

United Kingdom vs. Russia

SS6G10(a) The student will compare how location, climate, natural resources, and population distribution of the United Kingdom and Russia affects where people live and how they trade.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is a small island nation. The UK consists of Great Britain (includes England, Scotland, and Wales) and Northern Ireland.

Its capital London, England, is located in the southeastern part of England. More than 7 million people call London home. London is the world center for trade and banking.



Russia

In contrast to the UK, Russia is the largest country in the world! Most citizens live in western Russia on the Northern European Plain.

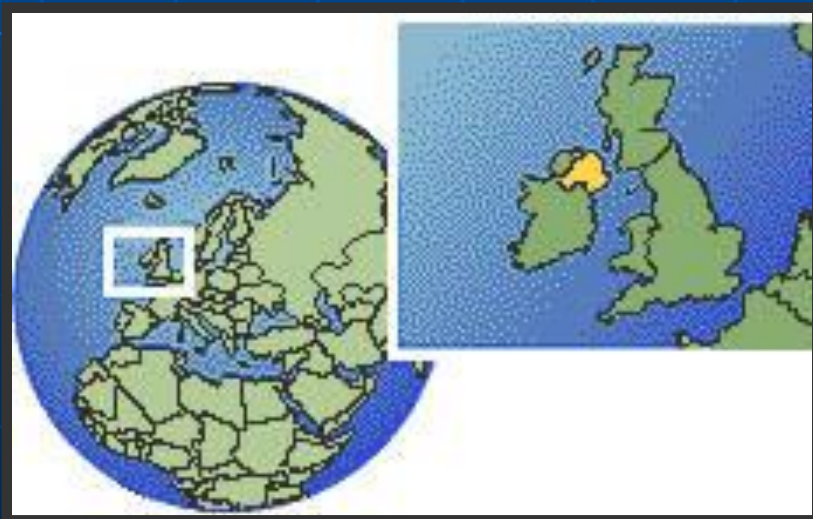
Its capital is Moscow, which is located on the Northern European Plain. There are more than 9 million people that live in Moscow.



Location

United Kingdom

The UK is located very far north. Great Britain is divided into a highland zone (north and west) and a lowland zone (south and east).



Russia

Russia is located near the Arctic Ocean.



Climate

United Kingdom

Even though it is located very far north, a warm current of warm ocean water called the Gulf Stream flows by the British Isles and keeps the **temperatures mild** in the UK.

Its climate is **very moist with plenty of rain**, which is good for crops.



Russia

Russia is located near the Arctic Ocean which causes it have a **very cold climate**. It has **tundra, subarctic, humid continental and steppe climates**.

Russia **does not get a lot of rainfall**.



Farmland

United Kingdom

Most farmland in the United Kingdom is located in the lowland zone. The farmers produce about 60 percent of the country's food. Only about one percent of British people work in agriculture and the country has to import about one-third of its food.

The UK's moist climate with plenty of rain is good for crops. Grains, potatoes, vegetables and meat are the main crops grown in the United Kingdom.



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Russia

Russia's farmland is located on the Northern European Plain, the location of the country's warmest temperatures, in western Russia. Because of the climate, only about 10 percent of Russia's total land is suitable for agriculture.

Grains like wheat and barley are major crops. Russia has to import a lot of its food, especially meat.



Natural Resources

United Kingdom

Important natural resources like **coal, oil, and natural gas** are found in the mountainous highland zone. Large reserves of oil and natural gas found recently in the North Sea have made Great Britain a major supplier of those resources.



Russia

Russia is rich in **mineral resources**, with huge deposits of **coal, oil, and natural gas, and massive forests (taiga)**. Unfortunately, because of the harsh climate and remote locations in Russia, it is difficult and expensive to harvest and transport these resources.



taiga = a forest of evergreen trees growing south of the tundra of Russia

Economics

United Kingdom

Many Britons work in service industries like banking, insurance, and tourism. Thriving manufacturing industries include iron and steel production and electronics.

The island of Great Britain has a jagged coastline with good harbors for trading vessels.



Russia

Many Russian goods are transported by railroad because rivers and major ports are blocked by ice in the winter.

Russia's mining, manufacturing, and fishing industries are fueled by the country's natural resources.



Where people live

United Kingdom

Most Britons live in the lowland zone, where farming and England's major cities are located.



Russia

Most citizens of Russia live in western Russia on the European Plain. This "heartland" is home to Russia's major cities, farms, grazing land for livestock, and the country's warmest temperatures.



New Vocabulary

tundra



cold all
year, little
rainfall

subarctic



long, cold
winters
and short
warm
summers

humid continental



four
distinct
seasons;
long, cold
winters and
short,
warm
summers

steppe



semiarid,
hot
summers
with cooler
winters