

CULTURE 1 UK Profile

1 *Students' own answers.*

2 Wales – orange, Scotland – blue, Northern Ireland – yellow

3 1 D 2 A 3 C 4 B

Background information

Edinburgh had an important role in the Scottish Enlightenment in the 18th century, when scientists, poets, philosophers and writers made the city one of the centres of European civilisation. Every August the city hosts a very popular international arts festival.

London is one of the major centres of British art, music, politics, fashion and media and one of the most cosmopolitan of world cities. It is the capital of England and the UK. It is the host city of the 2012 Olympic Games.

Cardiff is the UK's youngest capital city. It became the capital of Wales in 1955. The Millennium Stadium is the home of the Welsh rugby team and a popular venue for many different sporting events and concerts.

Belfast became the capital of Northern Ireland in 1921. The *Titanic* was built in the city's shipyards. Until the late 20th century shipbuilding was one of the city's most important industries. In recent years large parts of the city have been redeveloped.

4 Manchester 1, Birmingham 4, Cambridge 3, Canterbury 5

Background information

Manchester was an important city in the Industrial Revolution. In the 20th century it became very well known as a centre of the British music industry with the success of bands like Joy Division, The Smiths, Happy Mondays, The Stone Roses and Oasis.

Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland and famous for the intense rivalry between its two big football teams, Rangers and Celtic. The city used to be one of the most important in the world for shipbuilding. It was the European Capital of Culture in 1990.

Cambridge is a small city about 50 miles north of London. It is famous for its University, which was founded in 1209. Many famous scientists, politicians, actors and writers have studied here. The University is made up of 31 colleges. Members of one of them, Trinity College, have won 31 Nobel Prizes.

Birmingham is the UK's second largest city and is located in the Midlands. It is known for its manufacturing industries, but has recently been regenerated and has a growing reputation as a centre of modern architecture.

Canterbury is a small city in the south-east of England. It is famous for its beautiful Cathedral. The Archbishop of Canterbury is one of the most important figures in the Church of England.

5 *Students' own answers.*

6 1 b 2 Oxford 2, London 1, Edinburgh 3
3 a 4 c 5 a 6 b 7 b 8 c

7 *Students' own answers.*

CULTURE 2 Festivals

Background information

Board games *Monopoly* and *Trivial Pursuit* are two of the most famous English language board games. *Monopoly* was created in the US in 1935, while *Trivial Pursuit* was created in Canada in 1979.

Auld Lang Syne The Scottish poet Robert Burns wrote this in 1788 and used the music of a traditional folk song. The Scottish title translates as 'long ago' or 'long time since'. Auld Lang Syne is sung at midnight on December 31st in many English-speaking countries to welcome in the New Year.

Egg rolling The Easter tradition of rolling hard-boiled eggs down a hill goes back centuries and takes place in several countries, including Germany and the Netherlands. One of the most famous Easter egg-rolling events takes place on the lawn of the White House in Washington. This dates back to 1878 when President Rutherford B. Hayes invited children on to the lawn on the Easter Monday of that year.

- 1** Jack-o'-lantern **3** Big Ben **7** bonfire **5** Easter egg **2** hot cross buns **8** Christmas tree **1** Christmas card **4**
- 2** Halloween – 31st October
Bonfire Night – 5th November
Christmas Day – 25th December
New Year's Eve – 31st December
- 3** **2** Halloween **3** Bonfire Night
4 Christmas Day **5** Easter, Halloween,
Christmas Day **6** New Year's Eve
7 Easter, Christmas Day **8** Christmas Day
- 4** **2** Easter **3** Halloween **4** New Year's Eve
- 5a** *Students' own answers.*
- 5b** *Students' own answers.*

CULTURE 3 London

- 1** **2** London Eye **3** Houses of Parliament
4 Tower of London **5** London Aquarium
6 Madame Tussauds

Background information

Camden Market in North London has been a busy place since it opened in 1974. It's famous for clothes and crafts.

The London Eye is the biggest Ferris wheel in Europe. It opened in March 2000 and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in London.

The Houses of Parliament was built in the 19th century, after a fire destroyed the original building. It is also called the Palace of Westminster.

The oldest part of the **Tower of London** was built around 1087. This used to be a prison. Now it is the home of the Crown Jewels.

The London Aquarium opened in 1997. It's situated near the London Eye on the South Bank of the River Thames.

Madame Tussauds was first opened in 1835 by a French wax sculptor called Marie Tussaud. There are branches all over the world, including Amsterdam, New York and Hong Kong.

- 2** art – Ben clothes – Ellie science – Natasha shops – Ellie history – Jake
- 3** **museums** – Museum of London, British Museum
historical buildings – Houses of Parliament
art galleries – Tate Modern
shopping – Covent Garden

Background information

The **Natural History Museum** is in Kensington. It's well known for its exhibition of dinosaur skeletons.

Tate Modern museum reopened in 2000. It houses a collection of 20th-century modern art.

Covent Garden is an area of central London. It's famous for its shops, its street performers and the Opera House.

- 4** **1** the London Eye **2** Hyde Park **3** The London Aquarium **4** Madame Tussauds

5a *Students' own answers.*

5b *Students' own answers.*

6 *Students' own answers.*

CULTURE 4 London Museums

Background information

Founded in 1753, the **British Museum** was the world's first national public museum. Nearly six million people visit each year. The museum displays over seven million items, including the Rosetta Stone, which was used to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics.

The Natural History Museum was founded in 1881, growing out of a department of the British Museum. As well as its famous dinosaurs it has specimens collected by Charles Darwin.

The Science Museum began life at the Great Exhibition of 1851, held in the Crystal Palace in London's Hyde Park. It opened in 1857 and houses many famous objects, such as Stephenson's Rocket (the first modern steam locomotive) and the first jet engine.

- 1** Dippy 2 Nesperennub 1 Launchball 3
- 2** **2** F Lots of teenagers like the Ancient Egyptian collections.
- 3** F Ginger is 5,400 years old.
- 4** F The garden is outside the Natural History Museum.
- 5** T
- 6** T
- 7** F You can buy a computer game called *Launchball*.
- 8** F It shows 3D films of dinosaurs, prehistoric sea monsters and life on a space station.
- 9** T
- 3** *Students' own answers.*
- 4** **1** c **2** a **3** a **4** b
- 5** *Students' own answers.*