



# Geography

## Christmas around the World



**RESOURCES**





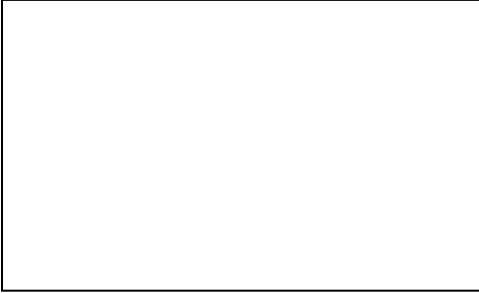
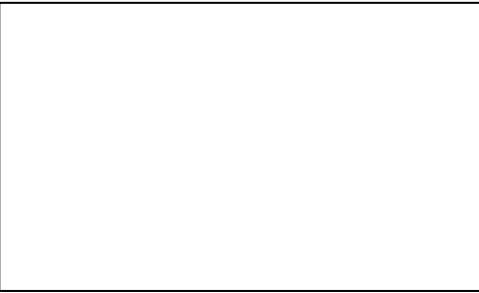
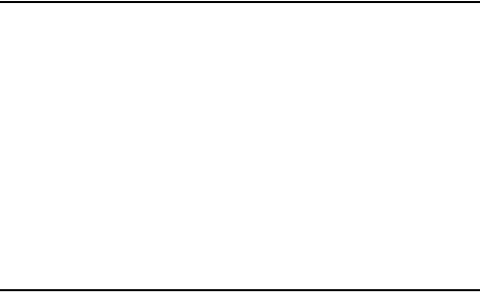



# Human or Physical Geographical Feature?





# Country Comparison Information Gathering

Using the knowledge organisers, textbooks, secondary sources and the internet, research three countries – United Kingdom, European Country and North or South America.

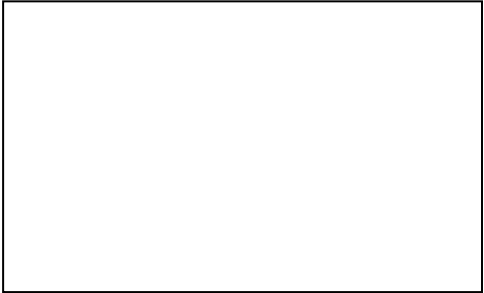
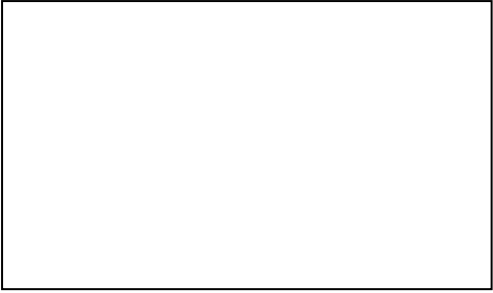


Name of Country			
Flag			
<b>PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY</b>			
Location Description			
Location on Map			

<b>Name of Country</b>			
Capital City			
Physical Landscape			
Famous Physical Landmarks			
Imports			
Exports			
Climate			

<b>Name of Country</b>	_____	_____	_____
<b>HUMAN GEOGRAPHY</b>			
Population			
Languages Spoken			
Main Religion			
Food			
Famous Human Landmarks			
National Sports			
Any Additional Information			

# Country Comparison Information Gathering

Using the knowledge organisers, textbooks, secondary sources and the internet, research two countries (one being the UK) and compare the similarities and differences.

<b>Name of Country</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Flag</b>		
<b>PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY</b>		
<b>Location Description</b>		
<b>Location on Map</b>		
<b>Capital City</b>		
<b>Physical Landscape</b>		

<b>Country</b>	_____	_____
Famous Physical Landmarks		
Imports		
Exports		
Climate		
<b>HUMAN GEOGRAPHY</b>		
Population		
Languages Spoken		
Main Religion		
Food		
Famous Human Landmarks		
National Sports		
Any Additional Information		





# Similarities and Differences

Using your Country Comparison Information Gathering Activity Sheet, outline the similarities and differences between the countries you have researched.

**Similarities**

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**Differences**

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# Similarities and Differences

Using your Country Comparison Information Gathering Activity Sheet, outline the similarities and differences between the countries you have researched.

## Similarities

## Differences



# UNITED KINGDOM

The Union Jack, the national flag of the United Kingdom, combines the Crosses of St. George (England), St. Andrew (Scotland), and St. Patrick (Ireland). Wales is not represented on the Union Jack because the flag was designed whilst Wales was part of the Kingdom of England.



Located off the northwest coast of Europe, the United Kingdom includes England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The official name is United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



## Geography England

Most of the mountains in England are located to the North and West – The Pennines, The Lake District (Scafell Pike is located here, the tallest mountain in England) and The Peak District. The rainfall matches the mountain ranges so it is wetter in the north and west and dryer in the south and east. England has central lowland and a flatter coastal plain.

## Wales

In the south of Wales there are flat coastal plains with ranges of hills and mountains in mid and north Wales. In Snowdonia National Park is Snowdon (highest mountain in Wales).

There are three national parks and five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which cover a quarter of the land in Wales. 80% of the land is dedicated to agriculture, ranging from crops to livestock.

## Scotland

The Highlands and Islands, to the North of Scotland, are separated by lochs. In Scotland there are over 800 islands and 31,000 lochs. Scotland has some of the following mountain ranges: Northwest Highlands, Grampians (Ben Nevis, the tallest mountain in the UK is present here) and the Southern Uplands. The Lowlands are where most people live, here is where Edinburgh (capital city) and Glasgow are situated.

## Northern Ireland

Here it is mainly hilly farmland. Northern Ireland also has the largest lake in the UK – Lough Neagh.

The UK's coastline is well over 6,000 kilometres long. It varies dramatically and has a number of different rocky habitats, ranging from calm, sheltered coves and rocky beaches to tall, rocky cliffs.

## Key facts

Language	English.
Capital City	England and UK = London with a population of 9,000,000 Scotland = Edinburgh with a population of 514,990. Wales = Cardiff with a population of 372,089. Northern Ireland = Belfast with a population of 348,005.
Currency	1 British Pound (GBP) - £.
Religion	Christianity is the largest religion.
Law	Parliamentary democracy within a constitutional monarchy.
Climate	The UK has a temperate climate, with four seasons – spring, summer, autumn and winter. Summers are warm and wet and winters are cool and wet. Temperatures usually stay mild with rare extremes.
Population	67,879,000



## Exports

Some of the UK's top Exports are: cars, medicine, aircraft parts, gold and financial services.

## Imports

Some of the UK's top imports are: crude oil, clothing, computers, cars, fruit and fish.



## Animals

The largest mammal in the UK is the red deer. Various species of deer and rabbits are common in the UK.

Badgers, foxes and hedgehogs live in the woodlands and forests. The furry highland cows can be seen in the Scottish Highlands.

## Food

Traditional British dishes include:  
full breakfast  
roast dinner  
fish and chips  
toad in the hole  
shepherd's pie.

Traditional desserts include:  
trifle  
scones  
apple pie  
sticky toffee pudding  
Victoria sponge cake.

Cheddar cheese originated in the village of Cheddar in Somerset.

## Landmarks and Attractions

**England** – London, Stonehenge, Hadrian's Wall, Bath, York.

**Wales** - Snowdonia National Park, Cardiff, Brecon Beacons, Portmeirion.

**Northern Ireland** – Belfast, Coastal Cliffs, Dark Hedges, Giants' Causeway, Carrick-a-Rede.

**Scotland** – Edinburgh, Isle of Skye, Loch Ness, Glasgow, Loch Lomond.



# ICELAND

## Geography

Iceland is a small island nation that is Europe's westernmost country and home to the world's northernmost capital, Reykjavik.

The country lies on two tectonic plates along which volcanoes are located: the Eurasian and North American plates. The lava which came from the volcanoes on the plate borders formed the island. There are 20 active volcanos.

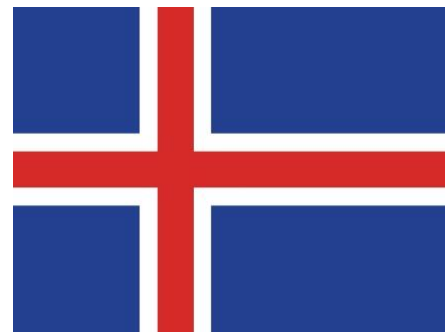
Iceland is covered by ice, volcanoes, glaciers and geysers. There are also many waterfalls, hot springs, mud pools and geothermal vents, where the heat of the earth's core comes out from the earth's surface.

The capital Reykjavik is the largest city in Iceland. Over 138,700 people live in the capital.

About 80% of Iceland is uninhabited, most people live in the capital city region and along the southwestern coastline.



The colours in the flag represent three of the elements that make up the island: Red is for the island's volcanic fires; white for the snow and ice fields of the island; and blue is for the surrounding ocean.



Iceland is located between the Greenland Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean. It is northwest of the United Kingdom.



## Key facts

Language	Icelandic, English (Nordic Languages and German are widely spoken)
Capital City	Reykjavik, with about 130,000 residents in the city and 216,000 people living in the capital's region.
Currency	Islandic Króna (ISK)
Religion	Mainly Christians 95% (Evangelical Lutheran Church 74%)
Law	Iceland is a republic with a directly elected president. The president nominates the prime minister.
Climate	Iceland has a relatively moderate climate. Thanks to the Gulf Stream, Iceland enjoys a cool, temperate maritime climate with refreshing summers and winters with temperatures that average at 0°C.
Population	357,000 people live on Iceland (2021)



## Exports

The main exports of Iceland are fish and fish products.

## Imports

The main imports of Iceland are petroleum products, food, machinery and equipment.

## Elves

As many as 80 percent of the population of Icelanders still believe in the existence of elves. Even today some roads have been rerouted so as not to disturb rocks or other places said to be the homes of elves.



## Animals

There are no reptiles or amphibians on the island and only 1,300 known species of insects.

Land mammals on Iceland include the arctic fox, reindeer, mink, mice, rats, rabbits, sheep, cattle, horses and goats. Marine mammals include seals and whales.

## Food

Icelandic main dishes contain: lamb, seafood and dairy products. The bread you will get in Iceland is mostly dark rye bread. Reindeer meat is also available in Iceland, but is quite expensive.

Specialty dishes in Iceland include:

**Hakarl:** rotten shark meat and it smells quite strongly.

**Skyr:** yogurt like white cheese.

**Dried fish:** usually haddock, cod, catfish or herring.

**Porrablót:** mid winter feast.

**Lax:** salmon.

## Landmarks and Attractions

The most popular attractions in Iceland are:

**Blue Lagoon:** the Strokkur geyser erupts every few minutes and spouts out water up to 30 metres.

**The Northern Lights:** can be seen between November and March.

**Reykjavik:** visit the churches and museums.

**Whale watching:** see the huge humpback whales - only between May to September.

# MEXICO

The flag shows three bands in green, white and red. The emblem on the white ground shows an eagle standing on a cactus with a snake in the beak.



Mexico is located on the North American continent.

To the east, is the Gulf of Mexico, and to the west is the Pacific Ocean.



## Geography

Mexico has very high mountains and deep canyons in the centre of the country, rain forests in the south and east and large deserts in the north.

Mountains cover much of Mexico. In these areas the land is rich with valuable metals like silver and copper.

The Chihuahuan Desert is one of the largest in North America. Winters are cool and summers are extremely hot. There is very little rainfall but the Rio Grande River runs through the centre of the desert and provides water for the animals, plants and people that live there.

More than half of the Mexican people live in the centre of the country, as the north of the county is very arid and the south very tropical.

People living in rural areas have re-located into Mexico's cities, and nearly four-fifths of Mexicans now live in urban areas. Mexico City, the capital, is one of the most populated cities.

## Key facts

Language	Spanish.
Capital City	Mexico City with a population of 18.1 million people.
Currency	Mexican Peso (MXN).
Religion	Christian: Catholic (83%), Protestant (6%); Other (10%).
Law	Mexico is made up with 31 states - each one has its own laws and police.
Climate	The climate of much of Mexico is tropical, with a rainy season and dry season. However, parts of the northern area of the country have a hot dry climate as it is mainly desert.
Population	Mexico is the 11 <sup>th</sup> most populated country on Earth – with a population of 130 million people.



## Exports

The main exports from Mexico are corn (maize), oil, fruits and vegetables, silver, coffee and cotton.

## Imports

Mexico's major imports include machinery and transport equipment, and consumer goods.

## Animals

Mexico has the 2<sup>nd</sup> most reptile species in the world with over 700 reptile and over 430 mammal species in the world. There are jaguars, pumas and huge iguanas. Whales, manta rays and manatees are common in the oceans. In the jungles of southern Mexico there are various types of lizards, monkeys and colourful birds, such as parrots.



## Landmarks and Attractions

Mexico is one of the world's top travel destinations. Places to visit are:  
**Chichen Itza:** built by the Maya people - it is a World Heritage Site and visited by more than one million people every year.  
**Acapulco:** The bay on the Pacific Ocean is home to Mexico's most popular beach city with golden sandy beaches, lots of holiday resorts and known for its magnificent water sports park.

**Oaxaca:** shop at the city's market and see the famous rock formations. Oaxaca is also famous for 'The Night of the Radishes'.

## Food

Chocolate, chillies and corn come from Mexico. Mexican food includes:  
**Guacamole:** avocado dip made with mashed avocados, salt and lime or lemon juice.  
**Tortilla:** mexican corn or wheat flour flatbread is eaten with almost every dish.  
**Enchilada:** stuffed tortilla that has been baked in chilli sauce.  
**Nachos:** tortilla chips often served hot with melted cheese or spicy mince sauce, usually eaten as a snack.



# SPAIN

The red represents strength and valour, while the yellow symbolises generosity. The coat of arms are the original kingdoms that united to form Spain in the 15th century.



Spain occupies most of the Iberian Peninsula, stretching south from the Pyrenees Mountains to the Strait of Gibraltar, which separates Spain from Africa. To the east lies the Mediterranean Sea, including Spain's Balearic Islands. Spain also rules two cities in North Africa and the Canary Islands in the Atlantic.



## Geography

Spain is located in Southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula.

Spain borders the Mediterranean Sea in the South and East and the Atlantic Ocean in the Northwest. Spain borders the countries: Portugal, Andorra, France and the UK with Gibraltar, which is a British Overseas Territory. The longest border is shared with Portugal.

Spain is the fourth largest country in Europe after Russia, Ukraine and France.

The three largest cities in Spain are Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia. Spain also rules two cities in North Africa.

Spain has several islands. The Balearic islands in the Mediterranean Sea belong to Spain as well as the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Spanish nation is divided in 17 autonomous communities which are regions where people have their own regional government.



## Key facts

Language	Castilian Spanish 74%, Catalan 17%, Galician, Basque.
Capital City	Madrid, with 6.7 million inhabitants.
Currency	The Euro - €.
Religion	69% Christians (mainly Roman Catholics).
Law	Spain has a monarchy, with the king and the elected president sharing the power.
Climate	Spain has a Mediterranean climate. This means it has warm dry summers and mild wet winters.
Population	48 million people live in Spain.



## Exports

Machinery, clothing, cars and some fruit are the main export products of Spain. Spain is the world's top olive oil producer. Spain is said to have the most olive trees in the world. Tourism is one of the most important service industries.

## Imports

Crude oil, steel, clothing and textiles, cars and auto parts are Spain's main imports.

## Animals

In Spain there are mules, merino sheep, lizards and geckos. The short-toed eagle is Spain's national bird. Spain also has the Iberian lynx, the Iberian wild boar, the Iberian fox, the Iberian wolves and the Cantabrian brown bear.

The region of Andalusia is home to the Andalusian horses which are known for their speed and strength.



## Landmarks and Attractions

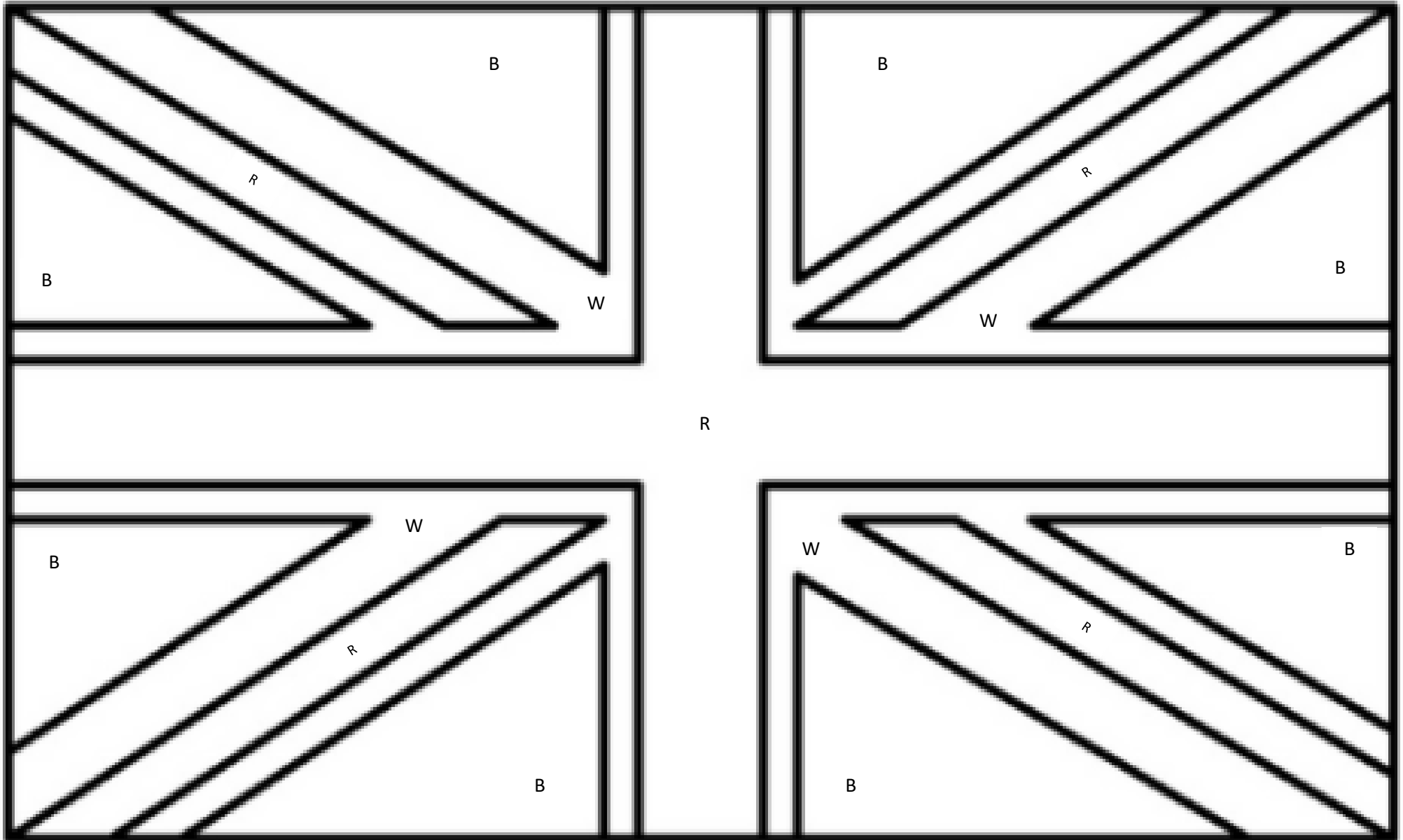
**Madrid:** Spain's capital city.  
**Barcelona:** ranked as one of the best beach cities in the world.  
**Valencia:** city which was founded by the Romans.  
**The Pyrenees:** mountain range popular for hiking and skiing.  
**Beaches:** visited by many in many different resorts.  
**'Tomatina' Festival:** the world's biggest food fight, as the people throw tomatoes at each other.  
**Zarzuella Palace:** home to the Spanish royal family.

## Food

The main dishes in Spain usually contain potatoes, rice, fish, meat, beans, chickpeas and a variety of fruits and vegetables. Olive oil is one of the main ingredients. Some typical Spanish dishes include:  
**Paella:** the traditional rice dish is made with seafood and/or meat.  
**Gazpacho:** vegetable soup or stew.  
**Empanada:** stuffed bread or pie.  
**Turrón:** nougat sweet cake made with honey and nuts.  
**Jamón Serrano:** pork leg ham.  
**Chorizo:** pork sausage.



# Union Jack/Union Flag



# Union Jack/Union Flag

