

# British Culture



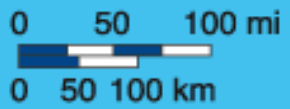
**BY CELIA VASQUEZ**

# Questions for Thought



- Can you think of any examples of how we are influenced by the British Culture?
- What do you know about the British Culture?
- As we discuss different aspects of British culture, can you see any similarities or differences with our own Peruvian culture?

# N United Kingdom



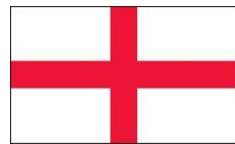
# National Identity



- English (specifically England)  $\neq$  British (generally Great Britain)
- United Kingdom - England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland
- Great Britain = England, Scotland, and Wales
- National Flag = England (St. George) + Scotland (St. Andrew) + Ireland (St. Patrick) “Union Jack”



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# England



- **Land:**
  - South: mostly low-lying land with hills and agricultural land
  - North: mostly covered in moorland and mountains.
- **Capital: London (also of the U.K.)**
  - History: nearly 2,000 years beginning with the arrival of the Romans soon after their invasion of Britain in AD43.



# Monarchy



- Queen's birthdate
  - 21 April 1926: actual birthday
  - Summer birthday since 1805: normally held on the second Saturday in June
- The British Royal Family's Surname: Windsor
  - Changed from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor in 1917
  - Reason: In 1917, King George V renounced all the German titles belonging to him and his family and adopted the name of his castle, Windsor, because of WWI and anti-German sentiment
- Duties: Head of State (representative), Head of the Armed Forces (declare war), Head of the Church of England (appoints bishops and archbishops), Government Duties (signature needed), Represents the Nation (at times of sorrow), Royal Garden Parties, Visits (various places)



Queen Elizabeth II  
(1926)

The Queen's sons and daughter



Charles  
Prince of  
Wales



Anne  
Princess  
Royal



Andrew  
Duke of York



Edward  
Earl of  
Wessex

## The Queen's Grandchildren



Prince William  
and Kate Duke  
and Duchess of  
Cambridge



Peter Phillips  
(1977)



Princess  
Beatrice of York  
(1988)



Lady Louise  
Windsor  
(2003)



Prince Harry of  
Wales  
(1984)



Zara Phillips  
(1981)



Princess  
Eugenie of York  
(1990)



# Government



- A parliamentary democracy
- A constitutional monarchy
- General elections at least every 5 years
- The head of the Commonwealth is the Queen
- Her powers are limited

The queen accepts the decisions of the cabinet and Parliament



# The Prime Minister



- The PM is the leader of the party in power (most seats)
- Appoints ministers of state
- The Cabinet is the group of leading ministers
- They live at 10 Downing street



# UK Parliament

- The Parliament consists of
- House of Lords - A forum of expertise, making laws and providing scrutiny of Government. Hereditary peers, recent changes
- House of commons - Democratically elected house, makes laws and checks the work of Government
- MP = Member of parliament

- <http://www.parliament.uk/>

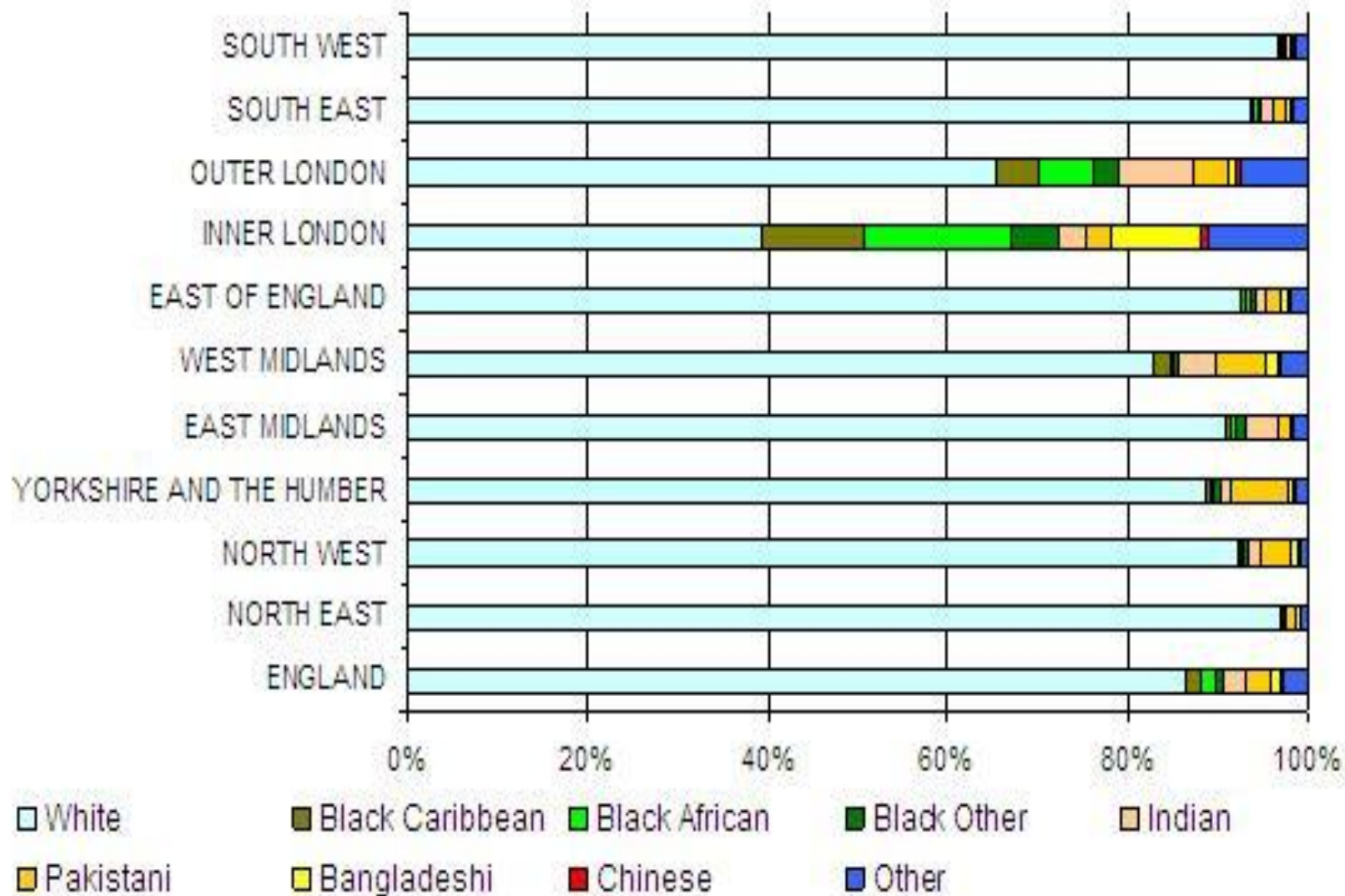


# Population

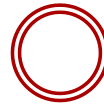


- Population 61,284,806
- Migration – people have come to Britain in search of jobs and a better life.
- Most members of ethnic groups live in England, mostly in London
- Right to religious freedom

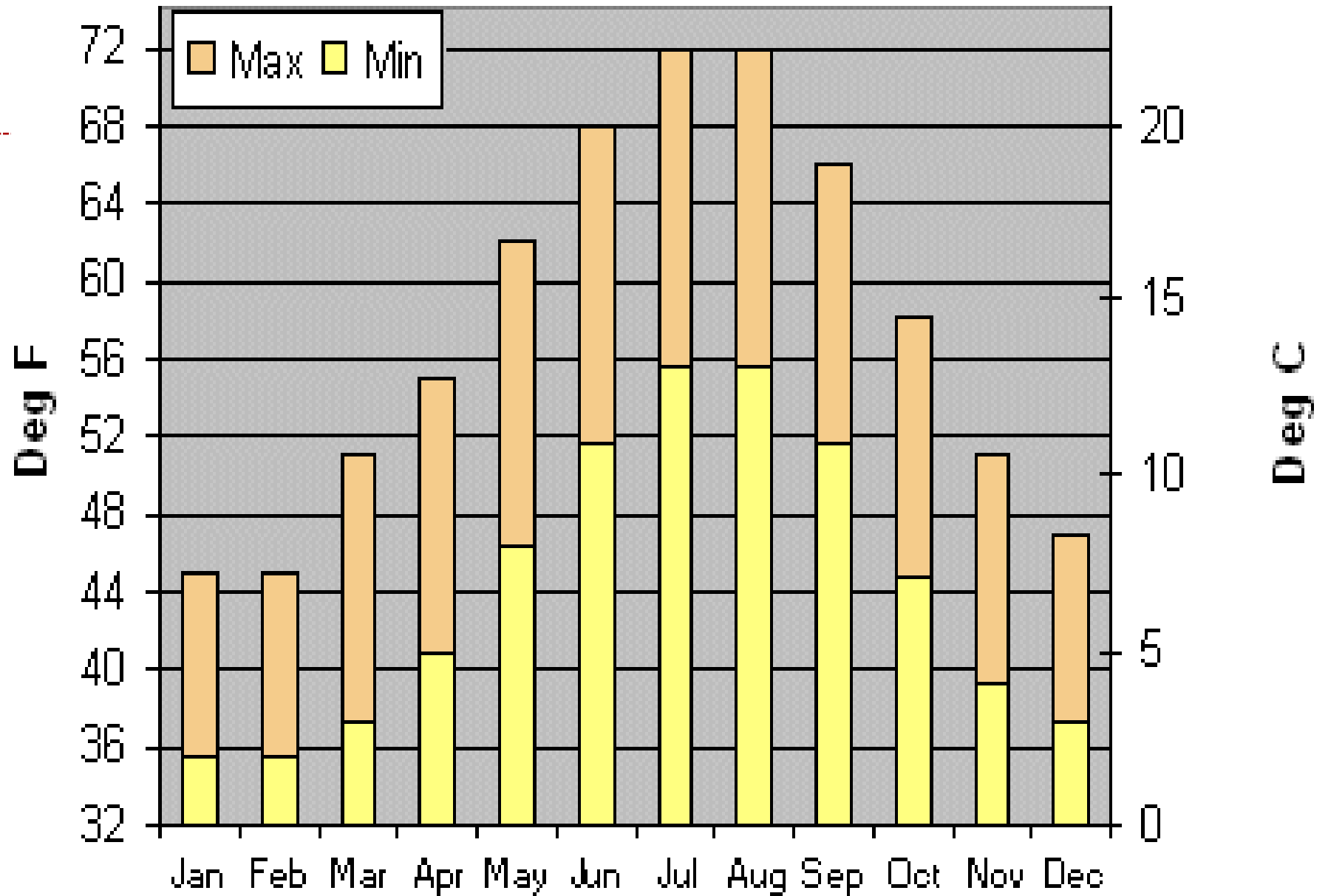




# Climate



- The main influence on our climate is our close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, our northern latitude, and the warming of the waters around the land by the Gulf Stream (a warm current of the northern Atlantic Ocean).
- Our island is small compared with the other land masses in the northern hemisphere – hence Britain is more influenced by the ocean compared with other European countries.



# Etiquette in England



- **Do:**
  - Stand in line
  - Take off your hat when indoors
  - Cover your mouth when yawning or coughing
  - Shake hands
  - Drive on the left side of the road
- **Don'ts:**
  - Greet people with a kiss unless it's family or close friends
  - Talk loudly in public
  - Stare at others
  - Ask personal and intimate questions



# Festivals



- **May Day Celebrations: Maypole Dancing**
  - Origin: the Roman festival of Flora, goddess of fruit and flowers
  - Celebrate the coming of summer after a long winter
  - A time for love and romance



# Tea Customs



- **Afternoon Tea:**

- Served at 4 in the afternoon
- Tea, coffee, freshly baked scones, tea sandwiches, and assorted pastries
- This became popular about one hundred and fifty years ago when rich ladies invited their friends to their houses for an afternoon cup of tea



- **High Tea:**

- Served at 6 in the evening
- Scones, cakes, buns or tea breads, cheese on toast, toasted crumpets, cold meats and pickles or poached eggs on toast
- British working population did not have afternoon tea, only a midday meal and a meal after work
- a.k.a dinner or supper



# Food

- **Traditional English Breakfast (Full English)**
  - eggs, bacon, sausages, fried bread, baked beans and mushrooms
- **Traditional English Dinner**
  - meat and 2 vegetables with hot brown gravy
- **Sunday Roast Dinner**
  - roast meat, two vegetables and potatoes with a Yorkshire pudding



Lunch – dinner (the main meal)  
Dinner – tea, supper

# Sports



- England's national sport: cricket
  - Most popular sport: soccer (football)
- Rugby: this sport used to be played by the rich upper class only
- Tennis: Wimbledon
  - Traditionally, visitors eat strawberries and cream while watching the game
- Polo: brought to Britain from India in the 19th Century by army officers
- Boxing Day Hunts: Traditionally it is a day for fox hunting
  - Boxing Day is the following day after Christmas Day
  - 18 February 2005: hunting with dogs became a criminal offence

# Reference



- British Life and Culture
  - <http://projectbritain.com>

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