



Year 4 London and the South-East Reading Booklet

Lesson Series:

- 1. Introduction to the South East (Counties)**
- 2. London**
- 3. Canterbury**
- 4. Brighton**
- 5. Dover**
- 6. Assessment**

Name: _____

Class: _____

Lesson 1

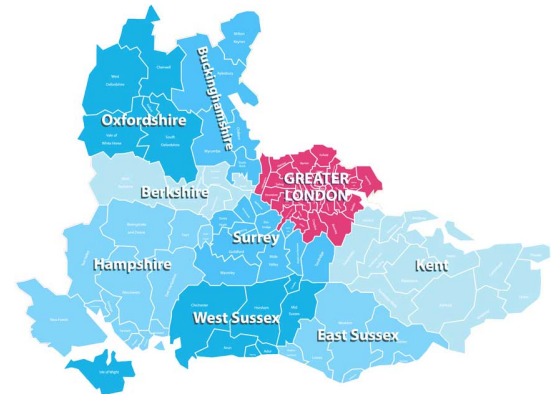
Counties in the South-East

The word **region** means an area of a country. The South-East is a region of England and is next to where London is located.

The South-East is made up of these counties:

Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex, Kent, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and the Isle of Wight.

As well as being so close to London, the region itself has a huge population of over eight and a half million people. This has led to the South East becoming one of the largest Economically strong in England. Particularly due it's major motorway links so it is a very easy area to reach by car and train. Each county is popular with tourists too, because of the vast varied open landscapes, thriving economy and shops, historical towns and beautiful cities. This brings in visitors from all over the world and therefore these areas have a higher level of wealth that other regions of England.



Lesson 2

London

London is the capital city of England and was built by the Romans (the Roman name is Londinium) as a trade port. It was a great **trade** port due to the **River Thames** running through it - a wide river that provided easy and safe access for trading ships to bring their goods into the country. It is one of the most highly populated cities in the world and is known as a **conurbation**. This means that it is a large area including several different cities or large towns that have grown so much that they are now connected to each other. This is why London is such a large city.

Modern London is a busy, bustling city, with a population of around 9 million people. Some of the major landmarks include the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, the London Eye and the Shard. These are **human features** because they were all built by people.

The river Thames is a geographical feature. Over time, London has had great importance and has a rich history of conflict, development and change.



Lesson 3

Canterbury.

Canterbury is a beautiful and very historic English **cathedral city** and UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is in the middle of the City of Canterbury, a local government district of Kent, in England.

Canterbury is known for its extraordinary history and the grandeur and beauty of its religious buildings. Due to its history and religious importance, Canterbury is a popular tourist destination as it is consistently one of the most-visited cities in the United Kingdom. The city's economy relies heavily on tourism and has many attractions such as the cathedral, punting on the river, museums, exhibitions and many lovely places to eat. Canterbury remains, however, a small city in terms of geographical size and population, when compared with other British cities. The population of Canterbury was 65,652 (2021) and the main river is the River Stour (Great Stour).

Canterbury has a great history for such a small city. Over 500 years ago, a man called Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a famous book called The Canterbury Tales. It told 24 stories about people who travelled to Canterbury to visit a shrine dedicated to **Thomas Becket** (he was Archbishop of Canterbury until his murder in Canturbury Cathedral by followers of the King in 1170 - he was killed because he disagreed with the King about the rights of the church). It was written in Middle English, an old version of our language. It is famous because although the characters are fictional, they reveal lots about how people lived. No other author of the time had written about so many different characters, both rich and poor.

Read this



Lesson 4

Brighton

The town of Brighton is a wonderful seaside town, which began as a small Saxon village called Beorthealm's Tun (Beorthealm's farm or village) in the 5th century. It is a very popular tourist destination due to its great transport links

by road and train, its long pebble beaches and the **Palace Pier**, which opened in 1899 stretches out into the sea. At night, 67,000 bulbs light up the pier. The pier is a key man-made landmark of the **coastline** and was built during the Victorian period, and now has fairground rides, a roller coaster and food stalls for visitors to enjoy. Piers were very popular during the Victorian period, but over time the number of remaining ones is reducing.

Read this



Brighton is only 47 miles from the busy city of London and is very popular for visitors, partly due to its **temperate climate**. It is characterised by mild, calm weather with high levels of sunshine and sea breezes. Average rainfall levels increase as the land rises. This busy and beautiful city with its long open beaches has been described as the 'happiest place to live'!

Lesson 5

Dover

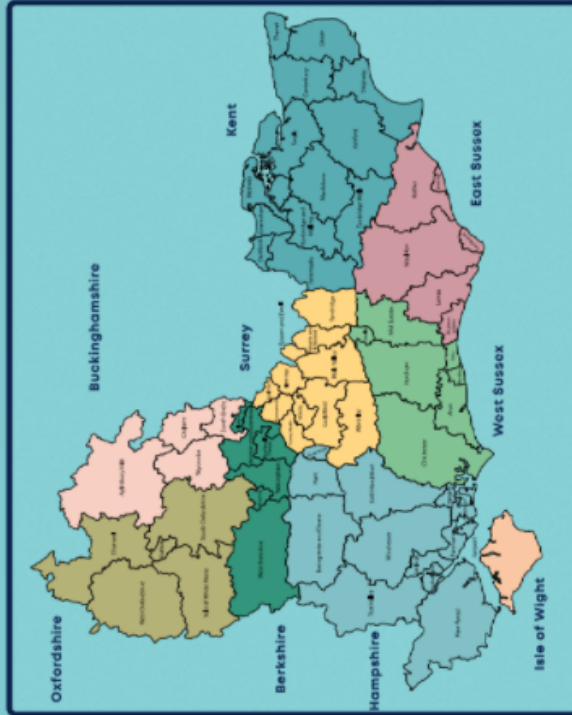


Dover lies to the south-east of Canterbury and north-east of Brighton. The name of the town derives from the River Dour. According to archaeological finds, Dover has been inhabited since the Stone Age. The White Cliffs of Dover are a beautiful geological landmark, referred to in poetry and books for centuries and stretch along eight miles of Dover's coastline. At their highest they are 350 feet tall. The cliffs are white because the rock they are made from is chalk. The chalk at Dover is actually the ancient skeletal remains of sea algae that, over millions of years, sank to the bottom of the sea, mixed with other remains of sea creatures and created the white chalk we see today. We can see the white of the chalk because of erosion, the rock is eroded or worn away naturally by the wind, rain and sea. Where the rock is protected, plants grow and cover the white chalk. The famous song 'The White Cliffs of Dover' was written when England was at war with Germany. The planes of the Royal Air Force had been fighting the German air force over the South Coast of England and the British pilots could see the cliffs from the air. This song tells of a time when peace has returned.

The site of the original Dover settlement lies in the valley of the River Dour which makes it an ideal place for a port because it is sheltered from south-westerly winds. People have lived in Dover since the Stone Age and archaeologists have found evidence to show that it had maritime importance throughout both the Bronze and Iron Ages. Dover might only be a town, but it has one of the most important ports in the whole of England. It faces France at the narrowest part of the English Channel (the Strait of Dover) and therefore has been used as a trade port with many European countries at some point. Ships dock here to load and unload cargo. People can travel by ferry from Dover to France and the rest of Europe.



London and the South East



KEY VOCABULARY

London

The **capital city** of England.

Coastline

The area where **land meets sea** along the coast

Cliffs

A very **steep rock face**, often found where the land meets the sea

Skyline

An **outline of land and buildings** defined against the sky

Transportation

The **action of moving** someone or something

Pier

A construction that creates a **platform that projects out from the shore into the sea**. Often piers have facilities for visitors such as amusement arcades and cafes

Tourist

A **person who travels to a place** for pleasure

Dover

A **ferry port in Kent**, on the coast of the English Channel



Houses of Parliament in London



White Cliffs of Dover



Canterbury Cathedral



Palace Pier in Brighton



River Thames