



*UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND*



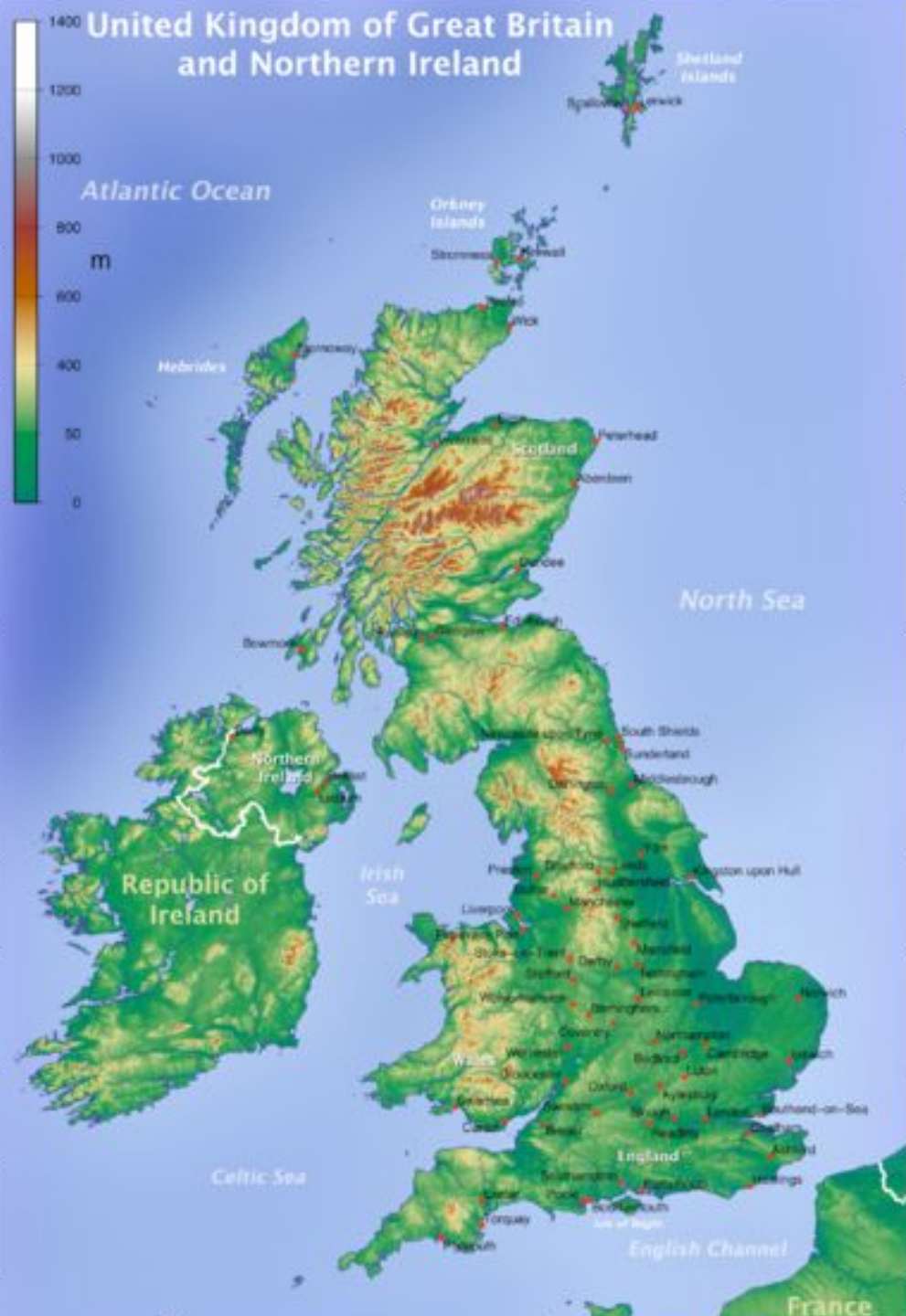
*Member of the
EUROPEAN UNION*

The land and the
people of the
United Kingdom
of Great Britain
and Northern
Ireland

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK) is the official name of the state which is situated on the British Isles.



The British Isles is a group of islands off the north-western coast of Europe.



Great Britain is often the same as Britain and refers only to Scotland, England and Wales which are situated on the island of Great Britain.



In the whole the United Kingdom or the UK includes England, Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland.





**They used to be
different countries
before they became
united and got the
name of the United
Kingdom**





In fact the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland consists of the island of Great Britain, the north-eastern part of Ireland, and a great number of small islands, such as the Orkney and the Shetland Islands in the north, the Hebrides in the north-west, the Isle of Wight in the south, and many others.

If you look at the map of Europe, you will see that Great Britain is not large. The territory of the UK is 244 820 km², it takes the 22nd place among all states. Its population is 61,6 million people.



The British Isles are washed by the North Atlantic ocean in the north, by the Irish sea in the west, and by the North sea in the east; in the south they are separated from the continent by the English Channel, or simply The Channel, as the British often call it.

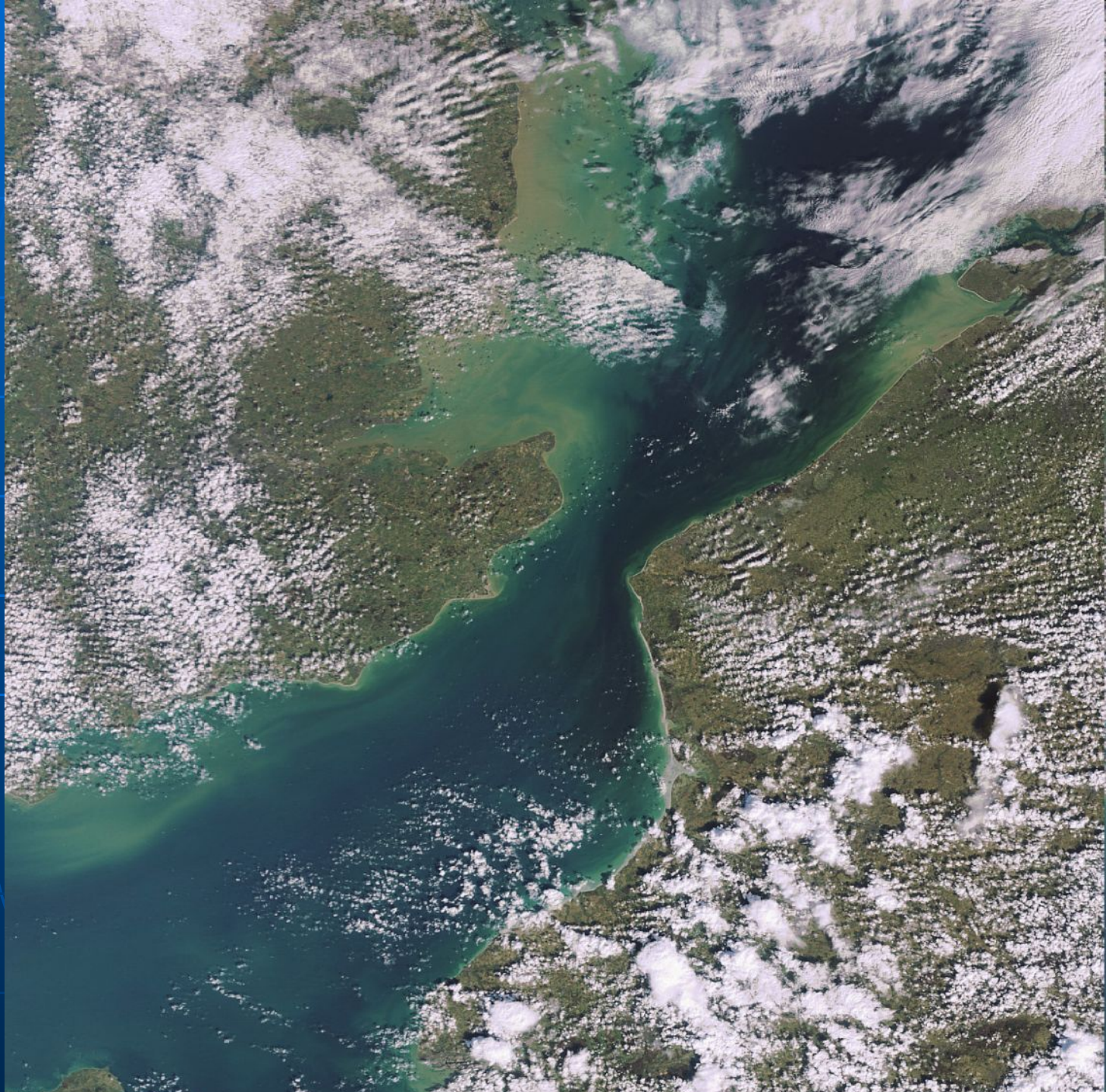




The Channel, in its narrowest part the Strait of Dover, is only 32 km wide.

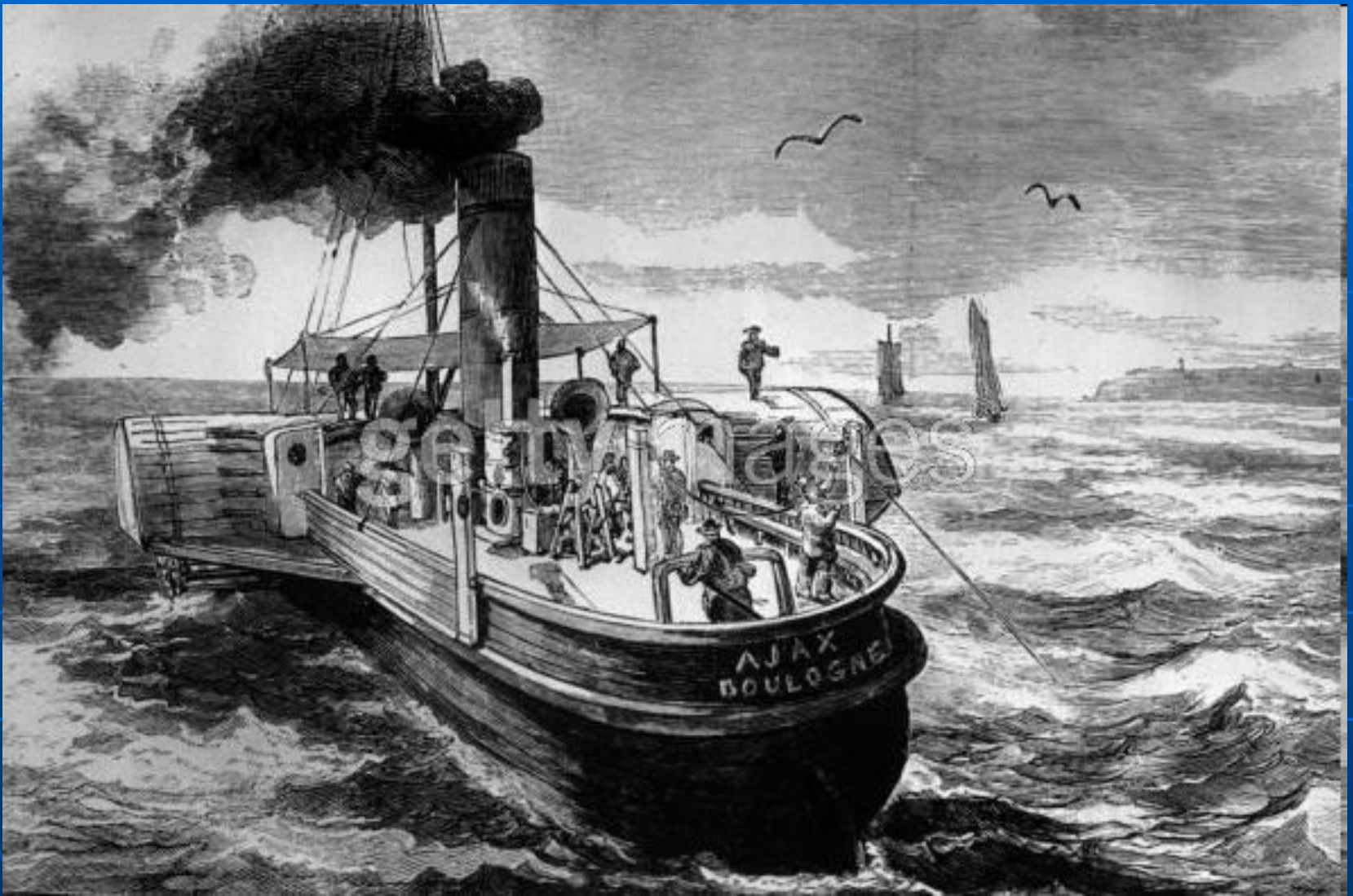
The Strait(s) of Dover

(Picture from
space)



Before the construction of the underwater “Chunnel” (Channel Tunnel), the ferry route between Dover and Calais was the quickest way to get from the islands to continental Europe.





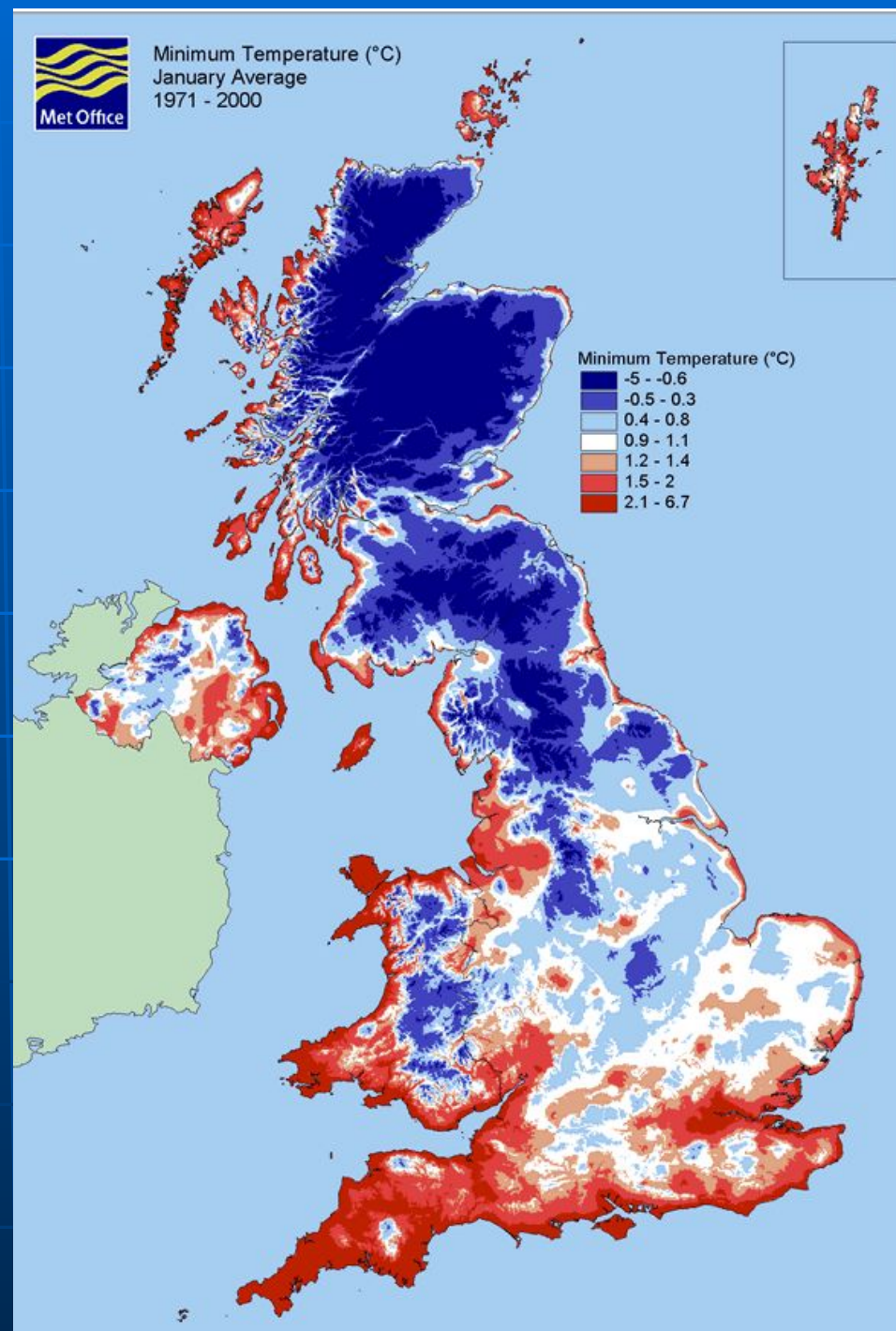
But it was a difficult and dangerous one because of frequent storms, winds and waves.

(Picture of 1879)



Atlantic Currents

Britain's climate is mild and damp. It often rains, and fogs are quite frequent, especially in the west and south-west. The Gulf Stream, a warm ocean current comes from the Gulf of Mexico, crosses the Atlantic Ocean and warms the seas around the British coast. It moderates the climate, giving it cool summers and mild winters. The temperature in winter seldom falls below zero and the fields and meadows are green all year round.





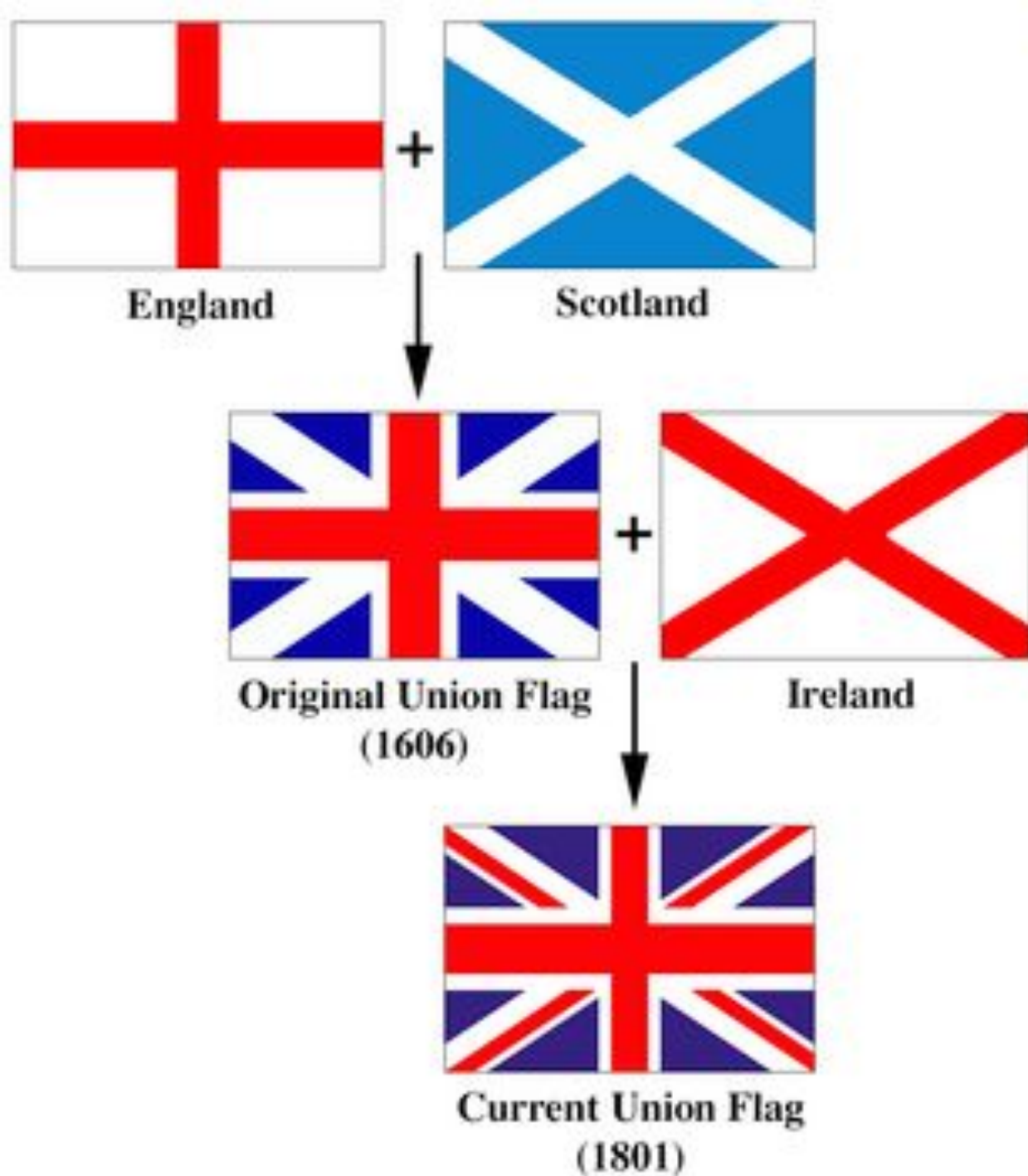
The flag of the United Kingdom is known as “The Union Jack”



**The United Kingdom national anthem
“God Save the Queen”**



The UK Royal Coat of Arms



If we bring together the flags of all the four countries we'll see, that "Union Jack" is a combination of all of them,



As well as the country itself is a home of different peoples, their cultures, customs and traditions.