

ROUNDTRIP OF
BRITAIN AND
IRELAND



Roundtrip of Britain and Ireland

LEVEL

The game is aimed at elementary and pre-intermediate level students of English.

It can be played at two different levels: A2 and B1.

The teacher can decide which level best suits the needs of the class.

The number of stars on the playing cards identifies the level: one star for level A2 and two stars for level B1.

The teacher can also choose to mix together the cards in order to cater for mixed ability classes.

AIMS

The game aims to help students to:

- develop vocabulary
- revise grammar and language structures: definite and indefinite articles, interrogative forms, tenses...
- find out about British culture
- learn idiomatic expressions

MATERIALS

- a dice (with different colours on each side: yellow, blue, orange, purple, red and green)
- a dice with numbers
- a playing board with 100 squares (35 photographic squares, 51 coloured squares, 14 instruction squares), representing a map of the British Isles
- 132 playing cards (divided into 6 coloured decks each containing 22 cards).

PLAYERS

- teams or individual
- a game master (teacher or student)

THE ITINERARY

The playing board represents a map of Britain and Ireland with the following countries: England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

RULES OF THE GAME

- Lay out all the game components on a table.
- Decide which level of cards you wish to use.
- Shuffle the decks of cards.
- The youngest player/team leader throws the coloured dice first and answers a question corresponding to the colour on the side of the dice.

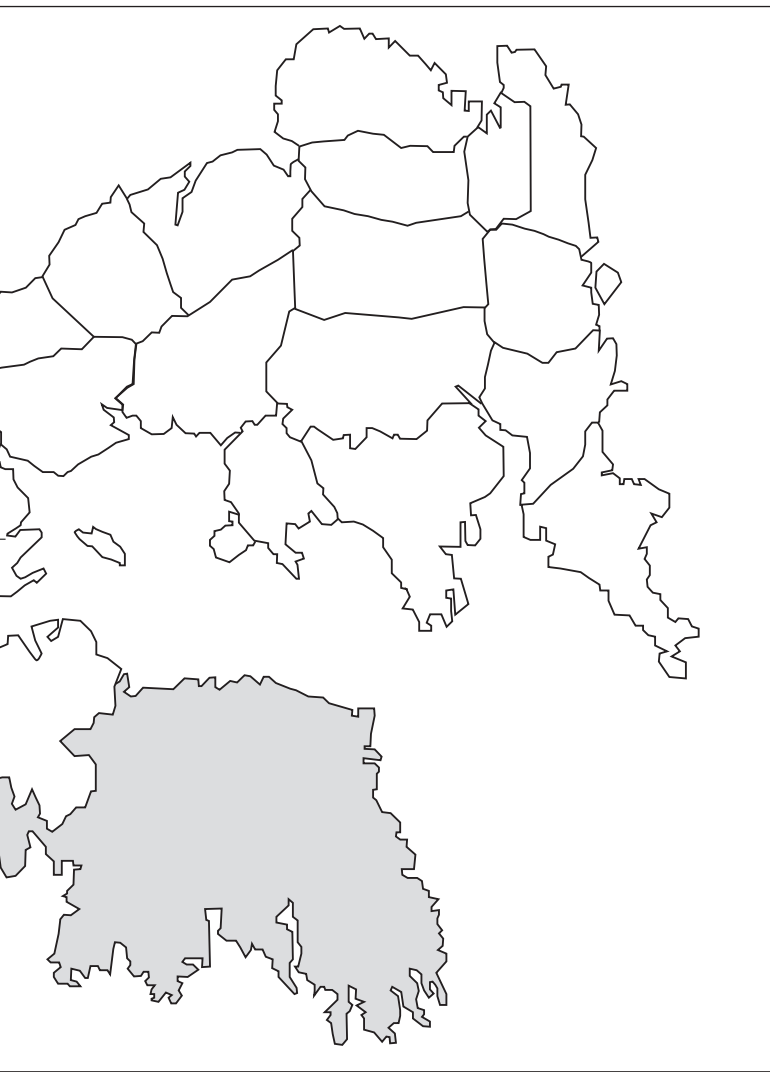
Yellow	Riddle
Blue	Geography
Orange	Odd one out
Purple	Idiomatic expression
Red	Culture
Green	Grammar

- Play continues in a clockwise direction.
- The correct answers are highlighted on the cards to help the game master.
- If a player answers correctly he throws the numbered dice and moves along the board.
- If a player answers incorrectly he doesn't throw the numbered dice and remains on the square without moving forward.
- If a player's token lands on an instruction square, he/she follows the instructions.

The winner is the first player/team to reach the London finish square.

MAP OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND





Extra ideas

1

The teacher asks the students (in groups or individually) to do some research about the various cities on the playing board. They can then exchange information with the rest of the class and/or make a poster. The research could be based on a particular aspect of a city: history, important buildings, traditions, famous people, food... etc. Students can be encouraged to carry out research on the Internet, using the suggested websites provided in this guide.

2

Students study the playing board carefully, remembering the location of the cities. The teacher then hands out blank maps of Britain and Ireland on which the students attempt to locate the main cities. The teacher can then carry out a simple listening activity by reading aloud a new itinerary which the students mark on their maps. After correcting the maps they can then create their own itineraries in order to create an alternative game.

3

The teacher hands out blank copies of the map of Britain and Ireland and asks the students to locate the main rivers, seas, mountains, climates, regions and main cities. They can consult an atlas if necessary. Simple questions can enliven a geography lesson: *Which river runs through Liverpool? What's the weather like in Scotland?...*

4

The teacher invites students to create new sets of questions for each category (geography, culture etc.). These can be used as extra playing cards.

5

The teacher hands out the playing cards with idiomatic expressions and asks the students to illustrate the meaning of the expression. This helps the students to understand and remember the expressions in a context. They can also play a mime game; one student mimes an expression and the rest of the class guesses what it is. Points can be awarded for each correctly guessed expression.

6

The teacher hands out blank copies of the map of Britain and Ireland and asks the students to locate counties/regions, matching them together with a typical dish or food. Students can consult the recommended list of websites to find information.

Examples include: Cornwall – Cornish pasties, Scotland – shortbread, haggis, Devon – clotted cream, Cheshire – cheese, Yorkshire – Yorkshire pudding...

Websites and information

Dover

A town and ferry port in South East England. It is famous for the white cliffs which are made of chalk. It faces France across the narrowest part of the English Channel.

<http://www.doverport.co.uk>

<http://www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk/>

Brighton

A city on the south coast of England. Eight million tourists a year visit Brighton. The city's landmarks include the Royal Pavilion and Brighton Pier. Being less than an hour from London by train, the city is a popular seaside destination.

<http://www.visitbrighton.com/>

<http://www.royalpavilion.org.uk/>

Southampton

A major port on the south coast of England. In 1912 the *RMS Titanic* sailed from Southampton.

<http://www.visit-southampton.co.uk/>

Stonehenge

Stonehenge is a famous prehistoric monument located in the South West of England, near the city of Salisbury.

<http://www.stonehenge.co.uk/>

<http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/>

<http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/salisbury/home>

Exeter

A city in the county of Devon.

A 'cream tea' is tea with scones, clotted cream and jam. You can enjoy a cream tea in tea rooms throughout England, but especially in the South West. In fact, it is also known as 'Devonshire tea' or 'Cornish cream tea'.

<http://www.exeter.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=297>

Plymouth

A city on the coast of Devon. It has ferry links to France and Spain.

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/leisureandtourism/tourismandvisitors.htm>

Land's End

Located in the county of Cornwall, it is the most southerly point of mainland Britain.

<http://www.visitcornwall.com/>

<http://www.penzance.co.uk/tourism/landsend.htm>

Bath

A city in Somerset, South West England, it was founded in the valley of the River Avon, around naturally occurring hot springs where the Romans built baths and a temple, giving it the name Aquae Sulis. In 1987 the city became a World Heritage Site. It has many theatres, museums and other cultural and sporting venues, and is popular with tourists.

<http://www.visitbath.co.uk/>

<http://www.cityofbath.co.uk/>

Oxford

A city in the South East of England, it is home to the University of Oxford, the oldest university in the English-speaking world.

<http://www.oxfordcity.co.uk/>

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/>

Stratford-upon-Avon

Located in the West Midlands in the county of Warwickshire, the town is a popular tourist destination, famous for being the birthplace of the playwright and poet William Shakespeare.

<http://www.stratford-upon-avon.co.uk/>

<http://www.bl.uk/treasures/shakespeare/stratford.html>

Birmingham

A city in the West Midlands of England, it is the second most populated British city after London. During the Industrial Revolution in England, Birmingham became known as 'the workshop of the world'.

Balti food is the name of the Pakistani style of food that is very popular in England. It is a hot curry-style dish which is normally served with naan bread.

<http://www.visitbirmingham.com/>

Cardiff

The capital city of Wales.

Cardiff Castle is a medieval castle. The Roman fort was possibly established at the end of the AD50s. Located at the heart of Cardiff in beautiful parklands, it is a popular tourist attraction where visitors can enjoy 2,000 years of history.

<http://www.visitcardiff.com/>

<http://www.cardiffcastle.com/>

Snowdon

The highest mountain in Wales, located in the Snowdonia National Park. The summit is 1,085 metres above sea level.

<http://www.snowdon.com/home.php>

Liverpool

A city in North West England. Inhabitants are known as 'Liverpudlians' or 'Scousers'. The city is the birthplace of 'The Beatles' and for this reason is a popular tourist destination. In 2008 the city was named 'European Capital of Culture'.

<http://www.visitliverpool.com/>

<http://beatlesstory.com/>

Dublin

The capital of Ireland. It is an economic and cultural centre. It has one of the fastest growing populations of any European capital city. The writer James Joyce set his famous novels 'Dubliners' and 'Ulysses' in the city. Famous musicians and bands from Dublin include U2 and Sinéad O'Connor.

<http://www.visitdublin.com/>

<http://www.discoverireland.ie/>

Cork

The second largest city in the Republic of Ireland. Located on the River Lee, it is a major Irish seaport.

<http://www.cork-guide.ie/corkcity.htm>

Galway

A city on the west coast of Ireland. It is nicknamed 'Ireland's Cultural Heart' and is well known for its vibrant lifestyle and numerous festivals.

<http://www.galway-ireland.ie/tourism-galway.htm>

Giant's Causeway

Located in Northern Ireland, this is an area of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the result of an ancient volcanic eruption. Today it is the most popular tourist attraction in Northern Ireland.

<http://www.northerntrim.com/giantscauseway.htm>

Belfast

The capital city of Northern Ireland. Today Belfast is a centre for industry, the arts, higher education and business. In the past (from 1969 to the late 1990s), the city suffered much conflict during the period known as 'the Troubles'.

<http://www.gotobelfast.com/>

Isle of Man

An island located in the Irish Sea. It is a Crown Dependency, with its own parliament. The head of state is Queen Elizabeth II.

<http://www.isleofman.com/index.aspx>

Blackpool

A seaside town in Lancashire in North West England. During the 19th century, Blackpool became a major centre of tourism. Blackpool Tower (inspired by the Eiffel Tower in Paris), opened in 1894 and has been a landmark of the town. Beneath the tower there is a complex of leisure facilities and restaurants.

<http://www.visitblackpool.com/>

Glasgow

The second largest city in Scotland. It attracts over 3 million tourists each year.

<http://www.seeglasgow.com/>

Ben Nevis

The highest mountain in the British Isles, the summit is 1,344 metres above sea level.

http://www.visit-fortwilliam.co.uk/mf_bennevis.html

Inverness

A city in northern Scotland which lies where the River Ness enters the Moray Firth. Loch Ness is situated nearby and is famous for the alleged sightings of the legendary Loch Ness Monster, also known as 'Nessie'.

<http://www.inverness-scotland.com/>

<http://www.nessie.co.uk/>

John o'Groats

A village in the Highland area of Scotland, popular with tourists because it is regarded as the most northerly settlement of mainland Great Britain.

John o'Groats is often used as the starting or ending point for walks to and from Land's End.

<http://www.visitjohnogroats.com/>

<http://www.jogroats.co.uk/>

Aberdeen

Scotland's third most populous city. Aberdeen has a long, sandy coastline and traditionally it was home to fishing, shipbuilding and textile mills.

Shortbread is a type of biscuit which originated in Scotland. It is made from sugar, flour and butter.

<http://www.agtb.org/>

Edinburgh

The capital city of Scotland, it is often considered one of the most picturesque cities in Europe. The city is well-known for the Edinburgh Festival which takes place over four weeks in the month of August.

Edinburgh Castle is located on the volcanic Castle Rock above the city.

<http://www.stayinedinburgh.net/leisurelinks.asp>

<http://www.visitscotland.com/>

<http://www.edinburghcastle.gov.uk/>

Hadrian's Wall

Built by the Roman Empire across what is now northern England.

Building began during the reign of emperor Hadrian in AD122. The wall aimed to prevent military raids on Roman Britain by the Pictish tribes (the ancient inhabitants of Scotland).

<http://www.hadrians-wall.org/>

Newcastle

A city in North East England, situated on the River Tyne.

<http://www.cityround.com/newcastle/tourist.php>

York

A city in North Yorkshire, England. York Minster, the second largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe stands at the city's centre.

Yorkshire pudding is a dish that originated in Yorkshire. It is made from batter and is usually served with roast meat and gravy as part of the Sunday lunch.

<http://www.yorkminster.org/>

<http://www.visitYork.org/new/>

Manchester

A city in North West England, often known as the 'capital of the North'. Today Manchester is a centre of the arts, media, higher education and commerce. The city has two Premier League football teams, Manchester United and Manchester City. Many popular music bands come from Manchester; Oasis, Take That, Simply Red...

<http://www.manutd.com/>

<http://www.visitmanchester.com/>

Nottingham

A city in the East Midlands of England. Tourists are attracted to the city by the legend of Robin Hood (who robbed from the rich to give to the poor). They can visit Sherwood Forest and Nottingham Castle.

<http://www.visitnottingham.com/>

Leicester

A city in the East Midlands of England. It has an ethnically diverse population with a large South Asian community. In fact, there are about 70 languages and/or dialects spoken in the city. Leicester cheese is an English cheese originally from Leicestershire. It is made from cow's milk and has a mild flavour.

<http://www.goleicestershire.com/>

Cambridge

A university town in the East of England. The University of Cambridge is one the world's leading universities. Punting on the River Cam is a popular activity.

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/>

<http://www.visitcambridge.org/>

London

The capital of England and the United Kingdom, it has a population of about 7.5 million. London's history goes back to its founding by the Romans. It is one of the world's most important business, financial and cultural centres. Samuel Johnson (an English author) wrote about the city saying: '... when a man is tired of London, he is tired of life...'.

<http://www.visitlondon.com/>

<http://www.visitbritain.com/>

<http://www.londontown.com/>

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