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# COUNTRY STUDIES

ЛИНГВОСТРАНОВЕДЕНИЕ

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Пособие по английскому языку предназначено для подготовки учащихся к успешному выступлению на Всероссийской олимпиаде школьников. В нем представлены материалы, помогающие выполнить задания раздела Country studies, посвященного истории и культуре англоговорящих стран.

В процессе работы читатель сможет акцентировать внимание на ключевых аспектах, требующих тщательного изучения, оптимизировать подготовку к выполнению заданий данного типа. Предложенные тренировочные задания, помогут проверить полученные при чтении знания.

Пособие предназначено для учащихся 7—11 классов, учителей английского языка, а также родителей. Издание соответствует Федеральному государственному образовательному стандарту (ФГОС).

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Great Britain has an outstandingly rich history. In order to deal with tasks on the topic, you have to learn the events that shaped the course of the country's development, the most prominent figures and cultural landmarks that created the image of the UK. When working on this part of the manual, do not forget to pay attention to the references at the bottom of the pages.

If the material that follows sparks your interest in British history, you are sure to find 'A Brief History of Great Britain' by Г.А. Вильданова and О.В. Павлова handy and informative.

## 1. A Concise History of Britain

### 1.1. Ancient Britain

The first stages of the existence of life on the British Isles are often described as prehistoric or as unwritten history of Britain. The greatest monument existing back then is *Stonehenge on Salisbury plain*. In 1986 the site and its surroundings were added to the UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

The land of the Isles was invaded several times by:

The Celts (from France)

- ❖ They imposed their dialects on the native population: Gaelic spread in Ireland and Scotland, Brythonic in — England and Wales.
- ❖ The Celts were not as barbaric as portrayed by the media. They are famous for their religion and culture, led by Druids and Priests.
- ❖ In the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD the Celts were defeated by the Romans and moved from England to Wales and Scotland.



The Romans

- ❖ They conducted two expeditions led by *Julius Caesar* to conquer the land in 55 and 54 BC, but in vain. The expeditions are put down in history books as exploratory.
- ❖ The conquest was conducted by *the Emperor Claudius* only in 43 AD.

❖ The Romans imposed *Pax Romana* – *Roman peace* – which stopped the tribal wars and protected Britain from the outside tribes – the Scots, Saxons and Picts.

❖ The Romans turned the Britons into slaves provoking inevitable revolts. The best known of them was initiated by *Queen Boadicea's*<sup>1</sup> husband. He was soon killed and she was to lead the tribes against the Romans in 60 AD. The rebels ruined London, Colchester and St. Albans just to be defeated. The Queen hated the idea of becoming a prisoner and poisoned herself and her two daughters.

❖ The Romans built walls around London, bridges over the Thames and the straightest roads in the world. They also made an attempt to impose Christianity in the form of Catholicism.

❖ The greatest monument by the Romans is *Hadrian's Wall*. It was built by *the Emperor Hadrian* in 120 AD to protect the Romans from invaders. Some parts of the wall can be seen even today.

❖ In the 5–7<sup>th</sup> century the Romans began to disintegrate and most were ousted from Britain.



The Angles, Saxons and Jutes (from what we now know as Germany), 7<sup>th</sup> century

❖ The time of *King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table* (they were all romans) who protected the land from the invaders. King Arthur is alleged to have lived in Scotland.

❖ The Anglo-Saxons managed to settle and oust the Roman dispersed tribes.

❖ The Anglo-Saxons killed Christian Britons returning the country to paganism.



The Vikings (from Denmark)

❖ At that time the King of the West Saxons (consequently, the King of Britain) was *Alfred the Great*. He defeated the Viking armies

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<sup>1</sup> The Queen of the Iceni tribe. There is a monument to the Queen in Hyde Park, London.

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