

## CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, EDUCATIONS AND HOLIDAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN

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### Annotation

The article contains information about the nature, religious and secular holidays, customs, and national traditions, interesting places, and historical monuments of Great Britain, which is known and famous to the whole world. In addition, the characteristics of Great Britain and the similarities and differences with the traditions of other countries are discussed in detail.

**Key words:** traditions, holidays, historical monuments, education, nature, weather, museums.

### Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada Buyuk Britaniyaning butun dunyoga ma'lum va mashhur bo'lgan tabiati, diniy va dunyoviy bayramlari, urf-odatlar va milliy an'analari, diqqatga sazovor joylari, tarixiy obidalar haqda ma'lumotlar mavjud. Bundan tashqari Buyuk Britaniyaning xususiyatlari va boshqa mamalakatlar an'analari bilan o'xshashlik va farqli tomonlari muhokama qilinadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** an'analar, bayramlar, tarixiy obidalar, ta'lim tizimi, tabiat, ob-havo, muzeylar.

Great Britain is situated in the temperate zone of Europe. The nature of Great Britain is greatly affected by the sea. There is no place situated more than 100-120 km from the seashore, in the northern parts only 40-60 km. The territory of Great Britain can be divided into 3 natural regions:

- 1) Scotland with highland and upland relief and coniferous and mixed forests;
- 2) Wales and mountainous England with upland considerably cut by ravines and valleys and covered with meadows, moorland and cultivated farmland, with patches of broadleaf forest;
- 3) Southeast England with plain landscape, fertile soils, the predominance of cultivated farmlands, with patches of broadleaf forest.

The coastline of Great Britain is greatly indented, especially in the west and northwest where the mountains come close to the coasts. In the south and east, the land gradually slopes down towards the sea, and the coasts are sandy and gentle, here and

there interrupted by the ends of hill-ranges which form low cliffs. The mountains cover the greater part of northern, western and middle Great Britain.

Earliest education in the United Kingdom began in medieval churches and monasteries; for the most part, religious subjects were taught. Many people educated by apprenticeship to an employer or in a guild.

English children must go to school when they are five, first to infant schools where they learn the first steps in reading, writing and using numbers. Young children are divided into two groups according to their mental abilities. The curriculum for «strong» and «weak» groups is different which is the beginning of future education contrasts .

When children leave infant schools, at the age of seven, they go to junior schools until they are about eleven years of age. Their school subjects include English, arithmetic, history, geography, nature study, swimming, music, art, religious instruction and organized games.

The junior classroom often looks rather like a workshop, especially when the pupils are working in groups making models or doing other practical work.

When pupils come to the junior school for the first time, they are still often divided into three «streams» - A,B and C - on the basis of their infant - school marks or sometimes after a special test. The brightest children go to the A-stream and the least gifted to the C-stream.

Education is compulsory between the ages of five and sixteen. Compulsory schooling is divided into a primary and secondary stage. The Transition from the primary to secondary school is normally made at the age of eleven.

There are fewer public holidays in Great Britain than in other European countries. They are:

Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, May Day, Spring Bank Holiday and Summer Bank Holiday. Public holidays in Britain are called bank holidays, because the banks as well as most of the offices and shops are closed.

The most popular holiday is Christmas. Every year the people of Norway give the city of London a present. It's a big Christmas tree and it stands in Trafalgar Square. Central streets are beautifully decorated.

Before Christmas, groups of singers go from house to house. They collect money for charity and sign carols, traditional Christmas songs. Many churches hold a carol service on the Sunday before Christmas.

The fun starts the night before, on the 24th of December. Traditionally this is the day when people decorate their trees. Children hang stockings at the end of their beds, hoping that Father

Christmas will come down with toys and sweets.

Christmas is a family holiday. Relatives usually meet for the big dinner of turkey and Christmas pudding. And everyone gives and receives presents. The 26th of December, Boxing Day, is an extra holiday after Christmas Day. This is the time to visit friends and relatives or perhaps sit at home and watch football.

New Year's Day is less popular in Britain than Christmas. But in Scotland, Hogmanay is the biggest festival of the year.

Besides public holidays there are some special festivals in Great Britain. One of them takes place on the 5th of November. On that day, in 1605, Guy Fawkes tried to blow the Houses of Parliament and kill King James I. He didn't succeed. The King's men found the bomb, took Guy Fawkes to the Tower and cut off his head.

Since that day the British celebrate the 5th of November. They burn a dummy, made of straw and old clothes, on a bonfire and let off fireworks. This dummy is called a «guy» (like Guy Fawkes) and children can often be seen in the streets before the 5th of November saying, «Penny for the guy» if they collect enough money they can buy some fireworks. There are also smaller, local festivals in Britain.

Halloween is both a Britain and an American holiday. In Britain it is celebrated in Scotland and Wales. In the United States it is celebrated in many towns and villages. It is a holiday for children and young people.

In the evening of October 31 boys and girls «Dress up» in different old clothes and wear masks.

As the night is usually quite dark they take with them a lantern made from a pumpkin. On an empty pumpkin they cut out slits for two eyes, a nose and a mouth and put a lighted candle inside. The pumpkin then looks like a jeering face with burning eyes. The children go from house to house and knock at the doors, calling «trick or treat». This means that they will pay no tricks on you «treat» them - ask them in and give them sweets and fill their bags with fruit and cakes or anything else they like.

In England and in the United States February 14 is St.Valentine's Day. Boys and girls send

«Valentines» to their friends. A Valentine is a little poem or some kind of words on it:

I'll be your sweetheart, if you are mine. All of my life I'll be your Valentine.

Schoolchildren enjoy buying or making Valentines for their friends and teachers; very often they write on the Valentine «From guess who», and the person who receives it must guess the name of the sender . In schools boys and girls make a gaily decorated box with a slit on the top where they can «post» their Valentines. Usually each classroom has such a box, at the end of the school day they open the box, take out the Valentines than the other children fell very happy. For very many centuries the first of April was a day of laughing and jokes. The day is kept in many countries, not only in

Britain and the USA. This is a day to play jokes and make people laugh. Nobody knows when was the beginning of this custom.

Some people connect it with made people merry and ready to play jokes.

In Scotland young people were sent for hen's teeth or bird's milk and everybody laughed when they couldn't find such things. In the USA and British someone could place a sign on a person's back with words "push me". Children often tell a grow up that his sock is turned or he has something black on his face, and then shout "April Fool". There is also the old purse trick. A purse is strung along in the street, but when someone wants to take it, it is quickly pulled back by a string, which the hidden joker holds in his hand. Or the purse may be filled with stones.

Sometimes invitations are sent to people asking them to come and visit somebody, but when they come they see that nobody expects them. Some people like to telephone to the Zoo on that day and ask for Mr. Fish, Miss Fox or Mrs. All these jokes are very old but still they make people laugh.

In some places tricks are played only in the morning of April. Then if anyone tries to fool someone later that day or on the next, he is met with these words: "April Fool is past, And you are the biggest Fool at The national museums and art galleries in London contain collections of objects of artistic, archaeological, scientific, historical and general interest. They are the British Museum, the Science Museum, the National Gallery, the Tate Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery and many others. Most cities and towns have museums devoted to art, archaeology and natural history. There are national museums and art galleries in Edinburgh (Scotland), in Cardiff (Wales), in Belfast (Northern Ireland). There are also many private art collections.

The British Museum contains the most important collections in Britain. It is officially described as being the National Library and Museum of History, Archeology, Art and Ethnography. One of the most interesting rooms is the one where the Elgin Marbles are exhibited. These marbles are parts of the Parthenon in Greece. Greek statues of men and of horses are beautifully arranged in this room, and in a smaller room next to it is a model of the Parthenon as it was in its original beauty. A room is devoted to Egypt and has enormous statues and sphinxes; in another room there are Egyptian mummies in painted cases. Then there are exhibits of Roman sculpture. The first stamp in the world was an England stamp. It was made in 1840 to pay the postage on letters going to different parts of the country.

A stamp-collection is not only a good textbook of history and geography. It is also a source of information on many other subjects.

Stamp-collecting helps people from all continents to become friends and get know each other better."

Thus , the nature of Great Britain has a lot of interesting places. Of course , every country has its own beauty, nature, and educational system . Every country on earth has its place and importance.

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