

Toosey Tails No. 5

Our Not So Little Island

(Let's learn about new places together)

Hello girls & boys,

My name is Ollie Brumble and I am here to ask you for your help.

I would like to know more about this wonderful island we all share together and wonder if you could help by telling me some interesting facts about some of the lovely towns or villages.



OLLIE
BRUMBLE

My daddy Teddy Bear tells me that you and I all live on an island called Great Britain, the 9th largest island in the world!

Did you know that we all live on a big island?

Well apparently our island is situated in the North Atlantic Ocean, off the northwest coast of Europe.

These facts excite me for it set me wondering about all those wonderful places across our island; the historic cities, the pretty villages, the bustling towns. I would love to know more about some of the people we share our island with, where they live and how they spend their days, so can you help me?

Teddy Bear tells me that you live in a very beautiful county called Midlothian and, in your county, you have the capital of Scotland, Edinburgh, a wonderful medieval city.

When your school invited him, Teddy Bear was lucky enough to visit your county and he saw your magnificent castle built on top of a volcano, which he told me was called Arthur's Seat!

Gosh how exciting it must have been to visit Arthur's Seat, to be on top of a real volcano but Teddy Bear assured me not to worry about this volcano erupting, for Edinburgh was the first city in the entire world to have its very own fire service.

Can you imagine how many fire engines and firemen might have been needed to put out a volcano? Far too many I am sure but Teddy Bear explained your volcano last erupted around 340 million years ago so is most unlikely to ever erupt again.



Teddy Bear taking a selfie on the train to Edinburgh

Teddy Bear stayed in a beautiful historic hotel in Edinburgh called Prestonfield House. He told me about the magnificent views all around his hotel but he also told me it rained everyday he was there.



The beautiful location of Teddy Bear's hotel in Edinburgh

The Tooseys also live in a medieval place, but not a city for we live in a small village called St. Osyth, in the county of Essex. Our village is by the seaside, and is the driest place to be found on our island. Sometimes we have less rainfall here in St. Osyth than the Sahara Dessert! You of course have lots of rainfall which helps to create your magnificent scenery.

Teddy Bear tells me our home here in Tooseyland, situated in the village of St. Osyth, is over 600 years old. That is very old indeed. It was once upon a time a former monastery, that is until King Henry V111 in the late 1500s committed one of the most revolutionary events in English history, for he knocked on our door and chopped off all the poor monk's heads.

In truth King Henry V111 did not actually do the deed himself but he sent his army of men to visit all the religious houses throughout England, including one, which is now our home. It must have been quite a shock to have seen his army coming, I think I might have hidden or run away, which is what a lot of the monks actually did. We have one that still lives with us, he is a ghost!



The Tooseys outside our home!

Back then our home was built on stilts to keep the sea from flooding the monastery. Unlike where you live, our landscape is very flat, for we live at almost sea-level, just 8 meters above the sea. You of course live in a much higher location with an altitude of 70 meters above the sea, so you are safe from flooding whereas our village has been flooded many times throughout history. We now have flood defences which also helps to stop London, England's capital city, from flooding.

Our main trade is tourism which Teddy Bear tells me is one of your main trades so, the places we live have lots in common. Fishing also is one of our trades and of course farming, which Zippy does today.

One of your most historic buildings is your magnificent castle which dates back to 1103. In our village we have a grand priory also dating back to the very same 12th century, just like your castle.

Imagine, they were being built at much the same time!



The gateway to St. Osyth Priory

This fact finding is so exciting so let's find out together about more fascinating places across our island for I would love to know more about the historic cities, the pretty villages and the bustling towns.

I have put on a map of Great Britain on the following page. With your eyes closed and using your pencil, place the pencil down onto the map, then open your eyes to see which county you have landed on.

What interesting information can you find out to tell me about this county?

Does it have a city, what is its main town, what is it famous for.

Next pick a place in your county, perhaps a town or village and using books or the internet look up interesting things about this place, just like the information I gave to you about my village.

For example, you could tell me about its history, what work they do there, what the landscape is like, is there a park, museum, shops, what do their houses look like. If you do not have books to refer to or access to the internet, instead you could tell me about a place you have visited or about the place where you live.

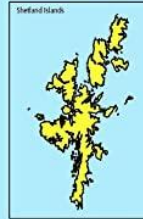
I cannot wait to read what you have to tell me about our not so little lovely island!

Love from Ollie Brumble ❤️

UK Counties Map



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Numbered unitary areas:

- 1. BALLYMENA
- 2. BELFAST
- 3. CARRISHERGHE
- 4. CARRISHERGHE
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- 17. CARRISHERGHE
- 18. CARRISHERGHE
- 19. CARRISHERGHE
- 20. CARRISHERGHE

IRISH SEA

NORTH SEA

CELTIC SEA

ENGLISH CHANNEL

ISLES OF SCILLY