**England** is a [country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Country) that is [part](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Countries_of_the_United_Kingdom) of the [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England#cite_note-6)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England#cite_note-7)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England#cite_note-8) It shares land borders with [Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland) to the north and [Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wales) to the west. The [Irish Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Sea) lies northwest of England and the [Celtic Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtic_Sea) lies to the southwest. England is separated from [continental Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Europe) by the [North Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Sea) to the east and the [English Channel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Channel) to the south. The country covers five-eighths of the island of [Great Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain), which lies in the [North Atlantic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean#Northern_Atlantic), and includes [over 100 smaller islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_islands_of_England), such as the [Isles of Scilly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isles_of_Scilly) and the [Isle of Wight](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle_of_Wight).

The area now called England was first inhabited by modern humans during the [Upper Palaeolithic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Palaeolithic) period, but takes its name from the [Angles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angles), a [Germanic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanic_peoples) tribe deriving its name from the [Anglia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglia_%28peninsula%29) peninsula, who settled during the 5th and 6th centuries. England became a unified state in the 10th century, and since the [Age of Discovery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Discovery), which began during the 15th century, has had a significant cultural and legal impact on the wider world.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England#cite_note-9) The English language, the [Anglican Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglican_Communion), and [English law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_law) – the basis for the [common law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_law) legal systems of many other countries around the world – developed in England, and the country's [parliamentary system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_the_United_Kingdom) of government has been widely adopted by other nations.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England#cite_note-10) The [Industrial Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_Revolution) began in 18th-century England, transforming its society into the world's first industrialised nation.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England#cite_note-11)

England's terrain is chiefly low hills and [plains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plain), especially in central and southern England. However, there are uplands in the north (for example, the mountainous [Lake District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_District), and the [Pennines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennines)) and in the west (for example, [Dartmoor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dartmoor) and the [Shropshire Hills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shropshire_Hills)). The capital is London, which has the largest metropolitan area in both the United Kingdom and the [European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union).[[nb 1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England#cite_note-12) England's population of over 55 million comprises 84% of the population of the United Kingdom,[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England#cite_note-ONS-pop-ests-June2018-3) largely concentrated around London, the [South East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_East_England), and conurbations in the [Midlands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Midlands), the [North West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_West_England), the [North East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_East_England), and [Yorkshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yorkshire), which each developed as major industrial regions during the 19th century.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England#cite_note-2011census-13)