



THE UNITED KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN
NORTHERN ISLAND

History of the formation of the United Kingdom

- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is the sovereign state comprising England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The state began on 1st May, 1707, as agreed in the Treaty of Union and put into effect by the Acts of Union in 1707. This united the separate countries of England (including Wales) and Scotland into a united Kingdom of Great Britain under a single parliament. A further Act of Union in 1800 added the Kingdom of Ireland to create the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. In 1922, territory of what is now the Republic of Ireland gained independence, leaving Northern Ireland as a continuing part of the United Kingdom. As a result, in 1927 the United Kingdom changed its formal title to "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland", usually shortened to "the United Kingdom", "the UK" or "Britain".



Northern Ireland

- Northern Ireland is one of the four countries of the United Kingdom, situated in the northeast of the island of Ireland. It was created as a separate legal entity on 3 May 1921, under the Government of Ireland Act 1920. The new autonomous Northern Ireland was formed from six of the nine counties of Ulster: four counties with unionist majorities and two counties, Fermanagh and Tyrone, which had slight Irish nationalist majorities. The remaining three Ulster counties with larger nationalist majorities were not included. In large part unionists, at least in the northeast, supported its creation while nationalists were opposed.



Northern Ireland

When Henry VIII turned England into a Protestant country in the 16th century most Irish people remained Roman Catholic. The following English monarchs sent soldiers to Ireland to make them protestant as well.

In the course of time the landowners in the northern part of Ireland fled their land and left it to the English king. James I sent thousands of protestant colonists to settle on the land that belonged to the Catholic people. These settlements were called plantations.

The Catholics rebelled against this policy but by the middle of the 17th century they had been finally defeated . the Catholics were left without land and power.

By the beginning of the 19th century Britain had gained control of the whole island. Ireland joined Wales England and Scotland to become the United Kingdom.



The peace process

- As time went on both sides realized that violence could not lead to a solution in the conflict. The British and Irish governments tried to get political and paramilitary sides to the conference table. In addition, the IRA promised to end all violent activities. Finally, talks ended in a *historic agreement signed on Good Friday 1998*.
- In a referendum the people of Northern Ireland agreed to accept the treaty and in June 1998 the new assembly was elected. However not everything went according to plan in the following years. The paramilitary groups didn't trust each other and when the IRA refused to give up its weapons the British government reimposed direct rule.
- Finally, after years of quarrel and disagreement, the IRA announced in 2005 that it would give up all of its weapons.
- In 2007 the leaders of the Catholic party, Sinn Fein and the protestant Democratic Unions Party came to a historic agreement to share power in the Northern Irish government. The assembly got together again.
- In July 2007 the British government ended its military presence in Northern Ireland. The cooperation between the two groups is a sign that a lasting peace may finally have come to Northern Ireland.

England

- The history of England is similar to the history of Britain until the arrival of the Saxons. It begins in the prehistoric during which time Stonehenge was erected. At the height of the Roman Empire, Britannia (England and Wales) was under the rule of the Romans. Their rule lasted until about 410, at which time the Romano-British formed various independent kingdoms. The Anglo-Saxons gradually gained control of England and became the chief rulers of the land. Raids by the Vikings were frequent after about AD 800. In 1066, the Normans invaded and conquered England. There was much civil war and battles with other nations throughout the Middle Ages. During the Renaissance, England was ruled by the Tudors. England had conquered Wales in the 12th century and was then united with Scotland in the early 18th century to form "Great Britain". Following the Industrial Revolution, Great Britain ruled a worldwide empire, of which, physically, little remains, however its cultural impact is widespread and deep in many countries of the present day.

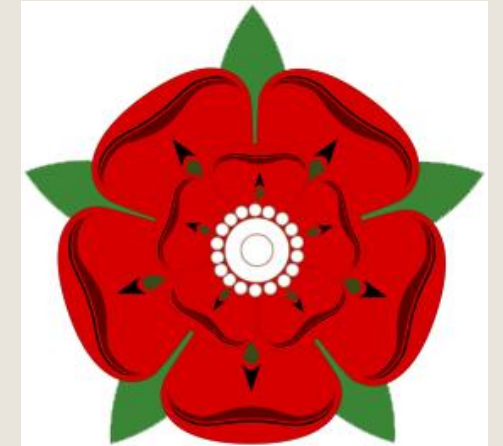
England

- **The capital** and the largest city is London. It is also the capital of the United Kingdom generally.
- The English language developed in England, and now It is **the official language in** the country. There were once many different dialects of modern English in England, but many of them have passed out of common usage as Standard English has become more widespread through education, the media and socio-economic pressures.
- England has no **official anthem**; however, the United Kingdom's "God Save the Queen" is commonly used.





St. George has long been regarded as **the patron** of England. English king Richard I the Lionheart, who took part in the third crusade in 1191, prayed for help Martyr George in Lydda. Having won a brilliant victory, Richard began to venerate Saint George as his patron saint and the patron of the Royal army.



In 1198, King Richard the Lionheart introduced the coat of arms of England, depicting "three lions". The three lions form the basis of several emblems of English national sports teams. The English oak and the Tudor rose are also English symbols. In ancient times, there lived two English Duke – one family for centuries adorned the white rose, the other adorned the red one. The Dukes fought tirelessly for the English throne, and the gentleman with the red rose celebrated the victory. Of course, sitting on the throne of England, he proclaimed the red rose a symbol of the country.

Scotland

- Scotland" comes from Scoti, the Latin name for the Gaels. The Late Latin word Scotia ("land of the Gaels") was initially used to refer to Ireland. By the 11th century at the latest, Scotia was being used to refer to (Gaelic-speaking) Scotland north of the river Forth, alongside Albania or Albany, both derived from the Gaelic Alba. The use of the words Scots and Scotland to encompass all of what is now Scotland became common in the Late Middle Ages.
- Scotland is a country that is part of the United Kingdom and covers the northern third of the island of Great Britain. The Kingdom of Scotland emerged as an independent sovereign state in the Early Middle Ages and continued to exist until 1707. By inheritance in 1603, James VI, King of Scots, became King of England and King of Ireland, thus forming a personal union of the three kingdoms. Scotland subsequently entered into a political union with the Kingdom of England on 1 May 1707 to create the new Kingdom of Great Britain. The union also created a new Parliament of Great Britain, which succeeded both the Parliament of Scotland and the Parliament of England. The continued existence of legal, educational, religious and other institutions distinct from those in the remainder of the UK have all contributed to the continuation of Scottish culture and national identity since the 1707 union with England.



Scotland

- Situated within a vibrant Europe, Scotland is progressive nation built on dynamism, creativity and the fabulous warmth of its people.
- Edinburgh is **the capital** of Scotland.
- Scotland has three officially recognized **languages**: English, Scots, and Scottish Gaelic.

Scottish Standard English, a variety of English as spoken in Scotland, is at one end of a bipolar linguistic continuum, with broad Scots at the other. Scottish Standard English may have been influenced to varying degrees by Scots.

- There is no official **national anthem of Scotland**. However, a number of songs are used as unofficial Scottish anthems, most notably "Scotland the Brave", "Flower of Scotland", and "Scots Wha Hae".



- Saint Andrew is **the patron** saint of Scotland. Several legends state that the relics of Andrew were brought by divine guidance from Constantinople to the place where the modern Scottish town of St Andrews stands today. In 832 AD Andrew is said to have appeared in a vision to a Pictish king the night before a battle against the Northumbrians in what is now the village of Athelstaneford in East Lothian. On the day of the battle a Saltire, an X-shaped cross, appeared in the sky above the battlefield and the Picts were victorious. Andrew was first recognized as an official patron saint of Scotland in 1320 at the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath an appeal to the Pope by Scottish noblemen asserting Scotland's independence from England.

The Royal Arms of Scotland is a coat of arms symbolizing Scotland and the Scottish monarchs.



The thistle, the floral emblem of Scotland, also features in Scottish & British heraldry through symbols, logos, coat of arms and on British currency.



The unicorn is the national animal of Scotland.



Northern Ireland



- Northern Ireland is the smallest country in the United Kingdom, situated on the second largest island of the British Isles.

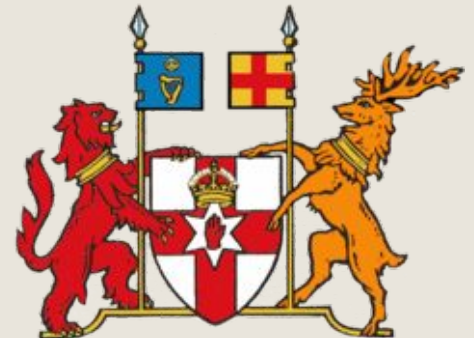
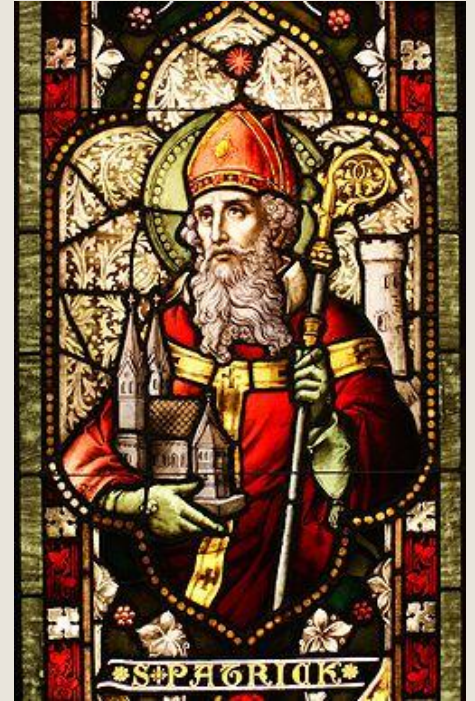
The island of Ireland is known as **Eirein Irish Gaelic**. The name of the capital city, **Belfast**, derives from the city's Gaelic name, *Beal Feirste*, which means "mouth of the sandy ford," referring to a stream that joins the Lagan River.

- English is spoken throughout the country, and the native language of Gaelic, or Gaeltacht, is disappearing. Many Gaelic speakers died in the Great Famine of the 1840s, and Gaelic was replaced by English, which was needed to achieve social mobility. Gaelic still carries a stigma as the language of the poor. Gaelic is a Celtic language that probably was introduced by Celts in the last few centuries B.C.E. Similar to Scottish Gaelic, it shares common structures with Welsh and Breton.
- Due to the complicated politics of Northern Ireland, an area governed by the United Kingdom on the island of Ireland (and populated by people of Irish and Scottish descent), anthems of both of those countries are used by their respective communities to indicate allegiance. For several sporting events, particularly when Northern Ireland players compete on the same team as players from the Republic of Ireland, neutral songs such as Phillip Coulter's "Ireland's Call" is used. For other events where Northern Ireland competes individually, such as the Commonwealth Games, the local song "**A Londonderry Air**" is used as its anthem.



The symbols of Northern Ireland

- **The Red Hand of Ulster** is the official seal of the O'Neill family. It is believed to originate from a mythical tale wherein two chieftains were racing across a stretch of water in a bid to be the first to reach the land and claim it as his own. Realizing his foe would touch the land first, one chieftain cut off his hand and threw it onto the shore, thereby claiming the land before his adversary reached it. The Red Hand is one of the only emblems in Northern Ireland used by both communities in Northern Ireland although it is more associated with the Protestant community. Catholics see it as representing the nine counties of Ulster while Protestants see it as representing the six counties of Northern Ireland. The Red Hand of Ulster appears on many murals and flags.
- Legend has it that the shamrock was used by **St. Patrick**, the patron saint of Ireland, to illustrate the Holy Trinity, hence its widespread use on St. Patrick's day on 17 March. It is one of Ireland's national emblems, and is used by mainly by the Nationalist tradition, but is also evident within the Unionist tradition, with bodies such as the Royal Irish Rangers wearing the Shamrock every St. Patrick's day
- Northern Ireland does not have an official coat of arms. Following the partition of Ireland in 1920 and the secession of the Irish Free State from the United Kingdom in 1922, Neville Rodwell Wilkinson, Ulster King of Arms, designed the great seal and flag of Northern Ireland in 1923. The supporters were granted in 1925, and consist of a red lion supporting a blue banner bearing a gold harp and crown, and an Irish elk in proper colours, supporting a banner of the arms of the De Burgo Earls of Ulster, the basis for the Flag of Ulster. The grant has not been rescinded, but the arms are considered historical, as the body to which the arms were granted no longer exists, and so they cannot be used unless regranted to another armiger. The current Northern Ireland Executive does not use a coat of arms. The banner derived from the arms continues to be used to represent Northern Ireland at some sports events. Use today can be controversial in some parts of Northern Ireland.



Wales

- Wales is one of the four countries of the United Kingdom. It is bordered by England to the east, the Irish Sea to the north and west, and the Bristol Channel to the south. Welsh national identity emerged among the Celtic Britons after the Roman withdrawal from Britain in the 5th century, and Wales is regarded as one of the modern Celtic nations. Llywelyn ap Gruffudd's death in 1282 marked the completion of Edward I of England's conquest of Wales, though Owain Glyndŵr briefly restored independence to Wales in the early 15th century. The whole of Wales was annexed by England and incorporated within the English legal system under the Laws in Wales Acts 1535–1542. Distinctive Welsh politics developed in the 19th century. Welsh Liberalism, exemplified in the early 20th century by Lloyd George, was displaced by the growth of socialism and the Labour Party. Welsh national feeling grew over the century; Plaid Cymru was formed in 1925 and the Welsh Language Society in 1962. Established under the Government of Wales Act 1998, the National Assembly for Wales holds responsibility for a range of devolved policy matters.



Wales

- The name Wales is actually derived from an old Saxon word meaning foreigners or outsiders. But the name Cymru is derived from a word meaning friends or companions. It's also interesting to note that in the French language Wales is known as Pays de Galle, a name that reflects the Celtic roots of Wales, and the historical links between the two countries.
- The current **capital of Wales** is Cardiff, which was first referred to as such in 1955, when Gwilym Lloyd-George then Minister for Welsh Affairs commented in a Parliamentary written answer that "no formal measures are necessary to give effect to this decision". Since 1999, Cardiff has been the location of the National Assembly for Wales. The ecclesiastical capital of Wales is St Davids, the resting place of the country's patron saint, Saint David.
- Although the majority of people living in Wales can speak English, the Welsh language continues to thrive. Half a million people in Wales can speak Welsh; that's around 19% of the population. It's called **Cymraeg**, and is a language with entirely regular and phonetic spelling. Their Celtic language is closely related to Cornish and Breton and is one of Europe's oldest living languages; the Welsh they speak today is directly descended from the language of the sixth century.



- Welsh National Anthem («**Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau**»)

Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau (translated in English as 'Land of my Fathers') is Wales' National anthem. It was written in 1856 by Evan James and his son, James James, from Pontypridd in Glamorgan.

The original name of the song was Glan Rhondda. The father and son were from Pontypridd, where there is a memorial to them in Ynysangharad Park.

The earliest written copy is part of the collections of the National Library of Wales. The music is also used by Cornwall, 'Bro Goth Agan Tasow', and in Brittany, 'Bro Gozh ma Zadoù. The first recorded occasion of a National Anthem being sung before an international sporting occasion was in 1905. The Welsh crowd sang Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau in response to the New Zealand rugby team's traditional Haka at the Cardiff Arms Park.

These days Welsh National Anthem can be heard sung passionately before their international rugby and football matches.



Hen Wlad fy Nhadau (*Old Land of My Fathers*)
Evan James (1809-1878) *National Anthem of Wales* James James (1833-1902)

Andante moderato (♩ = 92)

Piano

mf
Mae hen wlad fy nha-dau yn ann-wyl i - mi, Gwlad beirdd a chan - to - rion, en -

Pno.

wo-gion o fri; Ei - gw-rol ry - fel-wyr, gwlad - gar-wyr tra - mad, Dros ry-ddid co -

Pno.

lla - sant eu gwaed. *f* Gwlad, gwlad, plei - diol wyf i'm gwlad. *mf* Tra môr yn fur i'r

Pno.

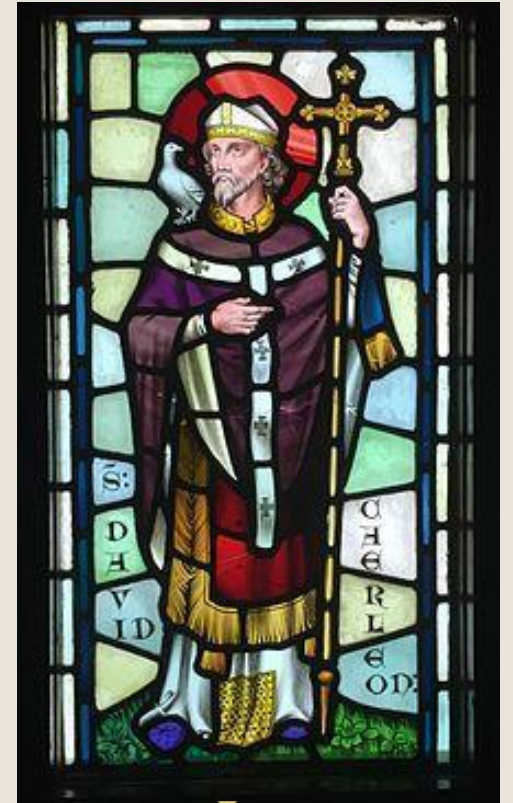
bur hoff bau, O by - dded i'r hen iaith bar - hau.

The symbols of Wales

- **The leek.** This humble root vegetable is cited as a symbol of Wales in William Shakespeare's Henry V. Historical evidence also exists that the Tudor dynasty issued leeks to be worn by their guards on March 1, known as St David's Day in honor of the patron saint of Wales. There is also plenty of entertaining folklore and guesswork why the Welsh are inextricably linked with the leek. The 7th century king of Gwynedd, Cadwaladr, is said to have ordered his men into battle wearing them for identification purposes, but whatever the origins, Welsh grow plenty of them and they taste lovely.
- **The daffodil.** The origins of the national flower of Wales appears to be as an attractive interloper, introduced during the 19th century, as a replacement for the humble leek. David Lloyd George, the only Welshman to serve as Prime Minister, was a public advocate of the Narcissus (its Latin name) and its appearance in early spring as a symbol of nature's optimism neatly coincides with St David's Day on March 1.
- **The Welsh harp.** The Italians invented this particular instrument of melody during the 17th century, but a 100 years later it was widely known as the Welsh harp. Other varieties of harps are believed to have been played in Wales since the 11th century and gifted exponents of the art, such as Elinor Bennett and Catrin Finch among others, continue to inspire audiences and aspiring musicians.



- **Who was St David?** Legend has it that he went on a pilgrimage, which led all the way to Jerusalem, where he was made an Archbishop. His miracles, though, happened closer to home – people began making their own pilgrimages to St David's Cathedral, which he founded in West Wales, after word swiftly spread of his ability to make the earth rise beneath him, suggesting a power which could ward off the invading Normans. Almost 900 years after he was pronounced a saint, St David's Day is the unmissable highlight of spring in Wales. The National St David's Day Parade sends a red and yellow carnival across the centre of Cardiff, featuring all sorts of fiery performances from giant dragons and theatrical groups.
- The **Royal Badge of the National Assembly for Wales** was approved in May 2008. It is based on the arms borne by the thirteenth-century Welsh prince Llewellyn the Great (*blazoned quarterly Or and gules, four lions passant guardant counterchanged*), with the addition of St Edward's Crown atop a continuous scroll which, together with a wreath consisting of the plant emblems of the four countries of the United Kingdom, surrounds the shield. The current badge follows in a long line of heraldic devices representing Wales. Its predecessors have all been variations on either the Red Dragon, an ancient emblem revived by Henry VII, or the arms of Llewellyn. Whereas the arms of England, Scotland and Ireland are represented in the Royal Arms of the United Kingdom, Wales has no such representation due to its having been part of the historic Kingdom of England, rather than a kingdom in its own right. The device introduced in 2008 is accordingly a badge, rather than a coat of arms; Wales currently has no official coat of arms.



England's flag is represented by a red cross set on a white background. This cross is known as the St George's Cross and has represented England in various forms from as far back as the Middle Ages and the Crusades.

Because of its use since the 16th century, it has come to be one of the most prominent and well-known symbols of England. The red cross was also an emblem of a knighthood system originating in England's medieval times, known as the Most Noble Order of the Garter. With such global recognition and acclaim, it was an obvious emblem for the official flag of the country.

Flag of
England

- St George, after whom the cross is named, was the patron saint of the country during the 1200's. There were legends of this courageous saint's having slain a vicious dragon. St George was a Roman soldier and a priest of the Guard of the Diocletian. During the Crusades, the soldiers would wear plain white tunics, thus the birth of a white background. The cross was used to represent this martyred saint in his religious capacities and was his emblem during his years of battle. He is considered a saint in the Catholic, Anglican, Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches.
- The Pope had decided that all English Crusaders should wear red tunics with white crosses, while the French opted for red on white. The English then wanted to reclaim their emblem of a red cross on a white tunic and, in 1188, the kings of each country decided to exchange their flags.



The Flag of Scotland, also known as St Andrew's Cross or the Saltire, is the national flag of Scotland.

As the national flag, the Saltire, rather than the Royal Standard of Scotland, is the correct flag for all individuals and corporate bodies to fly. It is also, where possible, flown from Scottish Government buildings every day from 8am until sunset, with certain exceptions.

Flag of
Scotland

- According to legend, in 832 A.D. King Angus led the Picts and Scots in battle against the Angles under a king named **Athelstan** near modern-day Athelstaneford in East Lothian. King Angus and his men were surrounded and he prayed for deliverance. During the night Saint Andrew, who was martyred on a saltire cross, appeared to Angus and assured him of victory. On the following morning a white saltire against the background of a blue sky appeared to both sides. The Picts and Scots were heartened by this, but the Angles lost confidence and were defeated. This saltire design has been the Scottish flag ever since.

Material evidence of the saltire's use dates from somewhat later. In 1385 the Parliament of Scotland decreed that Scottish soldiers should wear the saltire as a distinguishing mark. The earliest surviving Scottish flag consisting solely of the saltire dates from 1503: a white cross on a red background. By 1540 the legend of King Angus had been altered to include the vision of the crux decussata against a blue sky. Thereafter, this saltire design in its present form became the national flag of Scotland.

The flag of Wales consists of a red dragon passant on a green and white field. As with many heraldic charges, the exact representation of the dragon is not standardised and many renderings exist. The flag incorporates the red dragon of Cadwaladr King of Gwynedd, along with the Tudor colours of green and white. It was used by Henry VII at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, after which it was carried in state to St Paul's Cathedral. The red dragon was then included as a supporter of the Tudor royal arms to signify their Welsh descent. It was officially recognised as the Welsh national flag in 1959.



Flag of
Wales

- In 1901 the dragon became the official symbol of Wales, and in Caernarfon in 1911, at the investiture of Edward, Prince of Wales, the flag appeared in its current form, helping its rise to prominence.
- In 1959, after successful lobbying by the Gorsedd of Bards and others, Queen Elizabeth II made the red dragon on a green and white background the official flag for Wales.
- It was announced that the flag to be flown on government buildings would consist only of the red dragon on a green and white flag, rather than the 1953 badge, which was still in occasional use.
- The 1959 design can today be seen right across Wales, and is a symbol of pride in history and heritage for Welsh people across the world.



The official flag of Northern Ireland is the Union Flag of the United Kingdom. From 1953 until 1973 the Ulster Banner was used, however since then its use has been limited to representing Northern Ireland in certain sports, at the Commonwealth of Nations, at some local councils, and at some other organisations and occasions. Despite this the Ulster Banner is still commonly seen and referred to as the flag of Northern Ireland especially by those from the unionist and loyalist communities.

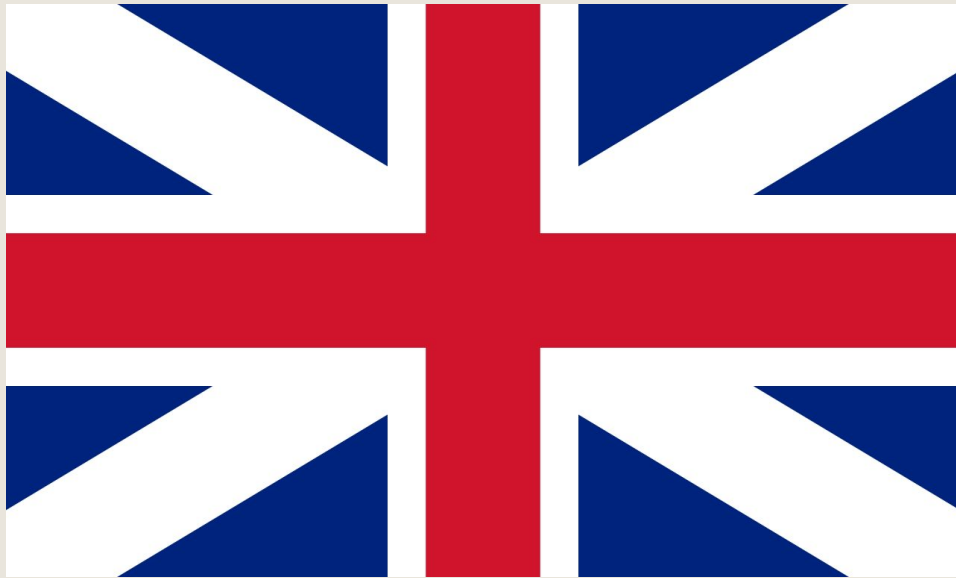
The Saint Patrick's Saltire represents Northern Ireland indirectly as Ireland in the Union Jack. It is sometimes flown during Saint Patrick's Day parades in Northern Ireland, and is used to represent Northern Ireland during some royal events.



Flag of
Northern
Ireland

- The Ulster Banner was the flag that was granted a royal warrant for use to the Government of Northern Ireland in 1924. In common with other British flags, any civic status of the flag was not defined in law.
- The Government of Northern Ireland was granted arms by Royal Warrant and had the right to display these arms on a flag or banner. This right was exercised for the Coronation in 1953 when the banner was flown for the first time over Parliament Buildings in honour of the Queen's visit. Also during the Queen's visit, on July 1, 1953, the Minister for Home Affairs announced that, while the Union flag was the only standard officially recognised, those who wished to have a distinctive Ulster symbol might use the banner.
- When the Parliament of Northern Ireland was dissolved by the British government under the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973, the flag ceased to be used by a body with a royal warrant but remains the only flag to date which represents Northern Ireland at international level in sport.

Union Jack



In the decree of issuance of the new flag, James stipulated that all ships of both English and Scottish registry were to fly this flag from atop their mainmasts. The Cross of St. George was to be flown from the foremasts of the English ships, while the Cross of St. Andrew was to be flown from the foremasts of the Scottish ships. As the Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery were of English registry and did not embark upon their historic voyage until December of 1606, it logically follows that on this voyage their flags conformed to the royal decree of the preceding spring.

The Union Flag, created by James in 1606, continued in use as a purely symbolic banner until 1707. Then, during the reign of Queen Anne, the parliaments of England and Scotland were united to form the new nation of Great Britain, and Anne officially adopted the 101 year old banner as the national flag of the newly created nation. In 1801, when Ireland became a part of Great Britain, the Union Flag was redesigned to include the Cross of St. Patrick (red, diagonal), the patron saint of Ireland. It is in this form that the British flag exists today.

Thank you for your attention!

