

Culture of the United Kingdom



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Culture



The culture of the United Kingdom is the pattern of human activity and symbolism associated with the United Kingdom and its people. It is informed by the UK's history as a developed island country, liberal democracy and major power, its predominantly Christian religious life, and its composition of four countries — England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales — each of which has distinct customs, cultures and symbolism. British literature, music, cinema, art, theatre, media, television, philosophy and architecture are influential and respected across the world. The United Kingdom is also prominent in science and technology. Sport is an important part of British culture; numerous sports originated in the country, including the national game, football. The UK has been described as a "cultural superpower", and London has been described as a world cultural capital.



Language



The English language is the official language of the UK, and is spoken monolingually by an estimated 95% of the British population. Under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the UK Government has committed to the promotion of certain linguistic traditions. The United Kingdom has ratified the charter for: Welsh (in Wales), Scottish Gaelic and Scots (in Scotland), Cornish (in Cornwall), and Irish and Ulster Scots (in Northern Ireland). British Sign Language is also a recognised language.

Literature



At its formation, the United Kingdom immediately inherited the literary traditions of England and Scotland, including the earliest existing native literature written in the Celtic languages, Anglo-Saxon literature and more recent English literature including the works of Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and John Milton. The most widely popular writer of the early years of the 20th century was arguably Rudyard Kipling. To date the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Kipling's novels include *The Jungle Book*, *The Man Who Would Be King* and *Kim*, while his inspirational poem *If* — is a national favourite.

Music



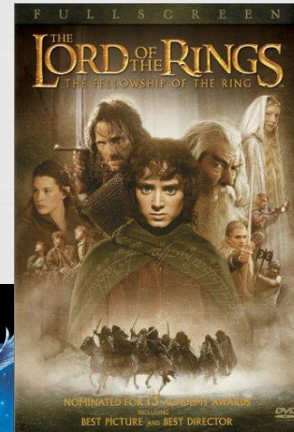
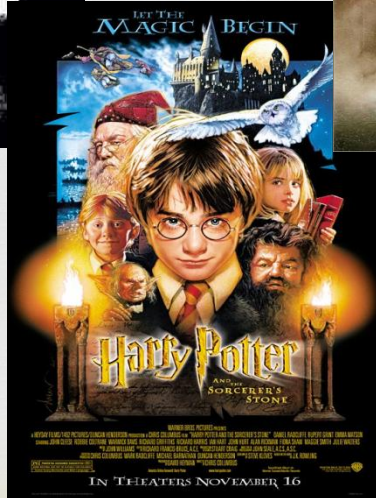
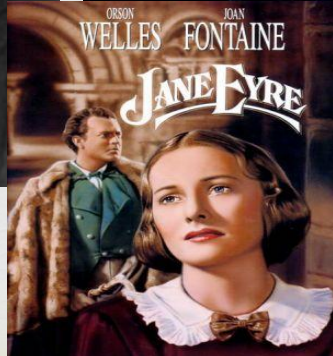
The traditional folk music of England has contributed to several genres, such as sea shanties, jigs, hornpipes and dance music.



Cinema



The UK has had a large impact on modern cinema, producing some of the greatest actors, directors and motion pictures of all time.

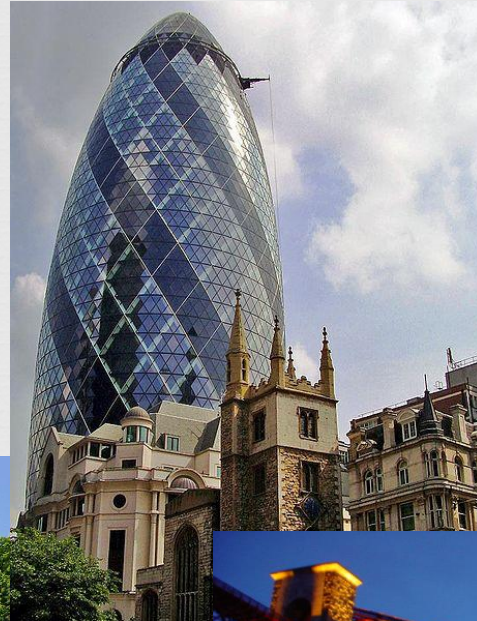




The Odeon cinema in Leicester Square



Architecture



Stonehenge



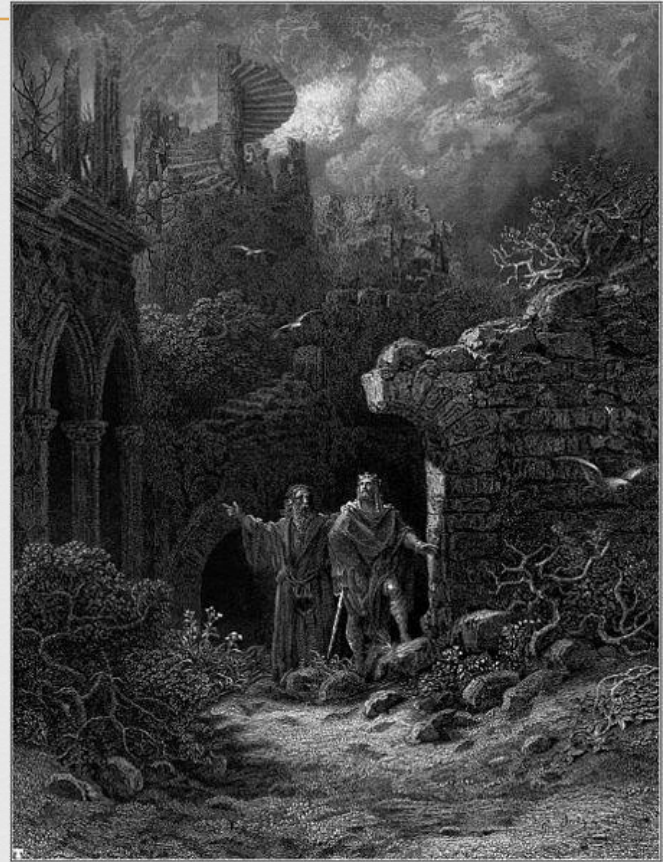
Folklore



Much of the folklore of the United Kingdom predates the UK. Though some of the characters and stories are present across Britain, most belong to specific countries or regions. Common folkloric beings include pixies, giants, elves, bogeymen, trolls, goblins and dwarves. While many legends and folk-customs are thought to be ancient, for instance the tales featuring Offa of Angeln and Weyland Smith, others date from after the Norman invasion; Robin Hood and his Merry Men of Sherwood and their battles with the Sheriff of Nottingham being, perhaps, the best known.



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Science and technology



From the time of the Scientific Revolution, England and Scotland, and thereafter the United Kingdom, have been prominent in world scientific and technological development. The Royal Society serves as the national academy for sciences, with members drawn from many different institutions and disciplines. Formed in 1660, it is one of the oldest learned societies still in existence. Sir Isaac Newton's publication of the *Principia Mathematica* ushered in what is recognisable as modern physics. William Sturgeon invented the electromagnet in 1824. The most celebrated British explorers include James Cook, Walter Raleigh, Sir Francis Drake, Henry Hudson, George Vancouver, Sir John Franklin, David Livingstone, Captain John Smith, Robert Falcon Scott, Lawrence Oates and Ernest Shackleton.

Sport



Most of the major sports have separate administrative structures and national teams for each of the countries of the United Kingdom. Though each country is also represented individually at the Commonwealth Games, there is a single 'Team GB' (for Great Britain) that represents the UK at the Olympic Games. The most popular sport in the UK is association football.



Education



Each country of the United Kingdom has a separate education system. Power over education matters in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is devolved but education in England is dealt with by the UK government since there is no devolved administration for England.





UK is a amazing country with a unique culture. This culture is made up of individual categories: language, literature, sports, movies, and music, which generally shows us the development of this great nation. Each category is an integral part of the history, the history of generations.