th century?
4. What is Renaissance?
5. Who was Thomas More? What book did he write? What did he describe in his book?
6. What spheres of life did Renaissance influence?
7. What kind of painting did English masters develop?
8. What writers were popular in the 16th century?

Chapter 6

REPUBLICAN AND RESTORATION BRITAIN

Republic in Britain

Oliver Cromwell. Several MP's had commanded the Parliamentary army during the Civil War. The strongest of them was a gentleman farmer named Oliver Cromwell. He had created a new «model» army of today developed. Instead of country people or gentry, Cromwell invited into his army educated men who wanted to fight for their beliefs.

Cromwell and his advisers captured the king in 1645, but they did not know what to do with him. This was an entirely new situation in English history. They could both bring Charles back to the throne and allow him to rule, or remove him and create a new political system. By this time most people in both Houses of Parliament, and probably in the country, wanted the king back. They were afraid of the Parliamentarians and of the dangerous behavior of the army. But some army commanders were determined to get rid of the king. These men were Puritans, who believed they could build God's kingdom in England.

Two-thirds of the PMs did not want to put the king on trial. They were removed from Parliament by Cromwell's army. The king was accused of treason and found guilty of «making war against his kingdom and Parliament.» On 31 January, 1649, King Charles I was executed.

Republic. From 1649 till 1660 Britain was a republic. But the republic was not a success. Cromwell and his friends created a government which was far more severe than Charles had been. They had got rid of the monarchy, and now they got rid of the House of Lords.

The Scots were shocked by Charles's execution. They invited his son, whom they recognized as King Charles II, to join them and fight

against the English Parliamentary army. But they were defeated, and young Charles himself had to escape to France. Scotland was brought under English republican rule.

Cromwell took the army to Ireland «to punish the Irish» for the killing of Protestants in 1641 and for the continued Royalist rebellion there. He captured two towns. His soldiers killed the inhabitants of both towns, about 6,000 people. These killings were probably not worse than the killings of the Protestants in 1641, but they remained powerful symbols of English cruelty to the Irish.

The Levellers. There were people at that time who had new ideas. Their ideas seemed strange to most other people of the 17th century. These people spoke about equality among all men. They called themselves Levellers. By and by the ideas of the Levellers began to attract more and more people. They also spread into the army. There appeared Levellers among the officers and soldiers. In 1649 the Levellers in the army rebelled and put forward their demands. They said that Parliament must meet every two years and that all men over the age of twenty-one must have the right to elect MPs to it. They also demanded complete religious freedom, so that all religious groups could follow their religion in the way they wished.

Two hundred years later such demands were considered as basic citizens' rights. But in the middle of the 17th century they had little support among the people. The rebellion of the Levellers was suppressed.

Lord Protector. From 1653 Britain was governed by Cromwell alone. He became Lord Protector and had much more power than King Charles had had. But his efforts to govern the country through the army were extremely unpopular, and the idea of using the army to maintain law and order in the kingdom has remained unpopular ever since. His other innovations were unpopular too: people were forbidden to celebrate Christmas and Easter, or to play games on Sunday.

When Cromwell died in 1658, he was succeeded by his son Richard. But Richard Cromwell was a poor leader and could control neither the army, nor Parliament. Nobody governed the country. It was clear that the situation could be saved only by the restoration of monarchy. In 1660 Charles II was invited to return to his kingdom. The republic was over.

Questions:

1. Who was Oliver Cromwell? What new kind of army did he create?
2. When did Cromwell capture Charles? What was the problem of the Parliamentarians in connection with the captured king? What choice did they have?
3. Why did most people want the king back? What were they afraid of?
4. Who wanted to get rid of the king? What did the Puritans believe they could do?
5. What was Charles I accused of? What was he found guilty of? When was he executed?
6. In what years was Britain a republic? Was the republic a success? Why?
7. What was the reaction in Scotland to the execution of Charles I? What did the Scots do? Were they a success?
8. What did Cromwell do in Ireland?
9. Who were the Levellers? What idea did they speak about?
10. When did the Levellers rebel? What demands did they put forward? Why was the rebellion of the Levellers suppressed?
11. In what year did Cromwell begin governing the country alone? What title did he take?
12. Were Cromwell's efforts to govern the country through the army popular? What did he forbid the people?
13. Who succeeded Cromwell after his death? In what way was his successor different from him?
14. How did the republic in Britain end?

The 17th Century Society

The influence of Puritanism increased greatly during the 17th century, especially among the classes of merchants and the lesser gentry. The new official translation of the Bible encouraged Bible reading among all those who could read. Some people understood the Bible in a new way. As a result, by the middle of the 17th century Puritanism had led to the formation of a large number of small new religious groups or sects. Most of these Nonconformist sects lasted only a few years, but one was important, that was the sect of people who called themselves Quakers, or Friends. The Quakers became particularly famous for their reforming social work in the 18th century.

The Church of England, unlike the Nonconformist churches, was strong politically, but it became weaker intellectually. The great reli-

gious writers of the period, John Bunyan, who wrote «The Pilgrim's Progress», and John Milton, who wrote «Paradise Lost», were both Puritans.

Revolution in scientific thinking. The revolution in religious thinking coincided with the revolution in scientific thinking.

A new approach to science was established at the very beginning of the century by Francis Bacon, who was known for his work on scientific method. He said that every scientific idea must be tested by experiment, and with idea and experiment following one another, the whole natural world would be understood. The British scientists put Francis Bacon's ideas into practice, attaching much importance to experiment and research.

The scientific studies were encouraged by the Stuarts. The Royal Society, founded by the Stuart monarchy, became an important centre where thinkers could meet, argue and share information.

In 1628 William Harvey discovered the circulation of blood, and this led to great advances in medicine and in the study of the human body.

In 1666 the Cambridge professor of mathematics Sir Isaac Newton began to study gravity. He published his important discovery in 1684. In 1687 he published «Principia», or «The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy», which is considered one of the greatest books in the history of science. Newton's work remained the basis of physics until Einstein's discoveries in the 20th century.

The greatest British architect of the time, Sir Christopher Wren, was also professor of astronomy at Oxford. He is famous for rebuilding London after the Great Fire of 1666.

Nonconformist – неконформистский, раскольнический.

Quakers – квакеры

«The Pilgrim's Progress» – «Путь паломника»

«Paradise Lost» – «Потерянный рай»

The Royal Society – Королевское научное общество

«Principia» – «Начала»

«The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy» – «Математические начала натуральной философии»

Questions:

1. What fact encouraged Bible reading among the people? How did some people understand the Bible? What did it lead to?

2. Which of the Nonconformist sects that appeared in the 17th century became particularly famous?
3. What was the disadvantage of the Church of England in comparison with the Nonconformist movement?
4. Who were the two great religious writers of the century? What books did they write?
5. Who established a new approach to science? What was the essence of his new approach?
6. Did the Stuart Monarchs encourage scientific studies? What important institution was founded in their reign?
7. What discovery did William Harvey make in 1628?
8. What is Christopher Wren famous for?
9. What did Isaac Newton study? What is the title of his famous book?

Britain in the 18th Century

Well before the end of the 18th century Britain had become a very powerful country. It became wealthy through trade. The wealth made possible both an agricultural and an industrial revolution, which made Britain the most economically advanced country in the world.

However, there was a reverse side to it: while a few people became richer, many others lost their land, their homes and their way of life. Families were driven off the land in another period of enclosures. They became the working proletariat of the cities. The invention of machinery destroyed the old «cottage industries» and created factories. At the same time it caused the growth of unemployment.

This splitting of society into very rich and very poor was a great danger to the established order. In France the misery of the poor and the power of the trading classes led to revolution in 1789. Britain was saved from revolution partly by the high level of local control of the ruling class in the countryside and partly by Methodism, a new religious movement which offered hope and self-respect to the new proletariat.

Changes in political life. King James I had a granddaughter, Sophia, who was a Protestant. She married the Elector of Hanover, also a Protestant. The British Parliament declared their son, George Hanover, the heir to the English throne after Queen Anne died in 1714; George Hanover ascended the English throne as George I, thus starting a new dynasty.

George I was a strange king. He was a true German and did not try to follow English customs. He could not speak English and spoke to his ministers in French. But Parliament supported him because he was a Protestant.

There were some Tories who wanted the deposed James II's son to return to Britain as James III. James did not want to change his religion, but he wanted the English throne. In 1715 he started a rebellion against George I. But the rebellion was put down: George's army defeated the English and Scottish Jacobites, as Stuart supporters were called.

The bank of England. At the end of the 17th century the government had to borrow money in order to pay for the war with France. In 1694, a group of financiers who lent money to the government decided to establish a bank, and the government agreed to borrow only from this bank. The new bank was called the Bank of England. It was given the right to print bank notes, which could be used instead of coins. The paper money which is used today developed from these bank notes.

Robert Walpole. The power of the government during the reign of George I was increased because the new king did not seem very interested in his kingdom. The greatest political leader of the time was Robert Walpole. He is considered Britain's first Prime Minister.

In the other countries of Europe kings and queens had absolute power. Britain was unusual, and Walpole was determined to keep the Crown under the firm control of Parliament. Walpole developed the political results of the Glorious Revolution of 1688. He insisted that the power of the king should always be limited by the constitution.

The limits to royal power were these: the king could not be a Catholic; the king could not remove or change laws; the king depended on Parliament for his money and for his army.

Lord Chatham. Walpole wanted to avoid war because it took a lot of money. The most important political enemy of Walpole was William Pitt the Elder, later Lord Chatham. Chatham was sure that in order to be economically strong in the world, Britain should develop international trade. Trade involved competition. France was the main rival of Britain because it had many colonies. Chatham was certain that Britain must beat France in the competition for overseas markets.

When Chatham was in the government, he decided to make the British navy stronger than that of France or any other nation. He also decided to seize a number of France's trading ports abroad.

The war with France. The war with France broke out in 1756 and went on all over the world. In Canada the British took Quebec in 1759 and Montreal the following year. This gave the British control of the important fish, fur and wood trades. In India the army of the British East India Company defeated French armies both in Bengal and in the south near Madras. Soon Britain controlled most of India. Many Britons started to go to India to make their fortune.

Growth of international trade. During the rest of the century Britain's international trade increased rapidly. By the end of the century the West Indies were the most profitable part of Britain's new empire. They formed one corner of a profitable trade triangle. Knives, swords and cloth made in British factories were taken to West Africa and exchanged for slaves. The slaves were taken to the West Indies where they worked on large plantations growing sugar. From the West Indies the ships returned to Britain carrying great loads of sugar which had been grown by the slaves.

Voting. Parliament represented only a very small number of people: in the 18th century voting was not universal. Only house owners with a certain income the right to vote. As a result, while the population of Britain was almost eight million, there were fewer than 250,000 voters. Besides, the voters were controlled by a small number of very rich property owners, who sometimes acted together as a town corporation. Each county and each town sent two representatives to Parliament. It was not difficult for rich and powerful people to make sure that the man they wanted was elected to Parliament. In the countryside ordinary farmers did not own land: they rented it from greater landowners. At that time voting was not done in secret, and no farmer would vote against the wishes of his landlord for fear of losing his land. Other voters voted for the «right man» for a gift of money: in other words, their votes were «bought». In this way the great land-owning aristocrats were able to control those who sat in Parliament and make sure that the PMs did what they wanted. No one could say that Parliament in those days was democratic.

Questions:

1. How did the Hanover dynasty come to reign over Britain?
2. What kind of king was George I? Why did Parliament support him?
3. What did some Tories want? When did the Jacobite rebellion start? How did it finish?
4. When was the Bank of England established? What innovation did the Bank of England introduce? What did the present-day paper money develop from?
5. Who was Robert Walpole?
6. How did Walpole develop the political results of the Glorious Revolution?
7. What were the limits to royal power?
8. Who was the most important political enemy of Walpole?
9. What was Lord Chatham sure of?
10. Why was France the main rival of Britain in international trade? What was Lord Chatham determined to do in this connection?
11. When did the war with France break out? Was it waged only in Europe? What advantages did Britain achieve as a result of the war?
12. What colony was the most profitable part of Britain's new empire?
13. What was «the profitable trade triangle»? How did it function?
14. Was voting universal in the 18th century? Who had the right to vote?
15. Who were the voters controlled by?
16. How many representatives were sent to Parliament from each town and each county?
17. How did ordinary farmers depend on greater landowners in their voting? Explain.
18. How did the great land-owning aristocrats make sure that MPs did what they wanted?

Developing Public Opinion

Between 1750 and 1770 the number of newspapers published in the country increased. Newspapers were read by many people who could never hope to vote because they were not rich enough, but who were interested in the important matters of the times. These people were clerks, skilled workers and tradesmen. Newspapers sent their own reporters to listen to Parliament discussions and write about them. Politics were no longer a monopoly of the land-owning gentry. The age of public opinion had arrived.

The loss of the American colonies. In 1764 there was a serious quarrel over taxation between the British government and the colonies in America. The population of the British colonies in America

was rapidly growing. In 1700 there had been only 200,000 colonists, but by 1770 there were already 2,5 million. Some American colonists decided that it was not lawful for the British government to tax them without their agreement. They said that if they paid taxes to the British government, they must have their own representatives in British Parliament.

In 1773 a group of colonists at the port of Boston threw a shipload of tea into the sea because they did not want to pay a tax on it which the British government demanded. The event became known as the Boston tea-party. The British government answered by closing the port. The colonists rebelled. The American War of Independence began.

The war in America lasted from 1775 until 1783. The result was a complete defeat of the British forces. Britain lost all its colonies in America, except Canada.

Radicals. Many British politicians openly supported the colonists. They were called radicals. For the first time British politicians supported the rights of the king's subjects abroad to govern themselves and to fight for their rights against the king. The war in America brought new ideas of democracy.

Life in town and in the countryside. In 1700 England was still a land of small villages. In the northern areas of England the large cities of the future, such as Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield and Leeds were only just beginning to grow.

All the towns smelled bad. There were no drains. The streets were dirty. The towns were the centres of diseases. As a result, only one child in four in London lived to become an adult.

During the 18th century efforts were made to make the towns healthier. The streets were built wider, so that carriages drawn by horses could pass each other. From 1734 London had a street lighting system. After 1760 many towns organized street cleaning.

There were four main classes of people in the eighteenth-century towns: wealthy merchants, ordinary merchants and traders, skilled craftsmen, and a large number of workers who had no skills and who could not be sure of finding work.

The countryside changed greatly during the 18th century. At the beginning of the century farming was still done as it had been for cen-

turies. Each village was surrounded by large fields, which were not in individual possession. It was common land, and each villager farmed part of it.

Beginning from the middle of the 17th century farming had become much more profitable. A number of improvements had been introduced in farming methods. Farmers had begun to understand how to improve soil. The improvements made it possible to produce greater crops. But it was difficult to introduce these improvements when land was divided into small parts farmed by individual farmers. Small farmers could not afford the necessary machinery.

People with money and influence, such as the village squires, persuaded their MPs to pass a law through Parliament allowing them to take over common land and to enclose it. With one large area for each farm, the new machinery and methods worked very well.

The enclosures and the farming improvements made agriculture in Britain more efficient than in almost any other country in Europe. At the same time, the enclosures were damaging for a lot of people. When common land was enclosed, the villagers had nowhere to grow their crops, so they could not feed their families. Some of them had built their houses on common land. When the common land was enclosed, their houses were destroyed, and they became homeless.

To help homeless and unemployed people, parish workhouses were built, where the poor lived and were fed. Sometimes a local businessman who wanted cheap workers hired a workhouse. The poor people who were kept in this workhouse worked for the businessman, and he provided food in return for work. This quickly led to a system which was little better than slavery. In the workhouses children, as well as adults, worked long hours and got so little food that they were always hungry.

Other people left their villages and went to the towns to find work. They provided a cheap working force that made possible an industrial revolution which was to change the face of Britain.

Questions:

1. How did the increased number of newspapers influence public opinion?
2. What did the British government and the American colonies quarrel over in 1764?

3. Why did the American colonists decide that it was not lawful for the British government to tax them? What did they say?
4. What happened in Boston in 1773? What is the event called? Why did the colonists throw the load of tea overboard?
5. When did the American War of Independence begin? How long did it last? What was the result of the war?
6. What new ideas did the War of Independence in America bring? Who were the radicals?
7. Why were the towns of the early 18th century the centres of diseases?
8. What changes were introduced during the 18th century to make the towns healthier?
9. Which were the main classes of people in the 18th century towns?
10. How was farming done at the beginning of the 18th century? What was common land?
11. Why had farming become more profitable?
12. Why was it difficult to introduce improvements and use machinery in farming when land was divided into small parts?
13. During the 18th century most of common land was enclosed, wasn't it? What does the term «enclosures» mean?
14. Who enclosed common land? How did they get the support of Parliament for enclosures?
15. The enclosures, together with the farming improvements, made agriculture in Britain very efficient, didn't they? What was the negative side of the enclosures?
16. What attempts were made to help the poor? What is a workhouse? What were the conditions of life in the workhouses?

Chapter 7

THE YEAR OF SELF-CONFIDENCE

Industrial Power

In 1851 Queen Victoria opened Great Exhibition of the Industries of All Nations in the *Crystal Palace* in London. The aim of the Exhibition was to show the world the greatness of Britain's industry. No other nation could produce as much at that time. By 1850 Britain was producing more iron than the best of the world together.

Britain had become powerful because it have enough coal, iron and steel for its own industry and could even export them to Europe. Having coal, iron and steel, it could produce new heavy industrial goods like ships and steam engines. It could also make machinery which produced English traditional goods – woolen and cotton cloth at the factories of Lancashire. Britain's cloth was cheap exported to India, to other colonies and to the Middle East. Britain had the largest fleet in the world.

The railway. The pride of Britain and a great example of its industrial power was its railway system. The first trains were *goods trains*, which quickly became very popular because they made transporting goods faster and cheaper. The network of railway tracks was quickly growing and by 1840 their total length was 2,400 miles. Railway connected not only the industrial towns with London, but also economically unimportant towns. The canals were soon empty, because everything went by railway. The speed of the railway even made it possible to deliver fresh fish and raspberries from Scotland to London in one night.

In 1851 the railway companies provided *passenger train service*. Passenger trains stopped at all stations. Now people could move from place much more quickly and easily.

With the introduction of the railway system many people began to live in suburbs, from which they travelled into the city every day by train. The suburb was a copy of a country village with all the advantages of a town.

The Rise of the middle class. Before the 19th century the middle class was small and was represented by merchants, traders and small farmers, as well as by industrialists and factory owners who had joined it in the second half of the 18th century. In the 19th century the number of people belonging to the middle class greatly increased. Now the middle class was made up of people of different wealth, social position and kinds of work. It included those who worked in the professions, such as the Church, the law, medicine, the civil service, the diplomatic service, banks, and also in the army and navy. Typical of the middle class in the 19th century were *self-made men*, who came from poor families. They believed in hard work, a regular style of life, and were careful with money. The middle class included both successful and rich industrialists and small shopkeepers and office workers.

Life in towns. The towns were still unhealthy. Very few houses had water supply and sewerage systems. Dirty water caused epidemics. In 1832 an outbreak of cholera killed 31,000 people.

In the middle of the century the administration of many towns began to appoint health officers to provide sewerage and clean water. These measures quickly reduced the level of disease, particularly cholera. In some towns parks were laid out in newly built areas, public bath were opened where people could wash. There appeared libraries and concert halls.

Representatives of the middle class usually lived in the houses with a small garden in front of each, and a larger one at the back. The houses of workers usually had only four small rooms, two upstairs and two downstairs, and a small back yard. Still there remained many slum areas inhabited by the poorest people, where tiny houses were built very close together.

Questions:

1. What exhibition was opened in the Crystal Palace in 1851? What was the aim of the exhibition?
2. Why had Britain become powerful?

3. What goods Britain produce?
4. What parts of the world was Britain's cloth exported to?
5. What was the pride of Britain and great example of its industrial power?
What was the total length of the railway tracks by 1840?
6. Why did the first goods trains become popular very quickly?
7. When was passenger train service provided? How did the life of many people change with the introduction of passenger train service?
8. What do you think: why did many people find it better to live in suburbs?
9. Who was the middle class represented by before the 19th century?
10. How did the composition of the middle class change in the 19th century?
What new people joined it?
11. What was typical of many representatives of the middle class? What principles did self-made men believe in?
12. Why were the towns unhealthy?
13. What measures were taken by the administration of many towns to improve the conditions of life? What did they achieve by taking these measures?
How did the town administration take care of the cultural life?
14. Did the people living in towns have gardens?
15. What areas did the poorest people live in?

Social and Economic Improvements

Between 1875 and 1914 the conditions of the poor in the most of Britain greatly improved because prices fell by 40 per cent and real wages doubled. Poor families could eat better food, including meat, fresh milk and vegetables. Life at home was made more comfortable. Most homes now had gas for heating and lighting.

Public education was given attention to. In 1870 and 1891 two Education Acts were passed. As a result of these Acts, all children up to the age of 13 had to go to school, where they were taught reading, writing and arithmetic. In the new industrial cities they started building redbrick universities. The term *redbrick* came from the tradition of building the new universities of red brick. It distinguished them from the older, stone-built universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Unlike Oxford and Cambridge, these new universities taught more science and technology to meet the demands of Britain's industry.

There were social changes as well. Power in the countryside gradually moved from the country squire to new country councils which

were made up of elected men and women. Each country council had a staff of administrators who carried out the decisions of the council. This system still operates today.

Sports. By the end of the 19th century two sports, cricket and football, had become very popular with the British public. Cricket had started in the 18th century, but only a century later its rules were organized. From 1873 a country championship took place each year. With time, cricket was spread to different parts of the British Empire: to the West Indies, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Australia and New Zealand,

The proper rules of Britain's other main game, football, were also organized in the 19th century. As an organized game, it was at first a middle-class, or gentlemen's sport, but it quickly became popular among all classes. Soon it drew huge crowds of people, who came to watch the professional footballers play the game. By the end of the 19th century almost every town of Britain had its own football team. Soon football was also exported abroad.

Questions:

1. Why did the conditions of the poor improve between 1875 and 1914?
2. How did the system of public education improve? What was provided by the education Acts of 1870 and 1891?
3. What steps were taken to provide higher education on a wider scale? Explain the term «*redbrick universities*». How did the curriculum of the new universities differ from that of Oxford and Cambridge? Why did the new universities teach more science and technology?
4. What changes took place in the administration in the countryside? Who were the members of the new country councils?
5. Which are the two most popular sports in Britain?
6. When did people begin playing cricket? When were the rules of playing cricket organized? Is cricket played only in Britain or has it also spread to other parts of the world?
7. When were the proper rules of playing football organized? How was the popularity of football growing?

The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (or UK) is an abbreviation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland¹, which is the politi-

cal name of the country consisting of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (sometimes called Ulster). Southern Ireland is a completely independent state: the Republic of Ireland (also called Eire).

It took centuries and a lot of armed struggle to form the United Kingdom. In the 15th century a Welsh prince Henry Tudor became King Henry VII of England. Then his son, Henry VIII united England and Wales under one Parliament in 1536. In Scotland a similar thing happened. The king of Scotland inherited the crown of England and Wales in 1603, so he became King James VI of Scotland. The Parliaments of England and Wales were united a century later, in 1707.

The Scottish and Welsh are proud and independent people. In recent years there have been attempts at devolution in the two countries, particularly in Scotland where the Scottish Nationalist Party was very strong for a while. However, in a referendum in 1978 the majority of the Welsh people rejected devolution, and in 1979 the Scots did the same. Nevertheless, most Welsh and Scots sometimes complain that they are dominated by England, and of course they don't like to be referred to as English.

The whole of Ireland was united with Great Britain in the period from 1801 till 1921.

In 1921 it was divided into two parts. The larger southern part formed the independent Republic of Ireland (Eire), while Northern Ireland (Ulster) became part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Forming the Nation. About 2,000 years ago the British Isles were inhabited by the *Celts*¹, who had originally come from continental Europe. During the next 1,000 years there were many invasions. *The Romans* came from Italy in AD 43. *The Angels* and *Saxons* came from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands in the 5th century and gave the country the name England (Angle-land). *The Vikings* kept coming from Denmark and Norway throughout the 9th century. In 1066 (the history which every British school child knows) *the Normans* invaded from France. All these invasions drove the Celts into Wales and Scotland, and of course the Celts also remained in Ireland. The present-day English are the descendants of all the invaders, although they are more *Anglo-Saxon* than anything else. These various origins explain many

of the differences which exist between England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland – differences in education, religion, the legal systems and in the language.

Language. The Celts spoke Celtic¹, which survives today in the form of Welsh, Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic². Welsh, Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic are still spoken by some people, although they have suffered from the spread of English. However, all three languages are now officially encouraged and taught at schools.

English developed from Anglo-Saxon and it is a language of the Germanic group³. All the invading peoples, particularly the Norman-French, influenced the English language, and we can find many words in English which are French in origin. Nowadays all Welsh, Scottish and Irish people speak English (even if they speak their own language as well), but they have their own special accents and dialects, so you can tell what part of Britain a person is from as soon as they begin to speak. Sometimes the differences in accents are so great that people from different parts of the UK have difficulty in understanding one another. The southern accent is generally accepted as Standard English.

The Union Jack. The flag of the United Kingdom, known as the Union Jack, is made up of three crosses. The upright red cross is the cross of St George, the patron saint of England. The white diagonal cross (with the arms going into the corners) is the cross of St Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. The red diagonal cross is the cross of St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

Immigrants in Britain. Recently there have been many waves of immigration into Britain. Many Jews, Russians, Germans and Poles have come to Britain during political changes in the rest of Europe. There are also many immigrants from different countries of the Commonwealth. Before the Second World War these immigrants were mostly white people from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. In the 1950s the British government encouraged people from the West Indies, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Hong Kong to come and work in Britain. Today two million British people are of West Indian or Asian origin and over 50 per cent of them were born in Britain. The government encourages the immigrant communities to continue speaking their own languages as well as English. The children of im-

migrants are often taught their own languages at school, and there are special newspapers, magazines and radio and television programmes for the immigrants.

The latest wave of immigration has caused serious problems. There is a certain racial and religious prejudice in Britain today. In spite of laws passed to protect them, there is still discrimination against Asian and black people, many of whom are unemployed or have low-paid jobs. Settling the discrimination problem is an important task which British society faces today.

Questions:

1. Which is the full name of the country situated on the British Isles? Which four parts does the United Kingdom consist of?
2. What people were the British Isles inhabited by about 2,000 years ago?
3. When did the Romans settle in Great Britain?
4. When did the Anglo-Saxons come?
5. When did the Normans invade Britain?
6. In what spheres of life do differences still exist between England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland?
7. Has the Celtic language survived? In what form?
8. What did the present-day English develop from? Why are there many words of French origin in the present-day English? What accent is generally accepted as standard English?
9. What is the state flag of the UK sometimes called? What do the crosses on the flag stand for?
10. Where did immigrants come to Britain from?
11. How many people in the immigrant communities does the British government encourage to continue speaking their own languages?
12. What problem has the latest wave of immigration caused?

Chapter 8

HOW THEY LIVE

The Way of Life

In recent years there have been many changes in family life. A typical British family used to consist of mother, father and two children. Since the law made it easier to get a divorce, the number of divorces has considerably increased: one marriage in every three now ends in divorce. As a result, there are a lot of one-parent families. Society is now more tolerant of unmarried couples and single parents.

The increased number of divorces, however, does not mean that marriage and the family are not popular: the majority of divorced people marry again, and they usually take responsibility for the children in their second family.

Members of the family – grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins – keep in touch, but they see each other less than before, because people often move away from their home town to work, and so the family becomes scattered. Christmas is the traditional season for reunions, and relatives often travel many miles in order to spend the holiday together.

Taking care of the older generation. There are about ten million old-age people in Britain, of whom about 750,000 cannot live entirely independently. The government gives them financial help in the form of a pension. More than half of all old people are looked after at home. Old people who have no families live in *Old People's Homes*, which may be state-owned or private.

The individual and the family. The relations between the members of a family have become more democratic than they used to be. Many parents treat their children more as equals, and children have more freedom to make their own decisions. The father gives more time to bringing up children, often because the mother goes to work.

Although the family holiday is still an important part of family life, many children spend their holidays away from their parents, often with a school party or another organized group.

Education. In most schools boys and girls learn together. In the first stage, which is called primary education, all children are educated according to the same programme. As they grow older, differences in ability and attainment become very marked, so it is considered necessary to offer different programmes.

There are three stages of education: primary, or elementary, education, secondary education and higher education.

Primary education is given to children between 5 and 11 years of age. A primary school is subdivided into an infant school for children aged 5 to 7 and a junior school for children aged 7 to 11. In small country places both the infant department and the junior department may be combined under the roof of one school.

Secondary education embraces the children from 11 years of age to 16 years of age. Until recently there were three main types of secondary schools: grammar schools, technical schools and modern schools. Children were sent to one of these three types of school according to their abilities. These three types of school still exist, but their number is decreasing. They are being replaced by the so-called comprehensive schools. The comprehensive schools are the most modern development in secondary schools. The main advantages of the comprehensive schools are that these schools are open to children of all types of ability from the age of 11; they are large schools which give a much wider range of subjects than smaller schools so that teenagers can choose a course of studies according to their individual inclinations and abilities.

Questions:

1. What is the result of the increased number of divorces in recent years?
2. Does the increased number of divorces mean that marriage and the family are no longer popular? Explain.
3. Do all members of a family usually live together or apart? What is the traditional time for a family reunion?
4. What is the number of old-age people in Britain? How does the government help the old people who have no families?
5. What facts show that the relations between the members of a family have become more democratic?

6. Are all children educated according to the same programme or different programmes?
7. Which is the first stage of education?
8. Which is the second stage of education? Which were the three main types of secondary schools until recently? Do these three types of schools still exist?
9. Which is the most modern development in secondary schools? What are the main advantages of this type of schools?

Culture. Leisure. Entertainment

Annual festivals of music and drama are very popular in Britain. Some of them are famous not only in Britain, but all over the world.

Burns' night. January 25 is the birthday of Scotland's greatest poet Robert Burns. There are hundreds of Burns clubs not only in Britain, but also throughout the world, and on the 25th of January they all hold Burns Night celebrations. In banquet halls of Edinburgh, in workers' clubs of Glasgow, in cottages of Scottish villages, thousands of people drink a toast to the immortal memory of Robert Burns. To the sounds of bagpipes there appear on the tables the traditional dishes of the festival dinner: chicken broth, boiled salt herring, and *haggis* – a typical Scottish dish made from the heart and other organs of a sheep. It is eaten with boiled turnip and potatoes. The dinner is followed by dancing, pipe music, and reciting selections from Burns' lyrics. The celebration concludes with singing the poet's famous *Auld Lang Syne*.

Shakespeare's Birthday. Every year the anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare is celebrated in Stratford-upon-Avon, where he was born on April 23, 1564. Flags are hung in the main street; people wear sprigs of rosemary (for remembrance) in their button-holes. A long procession goes along the streets to the church where everyone in the procession puts a wreath or a bouquet, or just one flower at the poet's grave. In the evening there is a performance of the chosen Birthday Play in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

In London, the Aldwych Theatre which has close ties with the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, holds international Shakespeare festivals, during which famous companies from

abroad, including the *Comedie Francaise* from Paris, the Moscow Art Theatre, the Schiller Theatre of Berlin, the Abbey Theatre from Dublin, and other theaters, perform Shakespeare's plays.

The Edinburgh International Festival. The Edinburgh International Festival is held annually during three weeks in late August and early September. The Festival is quite international in its character, as it gives a varied representation of artistic production from many countries. Leading musicians of the world and world-famous theatre companies always take part in it.

The idea of the Festival originated in the first post war year. All over Europe rationing and restrictions were the order of the day, and hundreds of towns lay in ruins, and it seemed a good idea to shift people's attention from everyday needs to eternal values.

The first Festival was held in 1947. And since that time the Edinburgh International Festival has firmly established its reputation as one of the important events of its kind in the world.

People in Britain work five days a week, from Monday to Friday. From Friday evening till Monday morning they are usually free. Leaving work on Friday, people usually say to each other, «Have a nice weekend», and on Monday morning they ask, «Did you have a nice weekend?».

Saturday morning is a very busy time for shopping, as this is the only day when people who are at work can shop without hurrying. On Saturday afternoon the most important sporting events of the week take place: football, rugby (in summer – cricket and tennis), horse-racing, car and motor-cycle racing and other sports. A lot of people go and watch the sports events, others stay at home and watch the sports programmes on TV. In the late afternoon the sports results are announced on TV.

Saturday evening is the best time for parties, dances, going to the cinema or theatre. Having gone to bed late the night before, many people don't hurry to get up on Sunday morning, so they usually have a late breakfast. Some people like to have breakfast in bed. While having breakfast, people start reading the Sunday papers. It is quite usual for a family to have two or three Sunday papers, and some families have more. These people have little time for anything else on Sunday morning.

Sunday dinner (some people call it Sunday lunch), which is at 1 o'clock or at 1,30, is traditionally the most important family meal of the week. Most people have a joint (a piece of meat roasted in the oven) which is served with roast or boiled potatoes, some other vegetables, and gravy. Then comes the pudding and finally tea or coffee. This heavy meal makes most people feel sleepy and passive, and they sit talking, reading newspapers, and watching television until tea time. In summer they sit in the garden. More energetic people go out for a walk or to see friends.

Tea-time is 5–5:30. The 5 o'clock tea is another traditional meal, during which they don't just drink tea, but also eat sandwiches, sometimes cold meat and salad, fruit and cream, bread and butter and jam and cakes.

As to Sunday evening, some people spend it quietly at home, others go to see friends, go to a concert or film, or go out for a drink.

Questions:

1. What entertainment is very popular in Britain?
2. When is the birthday of Robert Burns? What celebrations do the Burns clubs hold on this day? How are the celebrations held? What is the traditional Scottish dish that is served at these celebrations?
3. How is Shakespeare's birthday celebrated in Stratford-upon-Avon? How is his birthday marked by the Aldwych Theatre in London?
4. When is the Edinburgh International Festival held? When did the idea of the Festival originate? Who takes part in the Festival?
5. How do people usually spend Saturday? Why in Saturday evening the best time for going to the theatre or having parties?
6. How is Sunday morning usually spent in most families?
7. What is the most important family meal of the week? What does it consist of?
8. How do most people spend their Sunday evening?

Sports in Great Britain

British people are fond of sports, perhaps fonder than any other nation in the world. Almost everybody is actively engaged in this or that kind of sports. Among the most popular sports are football, of course, then *cricket, boat racing and horseracing*.

Football. Football is very popular sport in Britain, played between August and May (the football season). Many people support

a particular team and often watch the games that their team plays. Professional football is controlled by *the Football Association (the FA)*. Teams play regularly against other teams according to a fixed programme. A very important competition is the *FA Cup*. *The FA Cup* is also open to amateur teams that belong to the Football Association. The two teams which are the winners of the FA Cup competition, play in the FA Cup final at *Wembley Stadium* in London. This is a very important national sporting event, and it is always watched by millions of people on TV.

Cricket. Cricket is another very popular sport in Britain, played mainly in summer (May-September). Many people consider cricket to be England's traditional game and to be typical of the English style of behavior, which includes above all a sense of honour and fairness.

The Boat Race. The Boat Race is a rowing race on the River Thames held every year at the end of March or the beginning of April between teams from Oxford University and Cambridge University. It is a popular national event and it is shown on TV.

The Henley Regatta. The Henley Regatta is a meeting for races between rowing boats at *Henley*, a town on the Thames. It is an important social event for upper-class and fashionable people.

The Derby. The Derby is a very important annual horse race held at *Epsom* in England in May or June, on the day which is known as Derby Day.

The Royal Ascot. It is a four-day horse-racing event held at *Ascot*, a suburb of London, every June, and is one of the most important race meetings in Britain. It is especially popular with upper-class people. Members of the royal family always attend it. One of the days is called *Ladies' Day*, and some of the women like to wear very big and unusually looking hats.

Questions:

1. Which are the most popular sports in Britain?
2. When is the football season? What organization is professional football controlled by? What teams play at Wembley Stadium?
3. When is cricket played? What does the English style of behavior include, according to many people?
4. What is the Boat Race? When is it held? What teams take part in it?
5. What is the Henley Regatta?

6. What is the Darby? Where is it held?
7. What event is held at Ascot? Why is it called Royal Ascot? What kind of hats do women like to wear at Ascot?

Young People's Groups

When the new trend in music, *Rock-n-Roll*, appeared in the 1950s, it immediately became very popular with the young people. Over the last forty years or so it has had an enormous effect on people's lives, and especially on the kind of clothes they wear.

The first group, which appeared in the late 1950s, was the **Teddy Boys**. Their clothes were an imitation of the clothes which were worn in *Edwardian England* – the time of the reign of *Edward VII*, the beginning of the 20th century (Ted and Teddy are abbreviation of *Edward*): long jackets with velvet collars, «*drainpipe*» trousers (so tight that they looked like drainpipes) and brightly coloured socks. Their shoes had very thick rubber soles and their long hair was swept upwards and backwards. This was like a revolution in fashion: before the Teddy Boys came, young people had usually worn the same kind of clothes as their parents. Now they wore what they liked.

In the mid-60s **the Mods** (so called because of their modern style of dressing) became the new leaders of teenage fashion. Short hair and smart suits were popular again. The Mods rode *scooters*, which they usually decorated with a lot of lights and mirrors. They often wore long green coats with hoods, called parkas.

The Mod's greatest enemies were **the Rockers**, who despised the Mod's scooters and smart clothes. Like the Teddy Boys, Rockers listened mainly to rock-n-roll. They rode powerful *motor-bikes*, had long untidy hair, wore thick leather jackets, and drank alcohol.

Throughout the 1960s, on public holidays during summer, groups of Mods and Rockers used to travel to the sea-side resorts of south-eastern England, where they got into battles with the police and with each other.

Towards the end of the 1960s a new group appeared, whose ideas started in *California* in the USA. This new group was **the Hippies**. They preached a philosophy of peace and love, wore necklaces of co-

loured beads, and gave flowers to surprised strangers in the streets. The name Hippies comes from the fact that drug-takers in Asia and in the Far East used to lie on one hip while smoking opium, but they smoked marijuana and took powerful drugs called *LSD*. Hippies wore simple clothes, blue jeans and open sandals, and grew their hair very long. They often lived together in large communities, sharing their possessions. It was their protest against the materialism of the 1960s.

The 1970s saw the appearance of **the Skinheads**, who got their name because they cut their hair extremely short or even shaved it all off. They wore very short trousers, enormous boots and braces. The Skinheads blamed the immigrants for the unemployment in the country. They attacked Asian and black immigrants in the streets and in their homes. Many Skinheads joined *the National Front*, a political party whose slogan is «*Britain for white people only*».

Towards the end of the 1970s another style of music and dressing appeared – the **Punks**, and it is still very popular. The word Punk comes from American English and is used to describe someone who is immoral or worthless. The Punks sing songs about anarchy and destruction and use bad language. Their music is loud, fast and tuneless.

In recent years many new bands have emerged; and some old ones have reappeared. A new trend is **New Wave** music, which totally rejects the idea of the **Skinheads**. Many of the bands contain both black and white musicians, and *anti-racism concerts* have been organized (they are known as *Rock against Racism*). West Indian music has also played a large part in forming people's musical tastes. Many new British bands combine traditional rock music with West Indian *reggae beat*.

Many of new bands make use of the changes in technology to develop their music. Computerized drum machines, synthesizers and other electronic instruments are now just as popular as electric guitar.

Questions:

1. When did Rock-n-Roll appear? What effect did it have on people?
2. When did the Teddy Boys first appear? Why were they called Teddy Boys?
3. What group became the new leaders of teenage fashion in the 1960s? How did they cut their hair? How did they dress? What did they ride on?
4. Who were the enemies of the Mods? What was the difference between the Mods and the Rockers in the way they wore their hair or dressed?

5. Where and when did the Hippies first appear? What philosophy did the Hippies preach? How did they dress?
6. What new group appeared in the 1970s? What details of their clothing distinguished them from other people? Why were they called Skinheads? What was characteristic of their behavior? What was the slogan of the political party which many Skinheads joined?
7. When did the Punks appear? What does the word punk mean? Will it be right to say that the Punks live up to their name? Why?
8. What is the new trend in music called? How does New Wave music promote friendship among people?

Holidays

New Year. New Year is not such an important holiday in England as Christmas. Some people don't celebrate it at all.

Many people have *New Year parties*. A party usually begins at about eight o'clock and goes on until early in the morning. At midnight they listen to the chimes of Big Ben, drink a toast to the New Year and Sing *Auld Lang Syne*.

In London crowds usually gather round the statue of *Eros* in *Piccadilly Circus* and welcome the New Year.

St. Valentine's Day. *St. Valentine* is considered a friend and patron of lovers. For centuries *St. Valentine's Day*, February 14th, has been a day for choosing sweethearts and exchanging Valentine cards. At first a *Valentine card* was hand-made, with little paintings of hearts and flowers, and a short verse composed by the sender. In the 19th century *Valentine cards* appeared in shops, complete with verses and decorations, brightly coloured and gilded. The tradition of sending Valentine cards is widespread all over the country, and lots of Valentine cards are posted and received every year on February 14th.

Easter. *Easter* is a Christian holiday in March or April, when Christians remember the death of Christ and his return to life. The holiday is marked by going to church and then having a celebration dinner. Easter is connected in people's minds with spring, with the coming to life of the earth after winter. The most popular emblem of *Easter* is the *Easter egg*: a hard-boiled egg painted in different colours. Easter eggs are traditional Easter presents for children. Nowadays *Easter eggs* are usually made of chocolate.

Children get chocolate *Easter eggs*, and also chocolate *Easter rabbits*. They are either hollow or have a filling, and are usually covered with brightly coloured silver paper.

Each year, on *Easter Sunday*, London greets spring with a traditional spectacular *Easter Parade* in Battersea Park. The Parade is a great procession of many richly *decorated floats* that is large moving platforms on wheels, on which actors and amateurs perform shows. The most beautifully decorated float moves at the back of the procession and carries the *Easter Princess* and her attendants.

May Spring Festival. May Spring Festival, which is celebrated on the 1st of May, has to some extent retained its old significance – that of a pagan *spring festival*. Nowadays it is celebrated mostly by children and young people in many schools in different parts of Britain. It is celebrated with garlands of flowers, dancing and games on the village green, where they erect a *maypole* – a tall pole decorated with flowers and ribbons. The girls put on their best summer dresses, put flowers in their hair and round their waists, and wait for the crowning of the May Queen. The most beautiful girl is crowned with a garland of flowers. After this great event there is dancing, and the dancers wear fancy costumes representing characters from the Robin Hood Legends.

Spring Bank Holiday. Spring Bank Holiday is celebrated on the last Monday in May. It is an official holiday, when all the offices are closed and people don't go to work. Many people go to the country on this day and have picnics.

Last Summer Bank Holiday. It is another official public holiday, and it is celebrated on the last Monday in August. During *the August Bank Holiday* townsfolk usually go to the country and to the seacoast. If the weather is fine, many families take a picnic lunch or tea with them and enjoy their meal in the open. Seaside towns near London are invaded by thousands of Londoners, who come in cars and trains, on motor-cycles and bicycles.

The August Bank Holiday is also a time for big sports meetings at large stadiums, mainly all kinds of athletics. There are also horse races all over the country, and, most traditional, there are *large fairs with swings, roundabouts, Punch and Judy shows* and very kinds of other entertainments. Traditional on this day is the famous Henley regatta.

Guy Fawkes Night. *Guy Fawkes Night* is one of the most popular festivals in Britain. It commemorates the discovery of the so-called *Gunpowder Plot*, and is widely celebrated all over the country.

The story goes that there was a plot to destroy the Houses of Parliament and kill King James I during the ceremony of opening Parliament on November 5, 1605. The plot was organized by a group of Roman Catholics. In 1604 the conspirators rented a house near the House of Lords. From this house they dug a tunnel to a vault below the House of Lords and put into the vault 36 barrels of gunpowder. The plot was discovered because one of the conspirators wrote a letter to his relative, a member of the House of Lords, warning him to stay away from the House of Lords on the 5th of November. On November 4, a search was made of the parliament vaults, and the gunpowder was found, together with *Guy Fawkes*, who was to set off the explosion. Guy Fawkes was hanged.

November 5 is a day on which children are allowed under proper supervision, to let off *fireworks*, to make a *bonfire* and to turn on it a guy made of old clothes, straw and – if possible – one of father's old hats. On the days before November 5, one may see groups of children going about the streets with their faces black – . . . and wearing some fancy clothes. Sometimes they have a little cart with a guy in it. They ask the passers-by to give them a *penny for the guy*. With this money they buy fireworks for the festival.

Christmas. Christmas is the main public holiday in Britain, when people spend time at home with their families, eat special food and drink a lot. Christmas is a Christian festival to remember the birth of Jesus Christ.

Long before Christmas time shops become very busy, because a lot of people buy Christmas presents. A lot of money is spent on the presents, but many people enjoy it. Every day television and newspapers say how many days are left before Christmas. People also buy Christmas cards to send to their friends and relatives. The cards have two words Merry Christmas and pictures of the birth of Christ, Santa Claus, a Christmas tree, a robin, or scenes of old-fashioned Christmases.

In churches people sing Christmas carols – special religious songs. Sometimes groups of people walk about the streets and sing carols at the doors of house. One of the well-known carols is «Silent Night».

Houses are usually decorated with lights and branches of needle-leaf trees. Many people have a decorated Christmas tree in their houses.

Young children are told that Santa Claus will bring them presents if they are good. Before going to bed on Christmas Eve the children hang stockings at the back of their beds, for Santa Claus to put the presents in when he comes in the middle of the night through the chimney.

On *Christmas Eve* (the 24th of December) some people go to a special church service called *Midnight Mass* which starts at 12 o'clock at night.

Christmas is the day when people stay at home, open their presents and eat and drink together. The most important meal is *Christmas dinner*. The typical meal consists of turkey with potatoes and other vegetables, followed by a *Christmas pudding*. Other traditional foods include a special Christmas cake and *mince pies* – small round cakes filled with a mixture of apples, raisins and spices.

The day after Christmas, the 26th of December, is also a public holiday. It is called *Boxing Day*. The name goes back to the old tradition: some time before Christmas, boxes were placed in churches for the people to put some money or presents for the poor. On the day after Christmas, the 26th of December, the priest opened the box and gave the content away to poor people.

Questions:

1. How do people celebrate the New Year? What do people do in Piccadilly Circus?
2. What is St. Valentine's Day? When is it celebrated? What is a *Valentine card*?
3. Who celebrates Easter? What do people celebrate on this day? How is Easter celebrated? What is Easter connected with in people's minds? What are Easter eggs? How is London's Easter Parade held?
4. When and how is the May Spring Festival celebrated?
5. When is the Spring Bank Holiday celebrated? What is the traditional way of celebrating it?
6. When is the August Bank Holiday celebrated? What events are organized on this day?
7. What does the holiday of Guy Fawkes Night commemorate? When is it marked? Why do children feel especially happy on Guy Fawkes Night?

8. Christmas is the main holiday of the year, isn't it? Why are the shops busy long before Christmas?
9. What are Christmas carols? Where do people sing them?
10. How do people usually decorate their houses for Christmas?
11. Why do children hang their stockings on the back of their beds on the night before Christmas?

English Traditions

Clubs. One of English traditions is clubs. A club is an association of people who like to meet together to relax and discuss things. These people are usually upper-class men or men connected with the government or other powerful organizations which control public life and support the established order of society. However, there are clubs of people not connected with the ruling circles, for example cultural clubs, whose members are actors, painters, writers and critics and their friends. In a word, clubs are organizations which join people of the same interests. A club usually owns a building where members can eat, drink, and sometimes sleep.

Gardening. Gardening is very popular with many people in Britain. Most British people love gardens, and this one reason why so many people prefer to live in houses rather than flats. In suburban areas you can see many small houses, each one with its own little garden of flowers and shrubs. For many people gardening is the foundation of friendly relations with neighbours. Flower-shows and vegetable-shows, with prizes for the best exhibits, are very popular.

Traditional ceremonies. Many traditional ceremonies have been preserved since old times and are still regularly observed.

Changing of the Guard. The royal palace is traditionally guarded by special troops who wear colourful uniforms: *scarlet tunics, blue trousers and bearskin caps*. The history of the Foot Guards goes back to 1656, when King Charles II, during his exile in Holland, recruited a small body-guard. Later this small body-guard grew into a *regiment of guards*. *Changing of the guard* is one of the most popular ceremonies. It takes place at Buckingham Palace every day at 11.30. The ceremony always attracts a lot of spectators – Londoners as well as visitors – to the British capital.

Mounting the Guards. *Mounting the Guard* is another colourful ceremony. It takes place at the Horse *Guards*, in Whitehall, at 11 a.m. every weekday and at 10 a.m. on Sundays. It always attracts sightseers. The Guard is a detachment of Cavalry troops and consists of the Royal Horse Guards and the Life Guards. The Royal Horse Guards wear deep-blue tunics and white metal helmets with red horsehair plumes, and have black sheep-skin saddles. The Life Guards wear scarlet uniforms and white metal helmets with white horsehair plumes, and have white sheep-skin saddles. Both the Royal Horse Guards and the Life Guards wear steel cuirasses – body armour that reaches down to the waist and consists of a breastplate and backplate fastened together. The ceremony begins with the trumpeters sounding the call. The new guard arrives and the old guard is relieved. The two officers, also on horseback salute each other and then stand side by side while the guard is changed. The ceremony lasts fifteen minutes and ends with the old guard returning to its barracks.

Questions:

1. What is a club in Britain? According to what principle are people joined in clubs? What do the members do in their clubs?
2. What parts does gardening play in the life of the British people?
3. Which are some of the most traditional ceremonies that have been preserved since old times?

Chapter 9

LONDON IS THE CAPITAL OF GREAT BRITAIN

London

London is a very old city. It began life two thousand years ago as a Roman fortification at a place where it was possible to cross the River Thames. Around the town the Romans built a wall for defence. After the Norman Conquest there was a long period of peace, during which people began building outside the walls. This building continued for a very long time, especially to the west of the city, so that in a few centuries London covered a very large territory. In 1665, during the terrible plague in London, many people left the city and escaped to the villages in the surrounding countryside. In 1666 after the Great Fire London was rebuilt and people returned to it, but never again were there so many Londoners living in the city centre.

Today, also, not many people live in the city centre, but London has spread further outwards into the country, including surrounding villages. Greater London now covers about 1600 square kilometres and the suburbs of London continue even beyond this area. Some people travel over 150 km every day to work in the country or in other towns.

It is difficult to speak about the centre of London as of one definite place. As a matter of fact, it has a number of centres, each with a distinct character: The financial and business centre called the City (spelt with a capital C), the shopping and entertainment centre in the West End, the government centre in Westminster. Some places on the outskirts of London have kept their village-like character.

The East End. The East End is the industrial part of London. It grew with the spread of industry to the east of the City and the growth of the port of London. It covers a wide area, and there are many wharfs and warehouses along the river banks.

The East End is one of those areas of London where people from abroad have come to find work. For centuries foreigners have been making London their home. Some had to leave their country for religious or political reasons. Others wanted to find a better life. Some brought new skills and started new industries. The immigrants also brought their customs, traditions and religion into the East End, so you can see a mosque, a church and a synagogue not very far apart.

The East End markets are famous throughout the world. Petticoat Lane Market takes place every Sunday morning and has become one of the sights of London. The street salesman here will offer you all kinds of goods and promise that they are of the highest quality and much cheaper than those you can buy in the West End.

Traditionally, someone born in the East End is known as a cockney, although this name is now given to anyone who speaks like a Londoner. Cockneys change certain vowel sounds so that the vowel sound in the word «late» becomes more like that in the word «light»: that is they say [lait] instead of [leit]. They pronounce «day» as [dai] instead of [dei], «may» as [mai] instead of [mei], and «rain» as [rain] instead of [rein]. Another peculiarity of cockney pronunciation is dropping Hs [ˈeitʃɪz] at the beginning of words, so that «he» sounds like [i:], «head» like [ed] and «how» like [au]. These and other peculiarities of cockney pronunciation are very well described by the great British playwright Bernard Shaw in his *Pygmalion*.

The West End. The West End is the name given to the area of central London between the Mall and Oxford Street. It includes Trafalgar Square, the main shopping areas of Oxford Street, Regent Street and Bond Street, and the entertainment centres of Soho, Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square and Shaftesbury Avenue. The name West End is associated with glamour and bright lights.

Trafalgar Square. Trafalgar Square was built at the beginning of the 19th century to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar. Admiral Lord Nelson's statue stands on top of a column in the middle of Trafalgar Square. The large square is a traditional place for people to meet: all sorts of protest meetings are held in Trafalgar Square. At Christmas time carol singers gather round a huge Christmas tree which is sent to Britain from Norway every year. Behind Nelson's Column there is the building of the national Gallery, a rich art gallery in which you can find many old masters.

Shopping. Most of London's big department stores are situated in Oxford Street and Regent Street. They are always crowded, but especially at sale times, in January and July, when there are so many people here that it is difficult to move.

Entertainment. Piccadilly Circus is the centre of night life in the West End. The square is quite small, and many people are disappointed when they see it for the first time because they imagined that it would be much bigger. To the north of Piccadilly Circus is Soho, which has been the foreign quarter of London since the 17th century. Now it is famous for its restaurants, which offer food from different countries. Especially popular are Chinese and Italian foods.

London is famous for its theatres. In the West End there are over thirty theatres within a square mile. They offer a great variety of shows to choose from: opera, drama, comedies, whodunits, and so on.

Questions:

1. When did London begin life? Why did the Romans build a wall around the city?
2. Where did people begin building their houses during the long period of peace which followed the Norman Conquest?
3. What great disasters befell London in 1665 and 1666?
4. How large is the territory of Greater London as of one definite place? What is the financial and business centre of London? What is its entertainment centre? Where is the government centre?
5. What is the East End of London?
6. How do you explain the fact that in the East End you can find a Christian church, a synagogue and a mosque situated very near one another?
7. What is a cockney? What are the peculiarities of cockney pronunciation? What famous British playwright described the peculiarities of cockney pronunciation?
8. What area of London does the West End embrace? What is the name West End associated with?
9. What does Trafalgar Square commemorate? What monument stands in the centre of it?
10. What tree is pleased in Trafalgar Square at Christmas time every year? Where is it sent from? What art museum is situated in Trafalgar Square?
11. Where are most of London's big department stores? When are the department stores especially crowded? Why?
12. What place in the West End is the centre of night life?
13. What is Soho famous for?

The City

Tradition. The City is not the whole of central London: it is just a small area east of the centre, the site of the original Roman town, so it is the oldest part of the capital. The city has a long and exciting history, and it is proud of its independence and traditional role as a centre of trade and commerce. The City's administration is headed by the annually elected Lord Mayor, whose official residence is the Mansion House. Once a year, in November, the Lord Mayor's Show takes place. It is a colourful street parade in which the newly elected Lord Mayor travels along the streets of the City in a golden coach, which is over 200 years old. In the evening a splendid meal is served in the Guildhall, to which the Prime Minister and members of the government are invited.

Commerce and finance. The City of London is one of the biggest banking centres of the world, and you can find the banks of many nations in the famous Threadneedle Street and the surrounding area. Here, too, you will find the Bank of England. Nearby is the Stock Exchange, which is like a busy market, except that here not food but shares in commercial companies are bought and sold. A little further along, in Leadenhall Street, is Lloyds, the most famous insurance company in the world.

The Old Bailey. The Central Criminal Court of the country is also to be found in the City, in the western part of it. It is called the Old Bailey, after the street in which it is situated. Some of Britain's most famous murder trials have taken place here. Nearby is the area known as the Temple – a group of buildings where many lawyers have their offices.

The press. Fleet Street is famous as the home of the nation's newspapers but, in fact, only two of them – The Daily Express and The Daily Telegraph – are still in Fleet Street. However, people still say Fleet Street when they mean the press.

The British are a nation of newspaper readers. Many of them even have a daily paper delivered to their homes just in time for breakfast. British newspapers can be divided into two groups: quality and popular. Quality newspapers are more serious and cover home and

foreign news thoughtfully, while the popular newspapers like shocking, personal stories. These two groups of papers can be distinguished easily because the quality newspapers are twice the size of the popular newspapers.

Questions:

1. Which is the oldest part of London?
2. Who is the City's administration headed by? What is the official residence of the Lord Mayor? What is the Lord Mayor's Show?
3. What important buildings are located in or near the famous Threadneedle Street?
4. What is the Old Bailey? What is the Temple?
5. What is Fleet Street famous for? Which two groups can British newspapers be divided into?

Westminster

Every day, when people in the UK and overseas switch on their radio to listen to BBC radio news, they can hear one of the famous sounds in London: the chimes of Big Ben on the tower of the Houses of Parliament.

The Houses of Parliament occupy a magnificent building on the left bank of the Thames in the part of London called Westminster that has long been connected with royalty and government.

King Edward the Confessor built a palace beside the River Thames in the 11th century. His successors made the palace their main residence. Gradually Westminster became the centre of government. At first Parliament was organized to help the monarch rule the country. The monarch called representatives of different groups of people together; so the House of Lords represented the Church and aristocracy, and the House of Commons represented the rich landowners who expressed the views and interests of their own town or village. In the course of centuries, power gradually passed from the monarch to Parliament.

According to the long-standing tradition, the Queen still opens the new session of Parliament, each autumn by reading the Queen's Speech in the House of Lords. Another tradition is that the Queen is

not allowed to enter the House of Commons. This tradition goes back to the time of Charles I, more than three hundred years ago, and reminds everybody that the monarch must not try to govern the country.

Westminster Abbey. Opposite the Houses of Parliament stands Westminster Abbey. A church has stood here since Saxon times, when it was known as West Monastery (Westminster), because of its position to the west of London's centre. Since William the Conqueror's times British monarchs have been crowned there, and since the 13th century they have been buried in Westminster Abbey.

Whitehall. The street called Whitehall stretches from Parliament Square to Trafalgar Square. Whitehall is often associated with the government of Britain.

Downing Street, which is a small side street off Whitehall, is the home of the Prime Minister who lives at number ten. Next door, at number eleven, lives the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is responsible for financial planning and the British economy. Just around the corner, in Whitehall itself, there are all the important ministries: the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Home Office and the Treasury.

In the middle of Whitehall there is the Cenotaph, a monument to the fallen in the world wars of the 20th century. According to tradition, on Remembrance Day, the Sunday nearest to November 11, the Queen lays a wreath of poppies at the Cenotaph. People of Britain remember their dead from the world wars by wearing a red paper poppy.

Royal London. When you are in London, you are always reminded of the city's close connection with the Crown. There are royal parks and colourful ceremonies.

The most important building in London, though not the most beautiful is Buckingham Palace, which is the official residence of the Queen. It stands in St. James's Park. Running through the park from the front of Buckingham Palace to the Trafalgar Square there is the Mall, a wide tree-lined avenue.

St. James's Park is one of ten so-called royal parks situated in or near London. These parks officially belong to the Crown, but are open to the public free of charge. These large parks are very good places for people to escape from traffic jams, crowded shops and the city noise. Each Park was originally a hunting forest and is still popular with horse-riders. Regent's Park, which was also originally a hunting park,

is now the home of London Zoo, and an open-air theatre which stages Shakespeare's plays.

Knightsbridge. This area is a part of London where you can find many foreign embassies, large glamorous hotels, and the department store that is the symbol of expensive and high-class living – Harrods.

People say you can buy anything in Harrods, including wild animals – they even have a zoo which will sell you lion cubs as well as more common pets such as dogs, cats or parrots.

Another place of interests here is the Albert Hall, a huge concert hall which gives festivals of popular classical music concerts every summer.

Three of London's most interesting museums – the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum – are also in this area. The Natural History Museum has exhibits of birds, animals and reptiles, as well as life-size reconstructions of prehistoric animals. The Victoria and Albert Museum includes exhibits from almost every place and period, including costumes from the theatre, and paintings. The Science Museum covers every aspect of science and technology, and its collections are constantly being enlarged. The museum is always crowded. In many rooms there are machines and computers which the visitors can work themselves.

Questions:

1. In what part of London is the building of the Houses of Parliament situated? What is Big Ben?
2. Which two parts does British Parliament consists of?
3. How does the Queen open the new session of Parliament each autumn?
4. What is the origin of the tradition according to which the Queen is not allowed to enter the House of Commons?
5. What English king built Westminster Abbey? What is Westminster Abbey famous for?
6. What important building is situated in or near Whitehall?
7. What is the Cenotaph? What ceremony is held at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day?
8. What places and ceremonies remind one of London's close connection with the Crown?
9. Name three of London's parks. What do you know about each of them?
10. What is Harrods?
11. What festivals are held in the Albert Hall in summer?
12. Which are the three of London's most interesting museums?

Chapter 10

PLACES TO SEE IN BRITAIN

Oxford

The first written record of the town of Oxford dates back to the year 912. Oxford University, the oldest and most famous university in Britain, was founded in the middle of the 12th century, and by 1300 there were already 1,500 students. At that time Oxford was a wealthy town, but by the middle of the 14th century it was poorer, because of the decline in trade and because of a terrible plague, which killed many people in England. The relations between the students and the townspeople were very unfriendly, and there was often fighting in the streets.

Nowadays there are about 12,000 students in Oxford and over 1000 teachers. Outstanding scientists work in the numerous colleges of the University, teaching and doing research work in physics, chemistry, mathematics, cybernetics, literature, modern and ancient languages, art and music, philosophy, psychology.

Oxford University has a reputation of a privileged school. Many prominent political figures of the past and present times got their education at Oxford.

The Oxford English Dictionary is well-known to students of English everywhere. It contains approximately 5,000,000 entries, and there are thirteen volumes, including a supplement.

Oxford University Press, the publishing house which produces the Oxford English Dictionary has a special department called the Oxford Word and Language Service (OWLS for short). If you have a question about the meaning of a word or its origin, you can write or telephone and the people there will help you.

Questions:

1. Why is the town of Oxford famous all over the world?
2. How does Oxford University justify its reputation of a privileged school?
3. What is Oxford University Press?

Cambridge

Cambridge is one of the best-known towns in the world, and the principal reason for its fame is its University, the second oldest university of Britain, which was founded in the 13th century. Today there are more than twenty colleges in Cambridge University.

The oldest college is Peterhouse, which was founded in 1284, and the most recent is Robinson College, which was opened in 1977. The most famous is probably King's College, because of its magnificent chapel. Its choir of boys and undergraduates is also well known.

The University was only for men until 1871. In 1871 the first women's college was opened. Another one was opened two years later and **the third- – in 1954**. In the 1970s most colleges opened their doors to both men and women. Nowadays almost all colleges are mixed.

The Cambridge Folk Festival. Every year, in summer, one of the biggest festivals of folk music in England is held in Cambridge. Thousands of people arrive in Cambridge for the Festival. Many of the fans put up their tents to stay overnight. The Cambridge Folk Festival is always very well organized, and there is always good order. However, some people who live nearby do not like the Festival. They say that there is too much noise, that too much rubbish is left on the ground and that many of the fans take drugs. On the other hand, local shopkeepers are glad, because for them the Festival means a big increase in the number of customers.

Questions:

1. What is Cambridge famous for?
2. How many colleges are there in Cambridge University? Which is the oldest college? When was the most recent college opened? Which is the most famous college? What is it famous for?
3. What festival is held in Cambridge every summer?

Liverpool and the Beatles

Liverpool is situated in Lancashire, at the mouth of the River Mersey, where it empties into the Irish Sea.

The settlement of Liverpool was first mentioned in 1191, and in 1207 it got the status of a town. Since the 13th century it has been a port. In the second half of the 17th century it began playing an important part in the trade with the English colonies in America. At present it is the second largest (after London) sea-port in Britain.

For a lot of people, not just in Britain but everywhere, Liverpool is first of all associated with the Beatles, probably the most famous and successful pop-group the world has ever known.

On October 24, 1962, the song 'Love Me Do' was sung by a then unknown group of four working-class lads from Liverpool, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr, who called themselves the Beatles. It was the first of a number of big hits that brought them world fame.

The road to success was not easy. John and Paul had spent many afternoons listening to American stars like Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley before they were able to write the famous Lennon and McCartney songs.

During the 1960s the Beatles were at the height of their glory: newspaper headlines, films, and their unusual haircuts – *Beatles mops!* – immediately became the latest fashion.

After a decade of successful music and films, the Beatles had some disagreements, and finally decided to break up in the early seventies. Many people hoped that there would be a reunion, but it became impossible after the tragic murder of John Lennon in New York in 1980.

Questions:

1. Where is Liverpool situated?
2. When did Liverpool begin playing an important part in the sea trade? Is it still a large port? How large is it?
3. What is Liverpool associated with for many people?
4. When were the Beatles at the height of their glory? What immediately became the latest fashion? When did the group fall apart?

Chapter 11

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The History of English Literature

English literature had its beginning while the Anglo-Saxons were still on the Continent. When they conquered the Celts, they brought with them a rich tradition of oral literature steeped in their customs and pagan beliefs and rituals. This literature focused on the telling of the brave and heroic deeds of the warriors possessing attributes they valued and wished to emulate.

The only surviving full-length epic in Old English from that time is *Beowulf*, the first major work of English literature.

The other important types of Anglo-Saxon poetry are the lyric and the riddle. The lyric presents a more personal and emotional form of poetry in which an object or person is described in a rather ambiguous manner.

In the lyrics and riddles, the Anglo-Saxons expressed their terror of the northern winter, and their awareness of the transitory nature of human life.

For the history of the Medieval English literature the Norman conquest was a tragedy, but it did not stop English literature completely; it only temporarily prevented people from writing it down.

Most medieval literature is now lost. What has survived is varied in form and content and tells us about the vitality of that era in many ways.

The greatest writer of the Middle English period was poet Geoffrey Chaucer. «*The Canterbury Tales*» (late 1300s) is an unfinished collection of comic and moral stories.

In the 15th century the period of Renaissance started in England. It was marked with the invention of the printing press, which, together with the improved methods of manufacturing paper, made possible a rapid spread of knowledge.

The first major impact of the Renaissance on English literature is observed in the poetry of Wyatt and Surrey, who introduced the sonnet – a verse that proved to be both popular and durable.

The 16th century was the period of Restoration in England. The writers of the era saw a parallel between the new political and social stability of their day and the period of Rome under Caesar, so they wrote epics, satires, elegies, and tragedies just as their Roman predecessors did, and exercised great care in paralleling the form and content of their work with that of «the ancients».

The Romantic Age is a term used to describe life and literature in England in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Many of the writers of the period turned away from the values and ideas of the Age of Restoration.

In general, the Romantic writers placed the individual rather than society, at the centre of their vision. They tended to be optimists who believed in the possibility of progress and improvement.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, England was ruled by Queen Victoria, who was a model of respectability, conservatism, and the domestic virtues.

Most novelists of the period wrote long works with numerous characters. The novels of Charles Dickens are noted for their colorful and sometimes eccentric characters. William Makepeace Thackeray created a masterpiece of Victorian fiction – *Vanity Fair* (1847-1848).

English drama was reborn near the end of the Victorian Age.

World War I marked the beginning of the modern era. The literary movement is commonly referred as modernism. Modern English literature took on pervasive tones of irony and intensity, and expressed moods of sobriety and pathos.

The key writer of the modern period was James Joyce. He often wrote about the people and places he had left behind, and became a principal figure in the development of the twentieth-century novel.

Vocabulary:

раган – языческий

to emulate – соперничать

riddle – загадка

ambiguous – неопределенный, неясный

terror – страх
transitory – мимолетный
durable – длительный
predecessors – предшественники
domestic virtues – домашние добродетели
pervasive – проникающий
intensity – напряженность, усилие
sobriety – трезвость, умеренность

Questions:

1. What was the literature of the Anglo-Saxons?
2. Are there any major works from that time?
3. What do you know about the medieval English literature?
4. When did the period of Renaissance start?
5. What was its impact on the English literature?
6. What was the characteristics feature of the Romantic writers?
7. What were the works of Victorian writers like?
8. Who was the key writer of Modernism?

English Has no Equals!

On the 5th of September 1977, the American spacecraft Voyager One blasted off on its historic mission to Jupiter and beyond.

On board the scientists who knew that Voyager would one day spin through distant star systems had installed a recorded greeting from the people of the planet Earth. A brief message in fifty-five different languages for the people of outer space plays a statement from the Secretary-General of the United Nations named Kurt Waldheim, speaking on behalf of 147 member states in English.

The rise of English is a remarkable success story. When Julius Caesar landed in Britain nearly two thousand years ago, English did not exist. Today English is used by at least 750 million people, and barely half of those speak it as a mother tongue.

Some estimates have put that figure closer to one billion. Whatever the total, English today is more widely spoken and written, than any other language has ever been. It has become the language of the planet, the first truly global language.

Three-quarters of the world's mail and its telexes and cables are in English. So are more than half the world's technical and scientific

periodicals: it is the language of technology from Silicon Valley to Shanghai. English is the medium for 80 per cent of the information stored in the world's computers. Nearly half of all business deals in Europe are conducted in English. It is the language of sports and glamour: the official language of the Olympics and the Miss Universe Competition.

English is the official voice of the air and the sea, and of Christianity: it is the ecumenical language of the World Council of Churches.

The largest broadcasting companies in the world (CBS, NBS, ABC, BBC) transmit in English to audiences that regularly exceed one hundred million.

English has no equals! Dispute it if you can!

Questions:

1. When did the American spacecraft blast off?
2. What did the scientists install on board?
3. When didn't English exist?
4. Has English become the language of the planet?
5. Is English the language of sports and glamour?

English is the Language of Communication

English is spoken practically all over the world. It is spoken as the mother tongue in Great Britain, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. A lot of people speak English in China, Japan, India, Africa and other countries. It is one of 6 official languages of the United Nations. It is studied as a foreign language in many schools.

England's history helps to understand the present condition of English. Many English words were borrowed from the language of Angles and Saxons. Hundreds of French words came into English. These French words didn't crowd out corresponding Anglo-Saxon words. There exist «act» and «deed», «beautiful» and «pretty», «form» and «shape».

Many new words were brought by traders and travelers. These words came from all parts of the world: «umbrella» – from Italian, «skates» – from Dutch «tea» – from Chinese «cigar» – from Spanish.

Some words came into English directly from Latin, which was the language of the church and the universities in the Middle Ages.

Some of the English words of today are derivatives. One way of creating new words is to put together two or more English words. For example, the words «railway», «football», «newspaper» were made in this way.

Many of the new English words, especially new scientific ones, have been made from Latin and Greek words instead of English ones. «Telephone» for instance, was made from Greek words «far» and «talk».

«Do you speak English?» – with this phrase begins the conversation between two people, that speak different languages and want to find a common language.

It's very good when you hear: «Yes, I do», and start talking. People of different countries and nations have to get along well with the progress in world trade and technology as well as with each other.

So it is very useful to learn foreign languages. Knowledge of foreign languages helps us to develop friendship and understanding among people.

English is very popular now. It's the language of computers, science, business, sport and politics. It's spoken all over the world. It is the official language of the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, and Australia. There are more than 750 million speakers of English in the world.

Speaking a foreign language you can read papers, magazines and original books by great writers, watch satellite TV programs. If you like travelling you can go anywhere without being afraid that other people will not understand you. English is very important to find a good job.

Questions:

1. In what countries is English spoken as the mother tongue?
2. From what languages are some English words borrowed?
3. Did French words crowd out corresponding Anglo-Saxon ones?
4. What English words that came from all parts of the world do you know?
5. Why are there so many words with Latin roots in the English language?
6. What ways of creating new words do you know?
7. Do you like to speak English?
8. How many years did you study English?
9. Is it useful to learn a foreign language?
10. Is English the official language in the U.S.A.?
11. Does English help you to make friends?

Chapter 12

FAMOUS BRITONS

Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603)

Queen Elizabeth I, the last of the Tudor monarchs, was the daughter of Henry VIII. She received an excellent classical education. She could read Latin and Greek and spoke French and Italian fluently.

People rejoiced when Elizabeth became a queen after her elder sister Mary's death in 1558. Elizabeth was an intelligent, courageous and determined woman. People often called her Good Queen Bess.

Elizabeth made her first task the settlement of England's religious affairs. She was determined to stop religious struggle. She tried to gradually spread Protestant religion, without offending the Catholics too much. However, the struggle between Catholics and Protestants continued and endangered Elizabeth's position. Some Catholic nobles wished to remove Elizabeth and replace her with the queen of Scotland, Mary Stuart, who was a Catholic. Mary, usually called Queen of Scots, was the heir to the English throne because she was Elizabeth's closest relation. Mary had powerful enemies in Scotland and had to escape to England. Elizabeth kept her in the Tower of London as a prisoner for nearly twenty years. During that time several Catholic plots were discovered, which aimed at making Mary queen of England. Finally, Elizabeth had to agree to Mary's execution in 1587.

During Elizabeth's reign England became a great sea power. English sailors, the most famous of which were Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh, challenged the Spaniards in the Atlantic Ocean. They made daring raids on the Spanish colonies in America and captured Spanish ships that carried treasure from the New World to Spain.

Elizabeth helped the Dutch Protestants. At that time the Netherlands was part of the Spanish empire, and King Philip II of Spain

was trying to suppress the Protestant rebellion there. He sent his army to the Netherlands. Elizabeth did the same. So Philip had to fight with England. He built a huge fleet of ships, which became known as the *Invincible Armada*. England was in danger. Elizabeth spoke to the crews of the ships that were going to do battle with the Armada. She won their hearts by saying that she was ready «... *to live or die amongst you ... for my God, and for my kingdom, and for my people ... I know I am a weak woman, but I have the Heart of a king – and a King of England too!*».

The two fleets were fighting for six days, and on August 9, 1588, the Armada was defeated. Only half the ships of the Armada returned to Spain. It was a great victory for England.

The Elizabethan age was one of the greatest periods of English literature. Edmund Spenser, Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare were only a few of many writers who created their great works at that time. Elizabeth's court became the centre of culture for musicians, poets, scholars and artists. The English were proud of their country and their queen.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

William Shakespeare was born in 1564, in Stratford-upon-Avon. He attended Stratford's grammar school, which still stands. The grammar school's curriculum at that time was limited to teaching pupils Latin, both spoken and written. The classical writers studied in the classroom influenced Shakespeare's plays and poetry: some of his ideas for plots and characters came from Ovid's tales, the plays of Terence and Plautus, and Roman history.

We do not know when or why Shakespeare left Stratford for London, or what he was doing before becoming a professional actor and dramatist in the capital. He probably arrived in London in 1586 or 1587.

Shakespeare's reputation had been established in London by 1592, when his earliest plays were written: *Henry VI*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *Titus Andronicus*.

In 1594 Shakespeare joined other actors in forming a new theatre company, with Richard Burbage as its leading actor. For almost twenty years Shakespeare was a regular dramatist of this company and wrote on the average two plays a year. Burbage played the main roles, such as *Richard III*, *Hamlet*, *Othello* and *Lear*.

In 1599 the company of actors with which Shakespeare worked built a new theatre, the Globe. It was built on the south bank of the Thames. The Globe theatre is most closely associated with Shakespeare's plays. Two of his plays, *Henry V* and *Julius Caesar*, were almost certainly written during the year in which the Globe opened.

Some of Shakespeare's most famous tragedies were written in the early 1600s. They include *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear* and *Macbeth*. His late plays, often known as romances, written between 1608 and 1612, include *Cymbeline*, *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest*.

Around 1611 Shakespeare left London and returned to Stratford. He died in Stratford at the age of fifty-two on April 23, 1616, and was buried in Holy Trinity Church.

Shakespeare's greatness lies in his humanism. He created a new epoch in world literature. For nearly four centuries Shakespeare has remained one of the best known playwrights and poets in the world. Every new generation of people finds in his works something important. As his contemporary Ben Jonson once said, Shakespeare «*belongs not to the century, but to all times*».

Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658)

The centuries-long rivalry between the Crown and Parliament came to an open fight in the 17th century.

The king of England was Charles I, a young man who wanted to rule over England without Parliament. He needed money for wars, but Parliament refused to give it. In 1642 Charles I tried to arrest some members of Parliament, but could not do it. Then he left Parliament and never came back as a king. Members of Parliament decided to build up an army to fight against the king, and gave money to teach the soldiers. But they understood that courage alone was not enough to

win battles. It was necessary to have a strong leader who would train the army and lead it. Such a leader was found. It was Oliver Cromwell.

Cromwell was a Member of Parliament. He was a country gentleman, a rough man, unskillful as a speaker, but known for his strength of character and his deep sincerity and religious feeling.

Cromwell trained his soldiers in complete obedience, filled them with the desire to fight for freedom, Parliament and religion. His famous order was: «*Trust in God and keep your powders dry*».

Many thousands of soldiers were killed during The Civil War. In 1644 a Scottish army of 20000 men came to help Cromwell. In the battle near the town of York the Parliamentary army won a victory and the king's army was defeated. Charles I was brought to trial in London and accused of having made war on his people and of being an enemy of his country. He was found guilty and sentenced to death. In January 1649 Charles was beheaded. In the same month the Parliamentary government came to power and proclaimed England a republic. Cromwell got the title of Lord Protector.

Cromwell ruled the country firmly, but he did not like to be contradicted, and finally dismissed Parliament. During the last years of his life he became a dictator who ruled the country without the council of the people. The English Republic, the first republic in Europe, did not justify the hopes of the people.

In September 1658 Oliver Cromwell died. The political instability that followed his death led to the demand for the restoration of monarchy. In 1660 the newly elected Parliament invited Charles II, the son of the executed king, to occupy the English throne.

Daniel Defoe (1660-1731)

Daniel Defoe (1660-1731) was an English novelist and journalist. One of the first English novels and one of the most popular adventure stories was his «Robinson Crusoe». Some critics have called Defoe the father of the English novel; others rate him as much less important.

Daniel Defoe was born in London and his father was a butcher and a candle merchant. He started a business career, but he went bank-

rupt and turned to writing. His earliest writings dealt with politics and religion. One political pamphlet in 1703 led to his imprisonment for about 5 months.

For about 25 years, Defoe earned his living writing for newspapers. From 1704 to 1713 he even produced his own periodical «The Review», single-handedly. At times he was secretly writing for the Whig Party in one paper, **for the Tories- – in another one.**

Defoe has written a great variety of works. It is very difficult to tell how many works he produced, because most of them were published anonymously. His works include poetry, theology, economics and geography.

Many readers know Defoe as novelist. Actually, it was really a minor part of his writing, and not the part that gave him the most pride. Defoe's most famous novel is «Robinson Crusoe» (1719).

«Robinson Crusoe» is the story of a man marooned on an island. It is a memorable adventure story and a study of what it is like to be truly alone. It is also a success story, because Crusoe's hard work, inventiveness, and ability to take advantage of others turns his island into a successful colony.

Defoe's novels marked an important break with the fiction of the past. He offered the ordinary lives of real people who were the normal products of their social and economic surroundings. Defoe makes us believe in the reality of what we are reading as we are hurried from the scene to scene by his breathless prose. Only after we have finished do we realize that we have not really been given much psychological insight into the characters.

Robert Burns (1759-1796)

The great Scottish poet Robert Burns was born in the family of a poor farmer. He was the eldest of seven children. He spent his youth working on his father's farm, but in spite of his poverty he was extremely well-read: his father employed a tutor for Robert and his younger brother Gilbert. At 15 Robert wrote his first verse, My Handsome Nell.

When his father died in 1784, Robert and his brother became partners in the farm. However, Robert was more interested in the romantic

nature of poetry than in the hard work of ploughing. He was thinking of leaving his farm and going away to the warmer and sunnier climate of the West Indies. At the same time he continued writing poetry.

But he did not go to the West Indies. His first book *Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect* (a set of poems essentially based on a broken love affair) was published and was highly praised by the critics. This made him stay in Scotland. He moved to Edinburgh. The artists and writers of Scotland's capital enthusiastically received the «Ploughman Poet». In a few weeks he was transformed from a local hero to a national celebrity.

Robert Burns travelled much about Scotland collecting popular songs. He discovered long forgotten songs and wrote his own verses. Robert Burn's poetry was inspired by his deep love for his motherland, for its history and folklore. His beautiful poem *My Heart's in the Highlands*, full of colourful descriptions, is a hymn to the beauty of Scotland's nature and to its glorious past.

Burns's poetry is closely connected with the national struggle of the Scottish people for their liberation from English oppression, the struggle that had been going on in Scotland for many centuries. His favourite heroes were William Wallace, the leader of the uprising against the English oppressors, and Robert Bruce, who defeated the English army and later became king of Scotland.

Robert Burns died at the age of 37 of heart disease caused by the hard work he had done when he was young. On the day of his burial more than 10,000 people came to pay their respect to the great bard. On the anniversary of his birth, January 25, Scots both at home and abroad celebrate Robert Burns. Robert Burn's birthday is celebrated annually by the lovers of poetry in many countries of the world.

George Gordon Byron (1788-1824)

George Gordon Byron, one of the greatest poets of England, was born in London in an old aristocratic but poor family. After the death of his father in 1791, his mother took him to Aberdeen in Scotland,

where the boy spent his childhood. At the age of ten he inherited the title of Lord and returned to England. He lived in the family castle which was situated near Nottingham close to the famous Sherwood Forest. He studied at Harrow, then at Cambridge University. When he was 21, he became a member of the House of Lords. In 1809 he travelled abroad and visited Portugal, Spain, Albania, Greece and Turkey. He returned home in 1811.

His speeches in the House of Lords in defence of the Luddites and the oppressed Irish people caused universal irritation. When he and his wife parted after an unhappy marriage, his enemies seized this opportunity and began to persecute him. The poet was accused of immorality and had to leave his native country.

In May 1816 Byron went to Switzerland, where he made friends with his great contemporary, the poet Percy B. Shelley. At the end of 1816 he went to Italy where he became actively engaged in the movement for the liberation of Italy from Austrian rule. In the summer of 1823 he went to **Greece** to fight for the liberation of that country from Turkish oppression.

Byron's creative work is usually divided into four periods.

During **the London period** (1812-1816) he wrote the first two cantos of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, his famous lyrics *Hebrew Melodies*, and *Oriental* poems.

In the **Swiss period** (1816 May-October) Byron wrote the third canto of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, *The Prisoner of Chillon*, and the philosophic drama *Manfred*.

During **the Italian period** (1816-1823), which is considered to be the most important and mature one, he wrote the last canto of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, and the novel in verse *Don Juan*, in which he gave a great satirical panorama of the European social life of his time.

During the short months of the Greek period (1823-1824) Byron wrote little: just some lyrical poems, one of which is *On this Day I Complete my Thirty-sixth Year*. The poet's thirty-sixth year was to be his last: he fell seriously ill and died on April 19, 1824. Deeply mourned all over Greece, he became a symbol of liberation struggle and a Greek national hero.

Charles Dickens **(1812-1870)**

Charles John Huffam Dickens was a great English novelist, he was born in Portsmouth. When he was two he moved with his family to London. His father was a clerk who worked for the navy. At the age of 12, Charles worked in London factory pasting labels on bottles of shoe polish. Charles Dickens attended school but didn't finish it. He enjoyed reading and was especially fond of adventure stories, fairy tales, and novels. As an author Dickens was greatly influenced by William Shakespeare, Tobias Smollett and Henry Fielding. Although, most of the knowledge he later used in his works came from his observation of life around him.

In the 1820s Dickens became a newspaper reporter. He covered debates in Parliament, and wrote feature articles. This job helped him to sharpen his natural keen ear for conversation and developed his skill in portraying characters' speech realistically.

First literary success came with «The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club». This book described the humorous adventures and misadventures of a group of slightly eccentric characters in London and the English countryside. Suddenly, at the age of 24 Dickens found himself famous.

Dickens founded and edited two highly successful weekly magazines «Household Words» and «All the Year Round». As a public figure Dickens was recognized and honored wherever he went.

In 1836 Dickens married Catherine Hogarth. She was a good woman but lacked great intelligence. She and Dickens had 10 children, though in 1858 they separated.

Dickens is considered one of the major figures in English literature. He wrote 20 novels and many sketches, travel books and other non-fiction works. After the success of «The Pickwick Papers» Dickens turned to more serious themes and plots. «Oliver Twist» (1837-1839) is a book about the adventures of a poor orphan boy. It was noted for sensational presentation of London's criminal world.

«The Old Curiosity Shop» (1840-1841), this book is less respected today than when it was published first, because the death scene of Little Nell seems sentimental to modern tastes.

During the 1840s Dickens' view of Victorian society grew darker. His humour became more bitter. His characters and plots seemed to emphasize the evil side of human experience. For example, in «Dombey and Son» (1846-1848) Dickens stressed the evils of the Victorian admiration for money. He believed that money had become measure of all personal relations and the goal of all ambition.

In many respects «Bleak House» (1852-1853) is Dickens' greatest novel. It has a complex structure with many levels of meaning, mixing melodrama with satire and social commentary. The book tells about social evils, cruel legal processes, it also attacks the neglect of the poor, false clergymen and poor sanitation.

It is obviously that Dickens was a keen observer of life and had a great understanding of humanity. He sympathized with the poor and helpless and mocked and criticized the selfish, the greedy and the cruel.

Dickens' health began to decline about 1865 and he died of stroke on June 9, 1870.

Queen Victoria (1819-1901)

Queen Victoria is the longest-reigning monarch in English history. She came to the throne as a young woman in 1837 and reigned until her death in 1901.

Victoria married her German cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg but he died at the age of forty-two in 1861. She could not get over her sorrow at his death and for a long time refused to be seen in public.

This was a dangerous thing to do. Newspapers began to criticize her, and some people even doubted the value of the monarchy. Many radicals believed that as a result of developing democracy it was time for monarchy to die.

The Queen's advisers persuaded her to take more interest in the life of the kingdom. She did so, and she soon became extraordinary popular. At the time when monarchy was losing its place as an integral part of the British governing system, Victoria managed to establish it as a respected and popular institution.

One important step back to popularity was the publication in 1868 of the Queen's book *Our Life in the Highlands*. The book was

the Queen's own diary of her life with Prince Albert and her family in her castle in the Scottish Highlands. It delighted the public, in particular the growing middle class. They had never before known anything of the private life of the monarch, and they enjoyed reading about it. They were impressed by the fact that the Queen wrote about her servants as if they were members of her family.

The democratic British liked and respected the example of family life which the queen had given them: they saw that the Queen and her family shared their own moral and religious values. By her book *Victoria* touched people's hearts. She succeeded in showing the newly industrialized nation that the monarchy was a connection with the glorious history of the country. Quite suddenly, the monarchy was out of danger. It had never been safer than now, when it had lost most of its political power. »*We have come to believe that it is natural to have a virtuous sovereign*«, wrote one of the critics.

Queen Victoria was also popular in Europe. She became known as the Grandmother of Europe after marrying members of her family into many royal houses of Europe. Among her grandchildren were Emperor William II of Germany, and Alexandra, wife of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia.

O. Henry (1862-1910)

The real name of the writer was William Sydney Porter. He was born in the State of North Carolina in the family of a doctor. He was brought up by his aunt, because his mother had died when he was a little boy. After finishing school at the age of 15, he worked as a clerk in his uncle's chemist's shop for five years. Then he went to Texas, because he wanted to see new places. In Texas he saw cowboys, prairies and mustangs, but he could not find a job. He tried working on farms, sometime later he found the job of a clerk at an office, and at last he got a job at a small bank. During this period he studied languages and became interested in literature.

Soon he got married, and when a daughter was born, he was a happy husband and a father. But this happiness did not last long.

One day a thousand dollars was stolen from the bank where he worked. He was afraid of being suspected of theft. He left the town and went to Central America, where he stayed for some time. But when he heard that his wife was very ill, he returned home and was put into prison for three years.

While he was in prison, his wife died. His little daughter was taken by relatives, who told her that her father had gone very far away and would not return soon. Porter always thought about his daughter. He felt very unhappy at the thought that she would not receive a Christmas present from her father. To get some money for a present, he decided to write a story and send it to one of the magazines. He signed the story «O.Henry», the first name that came into his head. His story was published in 1899. He got money for it, and his daughter received a Christmas present.

In 1901 O.Henry was released from prison. He settled in New York and continued writing short stories for different magazines. Very soon he became one of the most popular short-story writers in America.

During the short period of his literary activity, O.Henry wrote 273 short stories and one novel, «Cabbages and Kings». In his stories he described amusing incidents of everyday life in large cities, on farms, and on the roads of America. His stories won great popularity and have been translated into many languages, most of them have unexpected endings, and the reader is always taken by surprise.

Agatha Christie (1890-1976)

In St. Mary's Churchyard, Cholsey, Berkshire, forty-seven miles west of London, lies Lady Mallowan-Dame Agatha Christie. She was, and is, known to millions of people throughout the world as the Queen of crime or, as she preferred, the Duchess of Death.

Agatha Christie was born in 1890 in Torquay in England. Her father was called Frederick Miller, so she was born as Agatha Miller. In 1914 she married Archie Christie.

During the First World War Agatha worked at a hospital, and that experience was useful later on when she started writing detective sto-

ries. Her first book was published in 1920. It was *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, and was met by the reading public with interest. But Agatha's really great popularity came in 1926, when she published her masterpiece, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

In the same year, 1926, Agatha surprised the public by a sudden disappearance for a few days after her husband had asked for a divorce. She was soon found to be staying in a hotel under an assumed name. Her disappearance is still a mystery!

After the divorce she married a British archaeologist, Max Mallowan. This marriage proved to be a happy one. Agatha wanted to stop using her former husband's name. But her publishers said that it would not be wise because the name of Agatha Christie had already become well known to the public. So she remained Agatha Christie to her readers for the rest of her life.

Agatha Christie wrote nearly seventy novels in her career, and more than a hundred short stories. Her most famous characters are Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple.

Hercule Poirot first appeared in 1920. Poirot has become a legend all over the world: a huge moustache, egg-shaped head, his high opinion of himself, and his great ability to solve complicated mysteries thanks to his knowledge of human psychology.

Miss Marple is an English spinster and lives in the English village of St. Mary Mead. She does not look like a detective at all, but always succeeds where the police have failed. Instead of using a magnifying glass looking for clues, she uses her instinct and knowledge of human nature. As Miss Marple herself once said, «Human Nature is the same everywhere».

In March 1962 a UNESCO report stated that Agatha Christie was now the most widely read British author in the world, with Shakespeare coming second.

Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961)

Ernest Hemingway was one of the greatest American writers of his time.

He was born in Illinois, in the family of a doctor. His father was fond of hunting and fishing, and in his school days the future writer

became an excellent sportsman. At school he was a successful pupil. He wrote poetry and prose for the school literary magazine and edited the school newspaper.

In 1917, when the United States entered World War I, Hemingway joined the army and was given the job of driving American Red Cross ambulances on the Italian front. Two months later he was badly wounded in the leg. He was taken to a hospital in Milan, where he underwent twelve operations. After a period of time, he returned to the army. Hemingway was awarded a silver medal by the Italian government. His war experience influenced his life and literary activities.

In 1920 Hemingway returned to the United States and began to work as a foreign correspondent of a newspaper.

Now he was earning enough to support himself by his pen, and he began writing stories. His dream was to become a novelist. To get the material for his stories, he travelled all over the world. He visited Spain, Switzerland, Germany and other countries. His masterpiece, the novel «A Farewell to Arms», which is a protest against war, was published in 1929 and made him famous.

When the Civil war in Spain began in 1936, Hemingway went to Spain. He took part in the war as an anti-fascist correspondent. In Spain Hemingway met many progressive people – fighters of the international brigades.

After the end of the Civil war in Spain Hemingway wrote one of his best novels – «For Whom the Bell Tolls», devoted to the Americans who died in the fight for Spain.

During World War II Hemingway was a war correspondent. He took part in air raids over Germany and fought against the fascists together with French partisans.

Hemingway spent the last years of his life in Cuba, visiting the United States and Spain from time to time. His last work «The Old Man and the Sea», a story about an old fisherman who was fighting a big fish and the sea for many hours and won a victory over them, is a story glorifying the strength and courage of man. In 1954 Hemingway was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature, and «The Old man and the Sea» was mentioned as one of his best works.

Transformation of the English Alphabet

Roman alphabet			Ancient English alphabet	Modern alphabet	The name of modern letters
Letters	Digital value	Letter's name			
<i>A a</i> A a		а	Aa, Ææ, Ee	Aa	[ei]
<i>B b</i> B b		бэ	Bb	Bb	[bi]
<i>C c</i> C c	100	цэ	Cc, Kk, Qq	Cc	[si:]
<i>D d</i> D d	500	дэ	Dd	Dd	[di:]
<i>E e</i> E e		э	Ee	Ee	[i:]
<i>F f</i> F f		эф	Ff	Ff	[ef]
<i>G g</i> G g		же	Gg	Gg	[dʒi:]
<i>H h</i> H h		аш	Hh	H h	[etʃ]
<i>I i</i> I i	I	и	Ii, Yy	I i	[ai]
			Jj	J j	[dʒei]
<i>K k</i> K k		ка	(k)	K k	[keɪ]
<i>L l</i> L l	50	эл	Ll	Ll	[el]
<i>M m</i> M m	1000	эм	Mm	Mm	[em]
<i>N n</i> N n		эн	N n	N n	[ɛn]
<i>O o</i> O o		о	O o	O o	[əʊ]
<i>P p</i> P p		пэ	P p	P p	[pi:]
<i>Q q</i> Q q		ку	(q)	Q q	[kju:]
<i>R r</i> R r		эр	R r	R r	[ɑ:]
<i>S s</i> S s		эс	S s	S s	[es]

<i>T t</i> Т т		тэ	T t	T t	[ti:]
<i>U u (V v)</i> U u (V v)	5	у	U u	U u	[ju:]
			V v	V v	[vi:]
			Ww	Ww	[dʌbl ju:]
<i>X x</i> X x	10	экс	X x	X x	[iks]
<i>Y y</i> Y y		игрек	(y)	Y y	[wai]
<i>Z z</i> Z z		зет	Z z	Z z	[zed]

Peculiarity of writing the numbers in Russian and English

English Language	Russian Language
4, 875, 632	4 875 632
3.4598	3,4598
2.5	2,5
0.5	0,5
1 in (inch) дюйм	2, 54 см
1 ft (foot, feet) фут	30,48 см
1 yd (yard) ярд	91,4 см
1 mi (statute mile) сухопутная миля	1 609 м
1 mi (nautical mile) морская миля	1 852 м
1 lb (libra; pound) фунт	453 г
1 oz (ounce) унция	28, 35 г
1 gal (gallon) галлон	4,5 л (английский галлон) 3,72 (американский галлон)
1 bbl (barrel) баррель	0, 159м ³ (нефтяной баррель) 0, 119 м ³ (жидкостный баррель)
1 bu (bushel) бушель	36 дм ³ (английский бушель) 35 дм ³ (американский бушель)
1 ac (acre) акр	0,4 га = 4000м ²
1 g; 1 gm; 1 gr; 1 grm	1 г
1c; 1 cm	1 см
1cc; 1 cu cm	1 см ³ (1 куб. см)
1 sf; 1 sq ft	1 кв. фут
ca	около, приблизительно
200 hp (horse power)	200 л.с (лошадиных сил)
60 kmph (kilometers per hour)	60 километров в час; км/ч
1 hr (hour)	1 час
e.g. (example gratia)	например
i.e. (id est =that is)	то есть; т.е.
P.C., per – per cent	процент; %
# 6	№ 6
6 #	6 фунтов стерлингов;

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