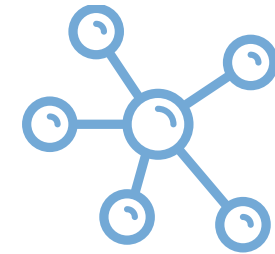


# The United Kingdom: Northern Ireland



## Quick summary



Northern Ireland is one of the four countries of the United Kingdom (UK). It is not part of Great Britain, which is made up of Scotland, Wales and England. It has a population of just under 2 million. Northern Ireland has five cities and many rural areas. Its capital city is Belfast. The official language is English but some people also speak and/or understand the Gaelic language. People from Northern Ireland are known as Northern Irish people. The national flag is the Union Flag of the UK but the Ulster Banner is used at sporting events. It shares its emblem, the clover leaf, and its patron saint, St Patrick, with Ireland. Although part of the UK, it has the Northern Ireland Assembly for local matters.



## Location

Northern Ireland lies to the west of Great Britain and is part of the island of Ireland. To the east is the Irish Sea and to the north and west the Atlantic Ocean.



## Physical features

Northern Ireland has a number of notable physical features: Lough (lake) Neagh is the largest freshwater lake in the UK. The mountains include Sperrin, Mourne and the Antrim Plateau that stretches along its northern coastline. The Giant's Causeway on the North Antrim coast is a walkway of hexagonal columns formed as the result of ancient volcanic activity. Northern Ireland's largest rivers are the Bann, Foyle, Lagan and Mourne.



## Diversity

From the 1960s to the 1990s Northern Ireland suffered during the Troubles – a conflict between those who wanted Northern Ireland to be part of the country of Ireland and those who wanted it to remain in the Union with Great Britain.



## Human features

Northern Ireland has only five cities, the largest of which is Belfast. There are also many smaller towns and villages with a range of roads and transport networks linking them together. Houses, shops, leisure centres, theatres, cinemas and restaurants occupy cities but most of the land in the country is rural.



## Vocabulary

**rural:** relating to the countryside  
**Gaelic:** the traditional Irish language  
**emblem:** badge or symbol  
**causeway:** a pathway  
**hexagonal columns:** long, six-sided shapes  
**conflict:** a serious disagreement, sometimes involving violence



## Location



## Physical features



## Human features



## Diversity



## Physical processes



## Human processes



## Techniques

