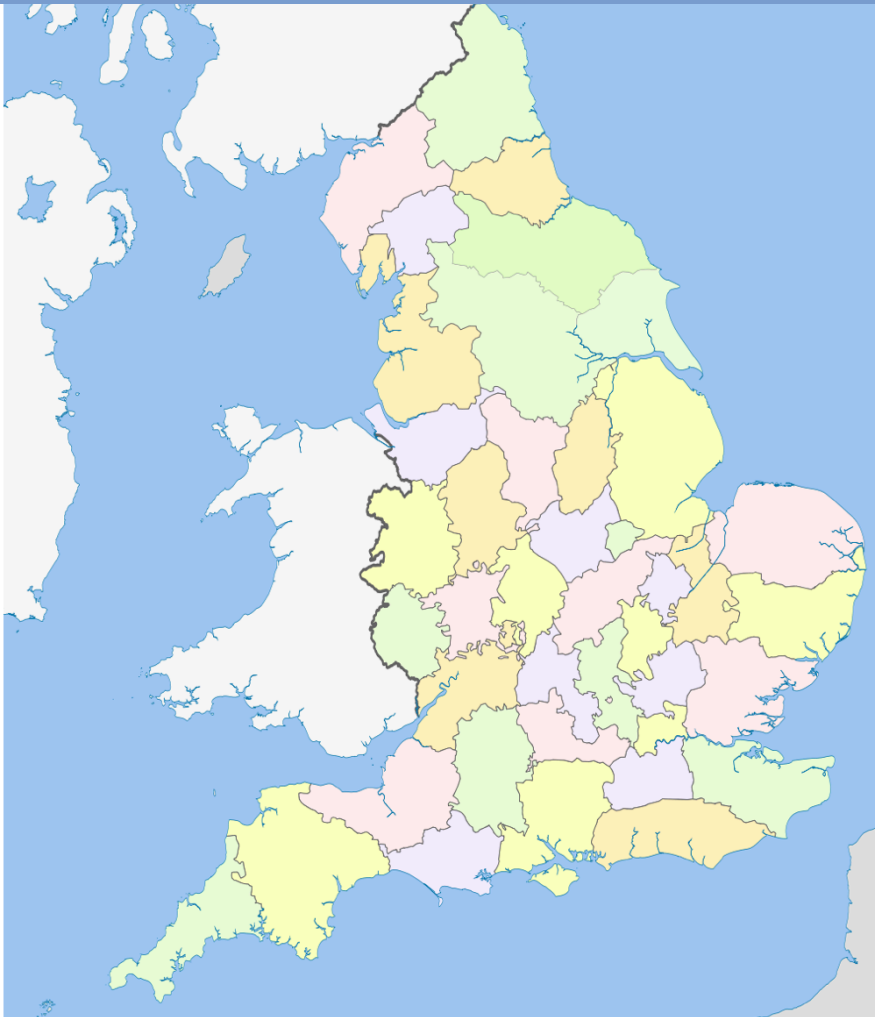


1. What are counties?

The counties of England are areas of land that have been split up for different reasons. One of the reasons is that counties are split up to make it easier for the government to make rules that make the most sense for that county.

2. Counties of England



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3. Why do we need counties?

In the United Kingdom, we use the same currency, follow the same laws and speak the same language. Sometimes though, certain decisions make more sense for just one area or county. In a county they can decide: where is best to build libraries or schools; when should bins be collected or what should the bus routes be. These decisions are made by the county council as they know the county best.

4. Key Vocabulary

-shire	Lots of counties end with -shire as this is an old word meaning share. This is because they used to share out the land.
County council	They are in charge of making decisions in the county. For example, when to collect rubbish or where it is best to build a new bus stop.
Border counties	These are the counties that are next to a county, like a next-door neighbour.
County town	This is usually the biggest town or city in the county. Often the county is named after this place e.g. Chester and Cheshire.