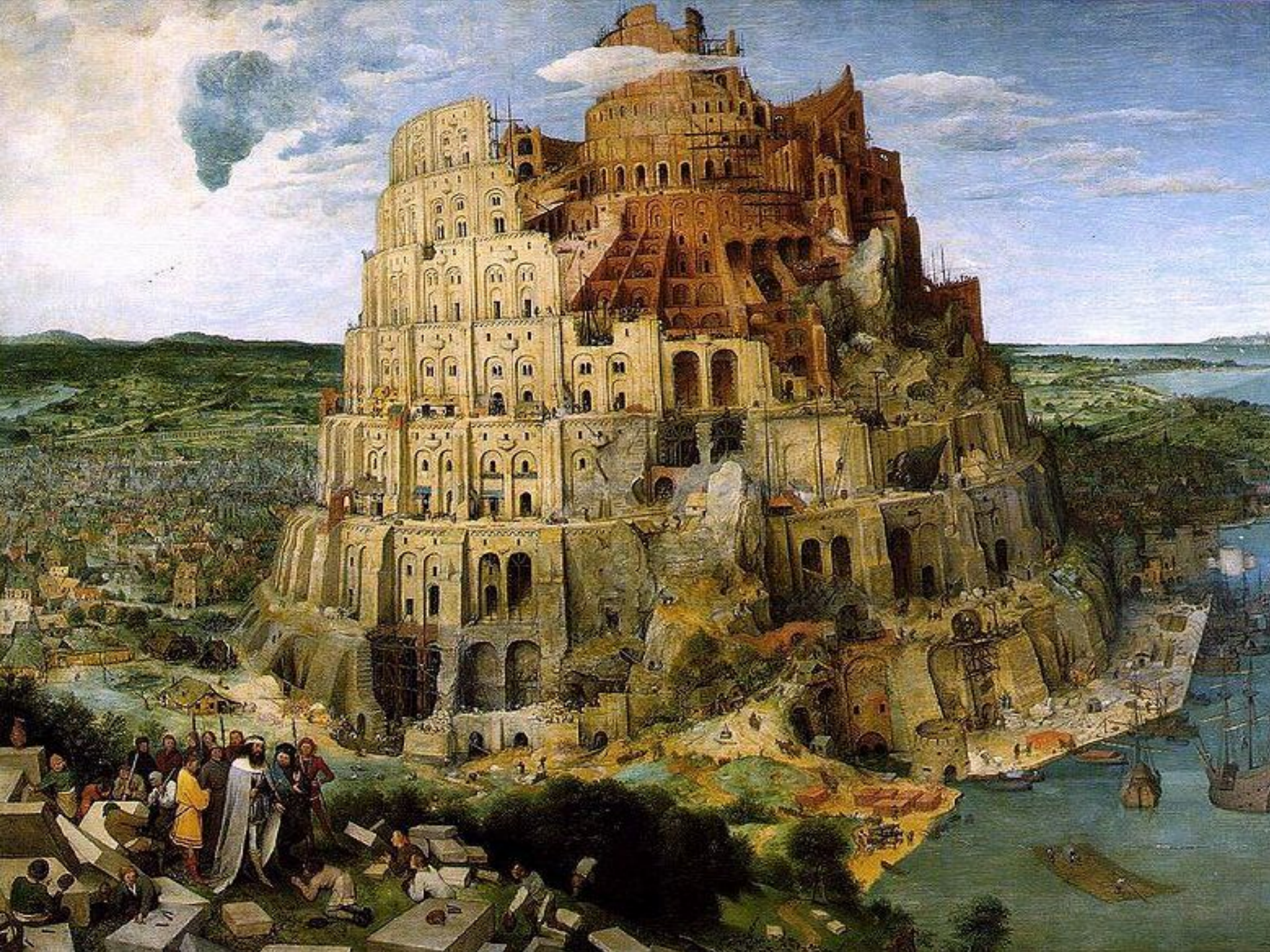
English and its Historical Development

John 1:1

In the beginning was
the Word,
and the Word was
with God,
and the Word was
God.

The Tower of Babylon



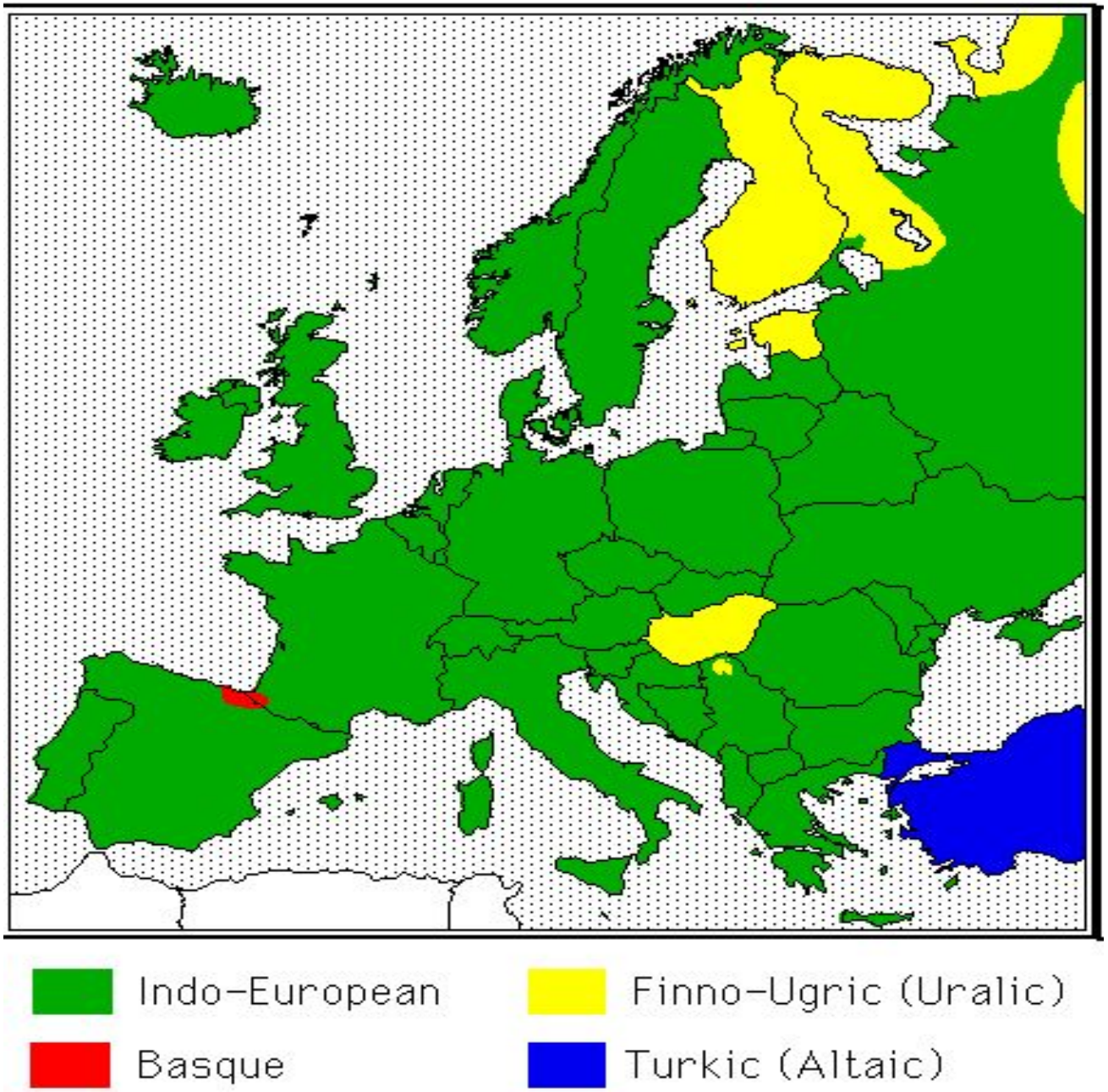
How many languages are there in the world?

The Ethnologue: Languages of the World (in the 15th edition, released in 2005) contains statistics for 6,912 languages.

The top ten language families :

- Indo-European languages (449 languages) (Europe, South Asia, America, Oceania)
- Sino-Tibetan languages (East Asia)
- Niger-Congo languages (Sub-Saharan Africa)
- Afro-Asiatic languages (North Africa to Horn of Africa, Southwest Asia)
- Austronesian languages (Oceania, Madagascar, maritime Southeast Asia)
- Dravidian languages (South Asia)
- Altaic languages (Central Asia, Northern Asia, Anatolia, Siberia)
- Austro-Asiatic languages (mainland Southeast Asia)
- Tai-Kadai languages (Southeast Asia)
- Japonic languages (Japan)

Language Families in Europe



Indo-European (Proto - language)

- The Germanic languages: **English**, German, Dutch, Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish.
- The Roman languages: Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Romanian.
- The Celtic languages: Welsh and Gaelic.
- The Slavic languages: Russian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Serbo-Croatian, and Bulgarian.
- The Baltic languages: Lithuanian and Latvian.
- The Iranian languages: Persian and Pashto.
- The Indic languages: Sanskrit and Hindi.
- Other miscellaneous languages; such as, Albanian and Armenian.

English ***father*** , Dutch ***vader***, Gothic ***fadar***, Old Norse ***fadir***, German ***Vater***, Greek ***pater***, Sanskrit ***pitar***, and Old Irish ***athir***;

English ***brother***, Dutch ***broeder***, German ***Bruder***, Greek ***phrater***, Sanskrit ***bhratar***, Old Slavic ***bratu***, Irish ***Brathair***.

The Germanic languages

The West Germanic

The North Germanic

Anglo-Frisian

English

The Celts settled in Britain in about 500 B.C.

(Gaelic and Welsh)

The most important Celtic words in modern English are names of places, especially in Scotland and Ireland.

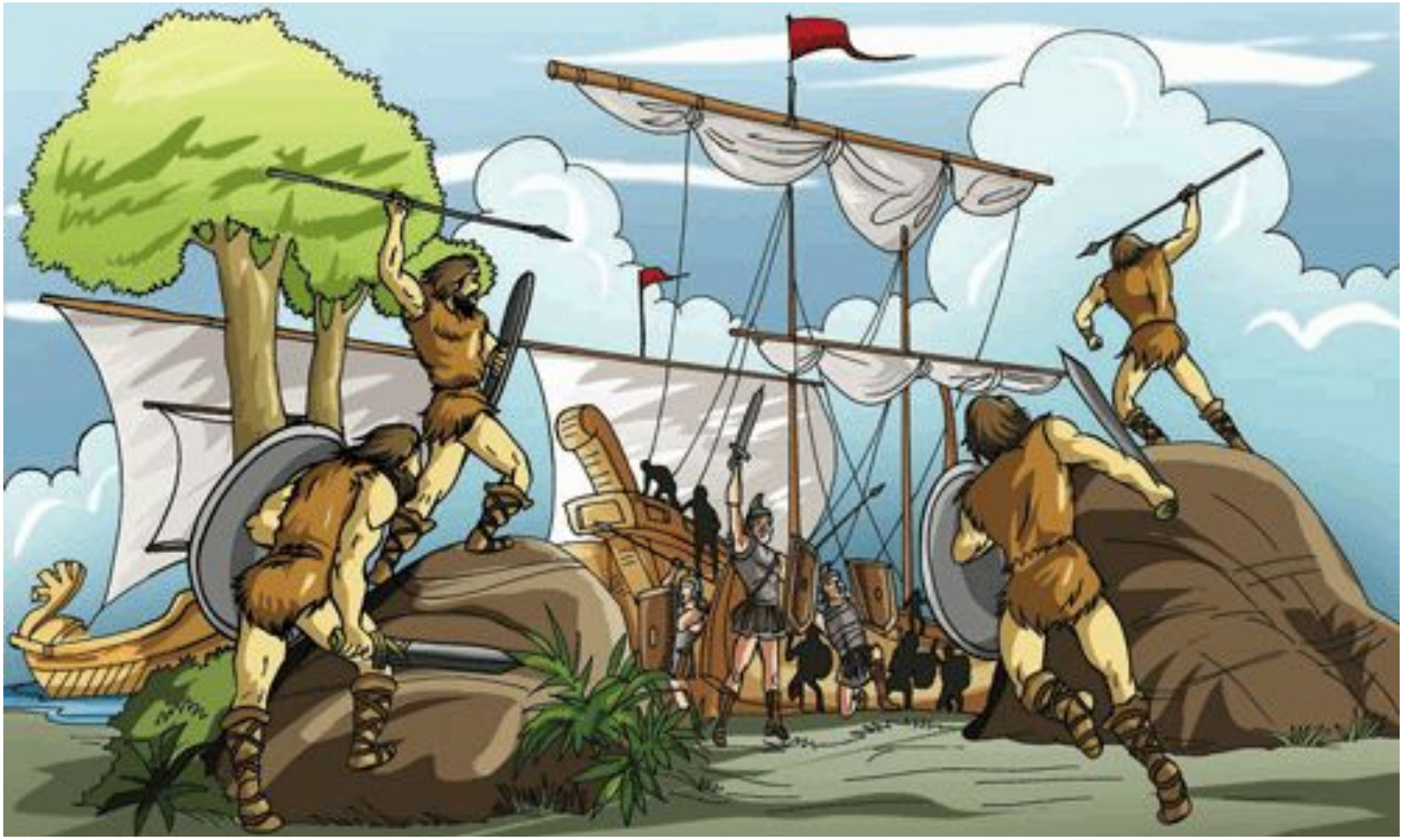
Aberdeen (from **aber** – **mouth**)

Dunbar, **Dundee** (from **dun** – a **protected place**)

Kilkeny (from **kil - church**);

and a few common words such as **bog**, **crag**, **willow**.

The Romans invaded Britain and ruled the Celts from A.D. 43-410



The Romans left behind them memories of camps, roads, and military colonies in such endings in geographical names, as **-caster**, **-cester** or **-chester** (from **castra - camp**), **-coln** (from **colonia**), the words **street** (from **strata**), **mile** (from **millia passuum - a thousand paces**)

A.D. 450-1150, Old English (Anglo-Saxon) Period

West Germanic invaders from Jutland and southern Denmark: **the Angles** (whose name is the source of the words England and English), **Saxons**, and **Jutes**, began populating the British Isles in the fifth and sixth centuries A.D.

About half of the most commonly used words in modern English have Old English roots. Words like ***be***, ***water***, and ***strong***, for example, derive from Old English roots.

Written ***Old English*** is mainly known from this period. It was written in an alphabet called **Runic**, derived from the Scandinavian languages.

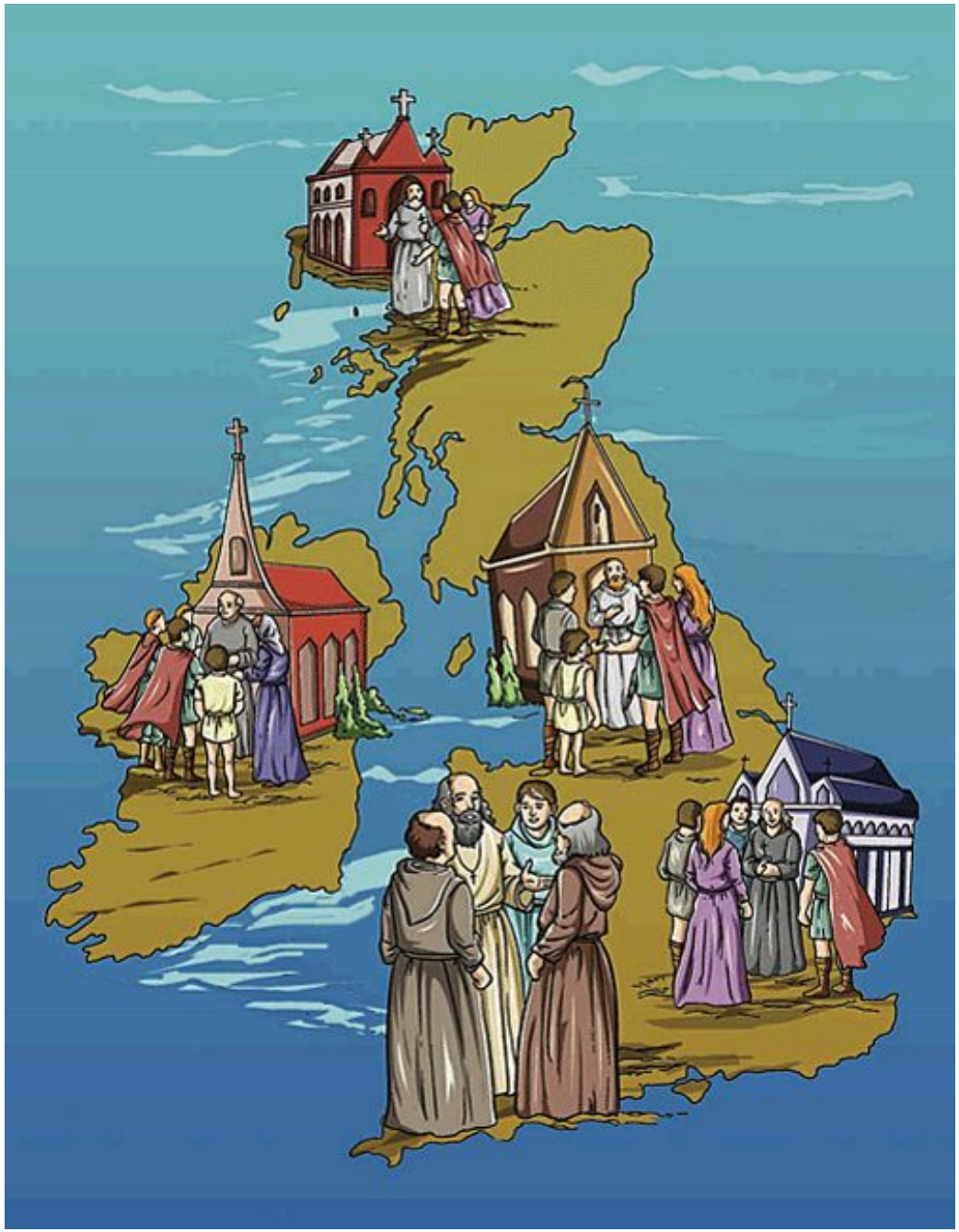
feoh - f "wealth" | ur - u "cattle" | þorn - þ "thorn" | os - o "mouth" | rad - r "ride" | cen - c "torch" | ȝiefu - ȝ "gift" | ƿynn - ƿ "joy" | hæȝl - h "hail"

nyd - n "need" | is - i "ice" | jear - j "year" | eeoh - eo "yew" | peorð - p "game" | eolxecȝ - x "elk-sedge" | siȝel - s "sun" | tyr - t "Tyr" | beorc - b "birch"

eoh - e "horse" | man - m "man" | lagu - l "lake" | ing - ŋ "Ing" | œðel - œ "estate" | dæȝ - d "day" | ac - a "oak" | æsc - æ "ash"

yr - y "bow" | ear - ea "earth" | iar - ia "serpent" | kalc - k "chalice" | kalc - kk | gar - g "spear" | cƿeorð - cƿ "fire" | stan - st "stone"

In A.D. 597, St. Augustine arrived in England and converted Anglo-Saxon s to Christianity.



With Christianity many Latin words were introduced into English: ***altar***, ***church***, ***bishop***, ***priest***, ***angel***, but also a number of common words, esp. names of plants, animals and food: ***plant***, ***lily***, ***cheese***, and others. Roman handwriting replaced the old runic alphabet.

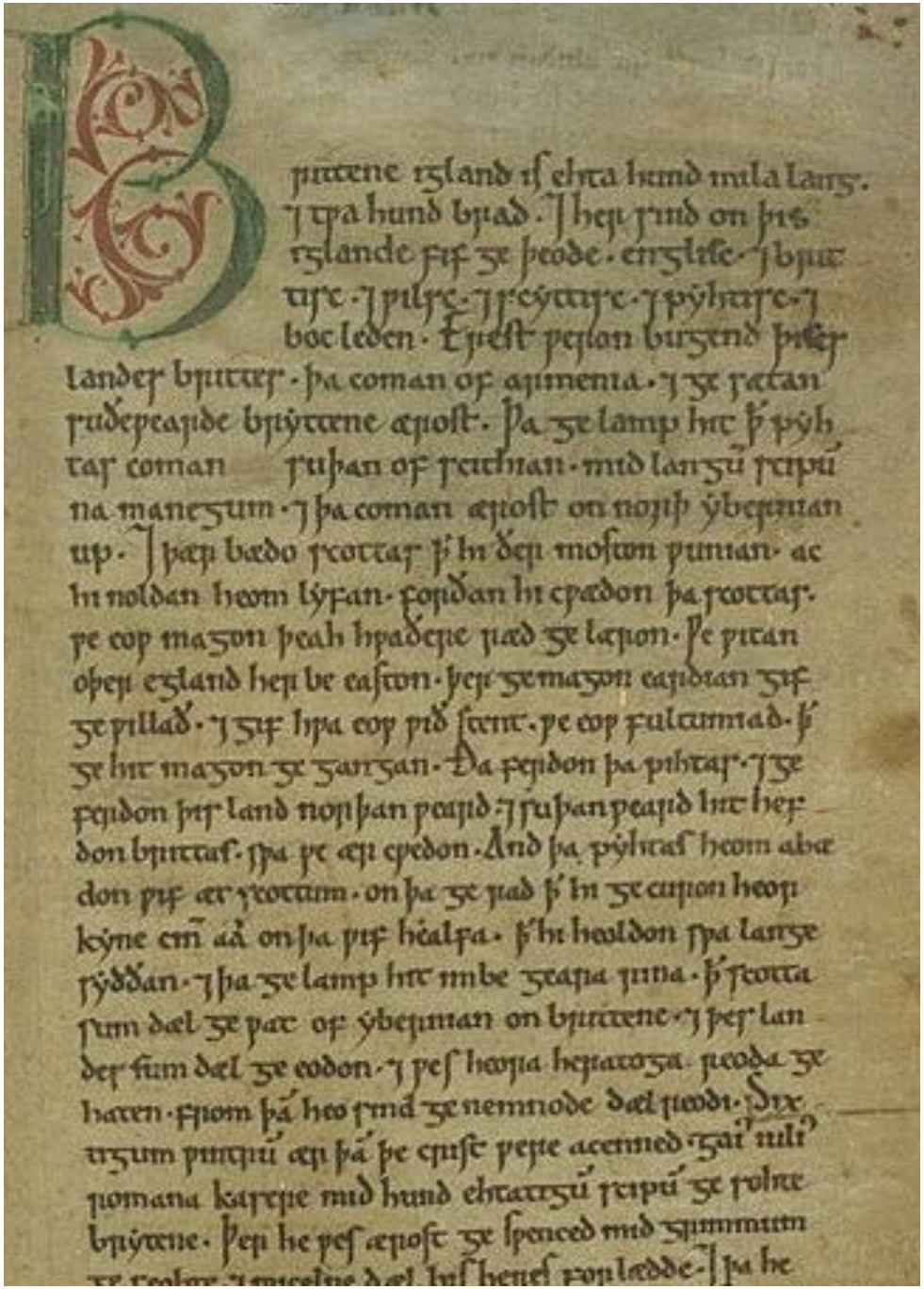
In A.D. 865, the Viking army invaded England

The Vikings added many Norse words: ***sky, egg, cake, leg, window***, ***husband, skill, anger, flat, ugly, get, give, take, raise, call, die, they, their, them***.

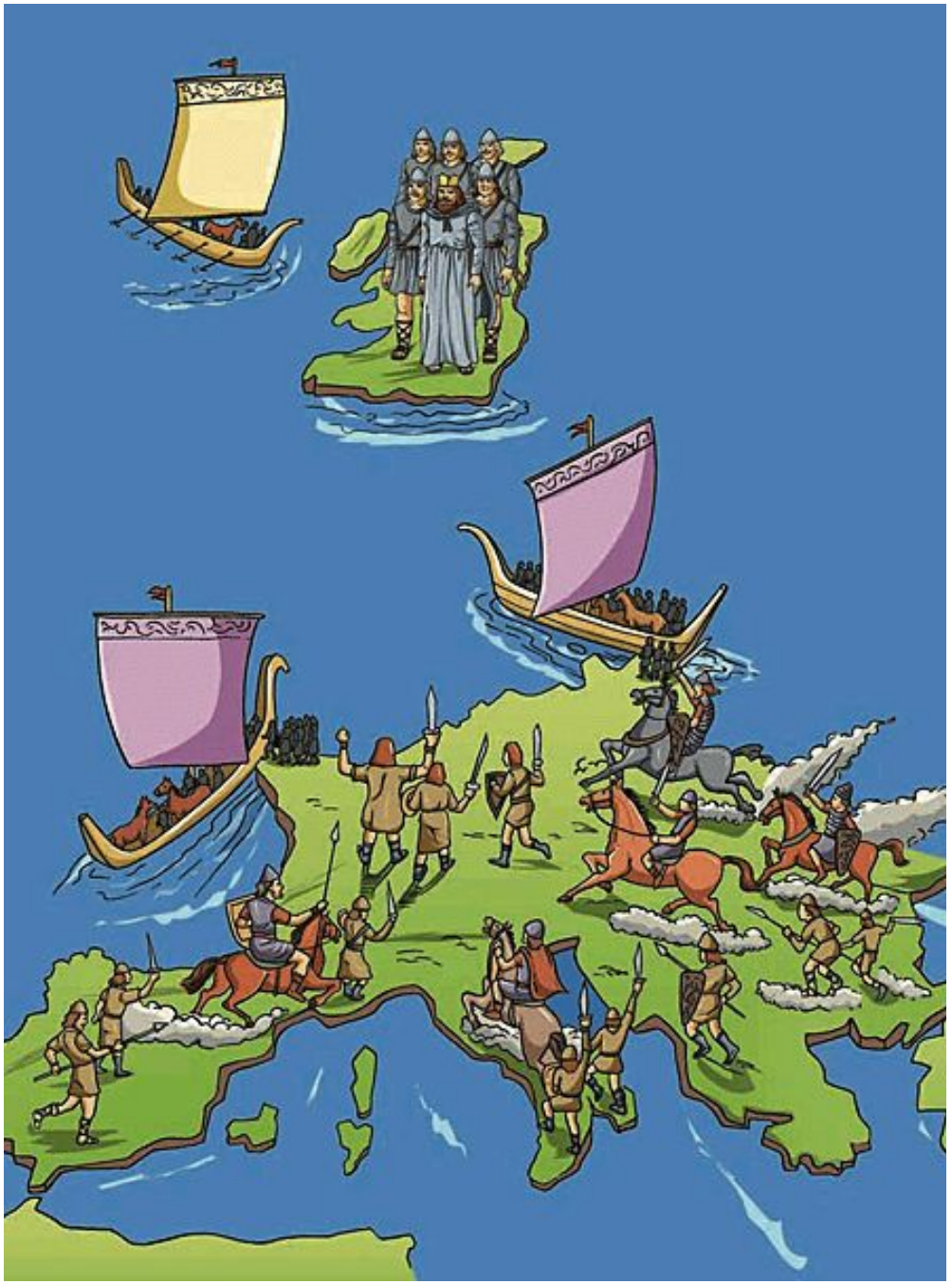
Today familiar English and American patronymic ending in ***son***; such as Jackson, Robertson, Stevenson, etc. clearly are also of Scandinavian origin.

Alfred the Great, 871-899, the first king of England

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle



William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066 A.D. (The Middle English period 1150—1500)



Sometimes French words replaced Old English words; ***crime*** replaced ***firen*** and ***uncle*** replaced ***eam***.

In other times, French and Old English components combined to form a new word; such as, the French ***gentle*** and the Germanic ***man*** formed ***gentleman***.

Sometimes, both English and French words were used alongside:

French	English
close	shut
reply	answer
odour	smell
desire	wish
chamber	room

The Germanic form of plurals (***house-housen***; ***shoe-shoen***) was replaced by the French method of making plurals: adding an "s" (***house-houses; shoe-shoes***). Only a few words have retained their Germanic plurals: ***men, oxen, feet, teeth, children***.

French also affected spelling greatly, for example Old English **cw** became **qu**; thus ***cween*** became **queen**.

Modern English: 1500 on

Old English

From ***Beowulf,***

11th century

HWÆTT WE GARDE-

na ingeardagum, þeodcyninga
þrym gefrunon hu ða æþelingas ellen
fremedon. Oft scyld scefing sceaþen[a]
þreatum monegu[m] mægþum meodo-setla
ofteah egsode eorl syþþan ærest wearð
fea sceaft funden he þæs frofre gebad
weox under wolcnum weorð-myndum þah
oð þ him æghwylc þara ymbsittendra
ofer hron rade hyran scolde gomban
gyldan þæt god cyning. ðæm eafera wæs
æfter cenned geong in geardum þone god
sende folce tofrofre fyren-þearfe on-
geat þ hine æfre gruzon aldor[le]ase. lange

Middle English

From The Canterbury Tales

by Geoffrey Chaucer, 14th century

Whan that Aprill, with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote
And bathed every veyne in swich licour,
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
Whan Zephirus eek with his sweete breeth
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram his halfe cours yronne,
And smale foweles maken melodye,
That slepen al the nyght with open eye
(So priketh hem Nature in hir corages);
Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages

Early Modern English

*From **Paradise Lost***

by John Milton, 1667

Of man's first disobedience, and the fruit
Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste
Brought death into the world, and all our woe,
With loss of Eden, till one greater Man
Restore us, and regain the blissful seat,
Sing, Heavenly Muse, that on the secret top
Of Oreb, or of Sinai, didst inspire
That shepherd, who first taught the chosen seed,
In the beginning how the Heavens and Earth
Rose out of chaos: or if Sion hill
Delight thee more, and Siloa's brook that flowed
Fast by the oracle of God, I thence
Invoke thy aid to my adventurous song,
That with no middle Flight intends to soar
Above the Aonian mount, whyle it pursues
Things unattempted yet in prose or rhyme.

Modern English

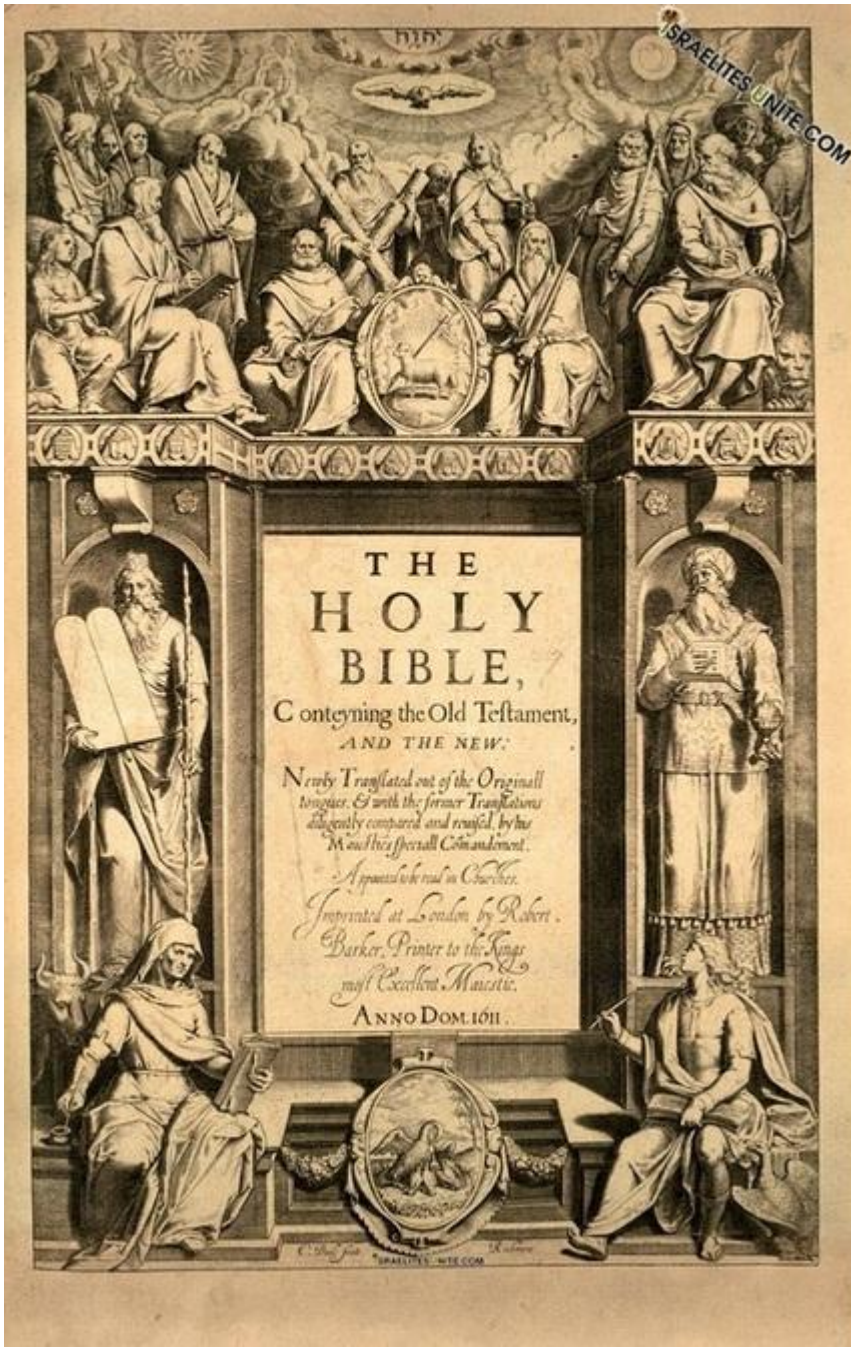
*from **Oliver Twist**, 1838*

by Charles Dickens

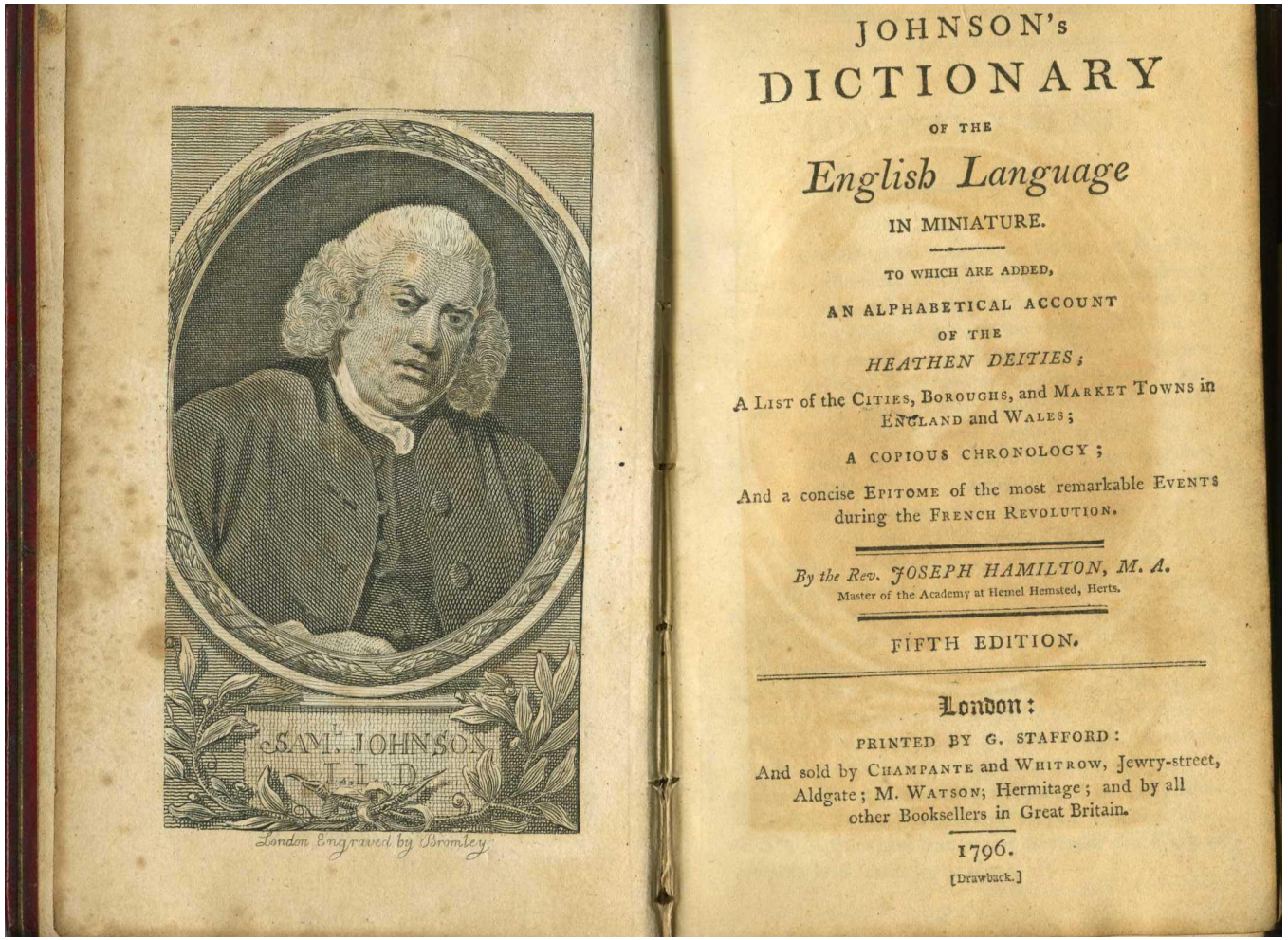
The evening arrived; the boys took their places. The master, in his cook's uniform, stationed himself at the copper; his pauper assistants ranged themselves behind him; the gruel was served out; and a long grace was said over the short commons. The gruel disappeared; the boys whispered each other, and winked at Oliver; while his next neighbours nudged him.

King James Bible 1611

This translation became one of the most commonly used Christian bibles in the world.



Samuel Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language*, 1755, standardized the usage of the English language.

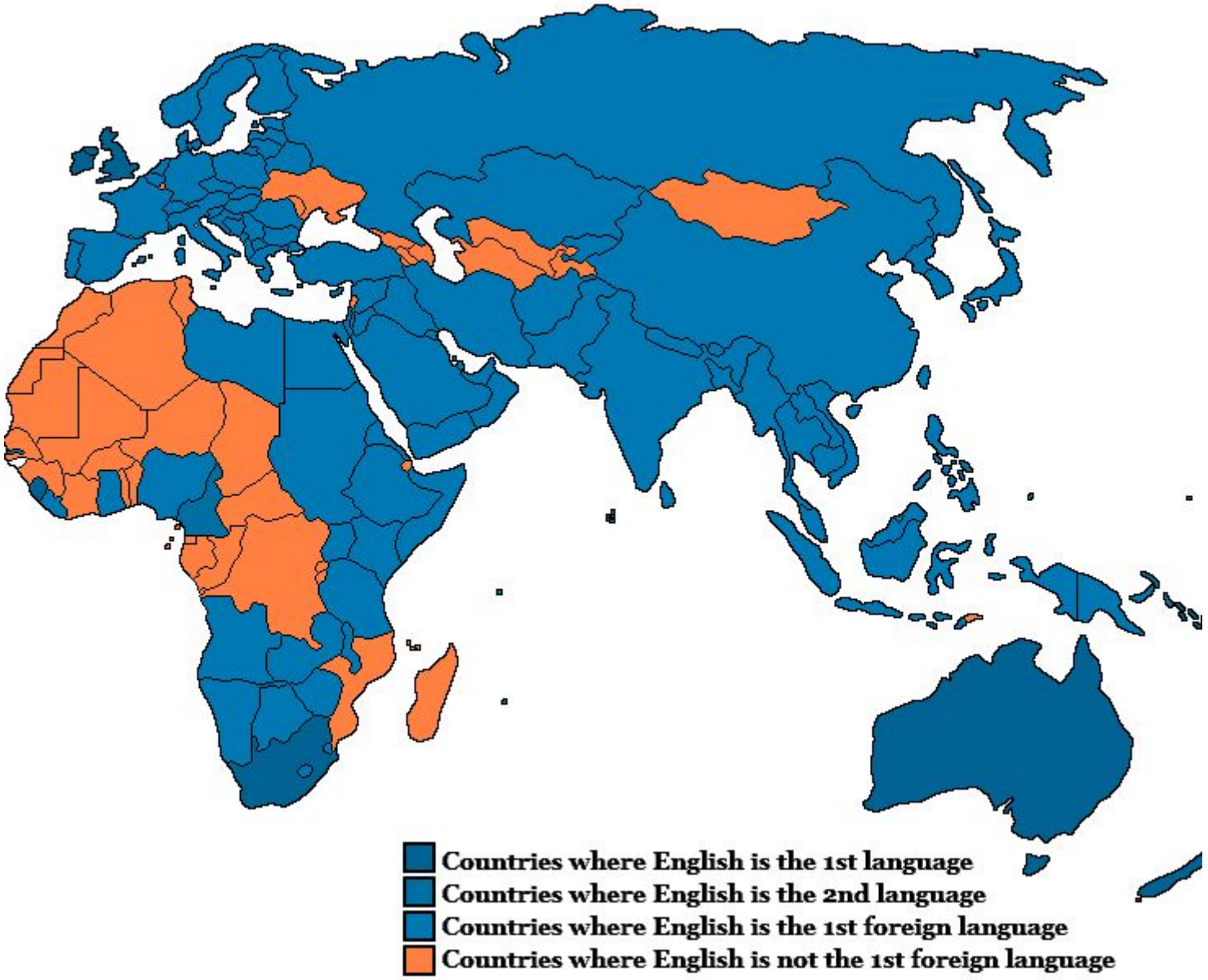


English in a Global Context

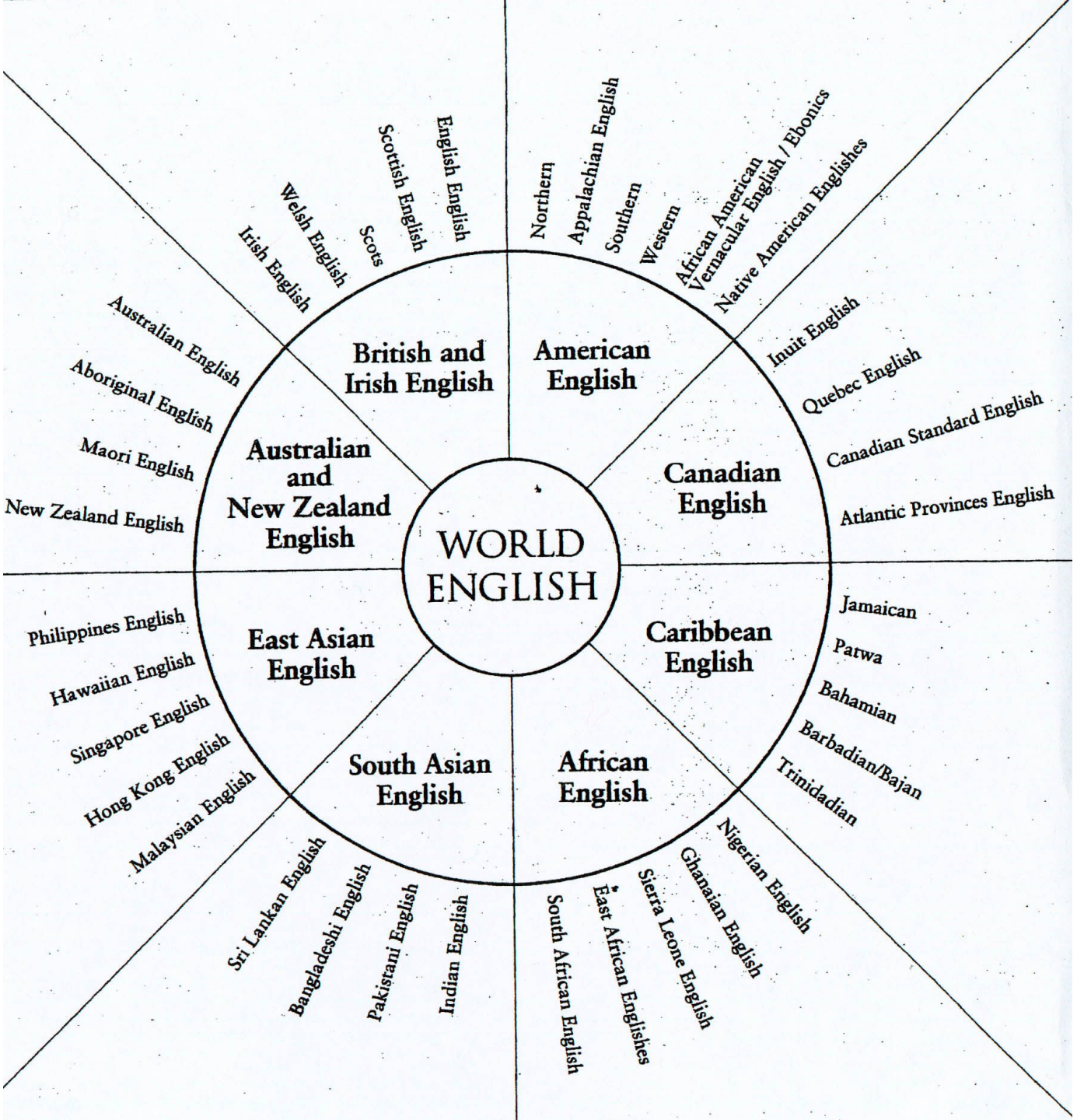
More than 40 countries around the world consider English their primary language

Antigua, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Barbuda, Belize, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Dominica, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Micronesia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, St. Lucia, St.Vincent, Swaziland, The Grenadines, The Philippines, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

English in the World



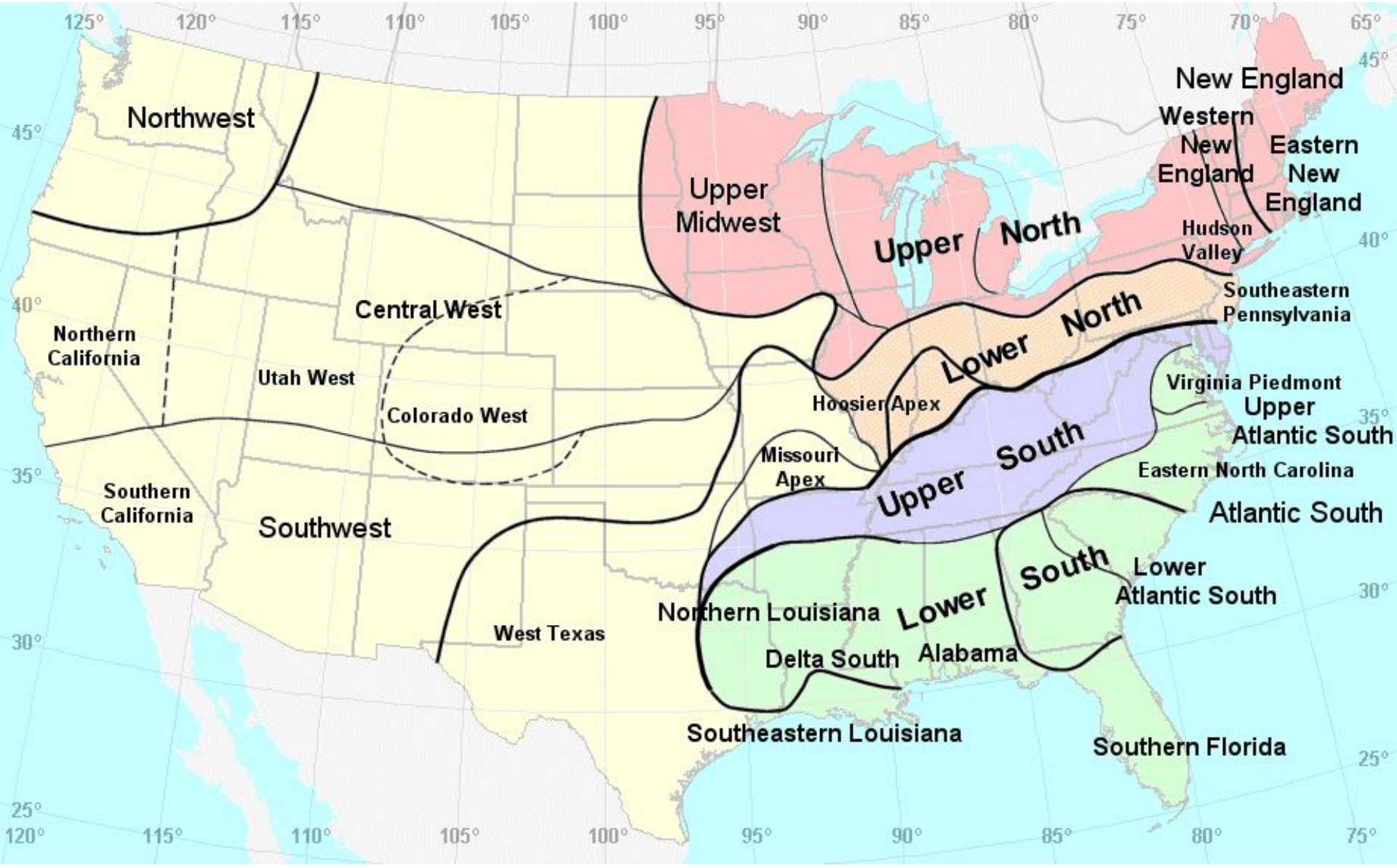
English in the World


WORLD ENGLISH
British and Irish English
English English
Scottish English
Scots
Welsh English
Irish English
American English
Northern
Appalachian English
Southern
Western
African American Vernacular English / Ebonics
Native American Englishes
Canadian English
Inuit English
Quebec English
Canadian Standard English
Atlantic Provinces English
Caribbean English
Jamaican
Patwa
Bahamian
Barbadian/Bajan
Trinidadian
African English
Nigerian English
Ghanaian English
Sierra Leone English
East African Englishes
South African English
South Asian English
Indian English
Pakistani English
Bangladeshi English
Sri Lankan English
East Asian English
Philippines English
Hawaiian English
Singapore English
Hong Kong English
Malaysian English
Australian and New Zealand English
Australian English
Aboriginal English
Maori English
New Zealand English

Standard English

Standard English, also known as **Received Pronunciation** (RP), **the Queen's English**, or **BBC English**, is a form of British English regarded as the standard accent in the United Kingdom.


Selected Languages and Accents of British Isles
Shetland Islands
Orkney Islands
Outer Hebrides (Western Isles)
Scottish
Scottish and Irish Gaelic
Inner Hebrides
Scotland
North Sea
Edinburgh
Glasgow
Irish
Ulster Scots
Northern Ireland
Geordie
Isle of Man
Manchester/ /Lancashire
Yorkshire
Irish Sea
Scouse
England
Republic of Ireland
Wales
Brummy
Norfolk Suffolk Essex
Scottish and Irish Gaelic
Welsh
Welsh
London
Cockney
Estuary
West Country
Southeastern
Cornish
English Channel
Celtic Sea
Guernsey
Jersey
Cornish language or dialect
Cockney accent


Northwest
Upper Midwest
New England
Western New England
Eastern New England
Hudson Valley
Upper North
Southeastern Pennsylvania
Lower North
Central West
Northern California
Utah West
Colorado West
Hoosier Apex
Virginia Piedmont
Upper Atlantic South
Missouri Apex
Upper South
Eastern North Carolina
Southern California
Southwest
Atlantic South
South
Lower Atlantic South
Northern Louisiana
Lower Alabama
West Texas
Delta South
Southeastern Louisiana
Southern Florida
125°
120°
115°
110°
105°
100°
95°
90°
85°
80°
75°
70°
65°
45°
40°
35°
30°
25°

ENGLAND

"Lovely day, isn't it?"
("Hello!")

SPOTLIGHT Audio

English around the world

Im englischsprachigen Raum ist Englisch nicht gleich Englisch. **DAGMAR TAYLOR** berichtet über einige typische Abweichungen von Land zu Land. medium

If you look up a word in a dictionary of British English, the pronunciation is given in an accent called "received pronunciation" or "RP". Here, the meaning of "received" is "accepted". This accent is sometimes referred to as "Queen's English", "Oxford English" or "BBC English". It is how people such as Prime Minister David Cameron and the members of the royal family speak.

Most people in England speak and write standard English — the national norm for grammar, vocabulary and spelling — but many also have their own local words for everyday objects and actions, and have stronger or weaker regional accents. It is estimated that only two per cent of the British population speak with an RP accent. Native British English speakers will be able to say roughly where their compatriots come from when hearing them speak. But English is spoken in many other countries and in many varieties.

We invite you to follow our journey round the English-speaking world and discover differences in accents and vocabulary, along with some interesting regional peculiarities.

compatriot	[kəm'pætriət]	Landsmann, Landsfrau
look up	[luk 'ʌp]	nachschlagen
peculiarity	[pɪˌkjuːlɪ'ærətɪ]	Eigenheit, Besonderheit

COCKNEY

"I didn't see nuffink."
("I didn't see anything.")

One of the most recognizable varieties of British English is the cockney dialect, the name of the type of English traditionally spoken by working-class Londoners in the East End.

Cockney is famous for its rhyming slang, where common words are replaced with a rhyming phrase of two or three words. Often, only the first word is spoken: **have a butcher's** ("butcher's hook") is rhyming slang for "have / take a look"; **plates** ("plates of meat") are "feet". Many Londoners use double negatives as in **I didn't do nothing.**

In contrast to standard English, a feature of a strong London accent is pronouncing "th" [θ] as [f], so the word "think" becomes "fink". The "h" at the beginning of a word is often dropped as well; for example, "happy" becomes "'appy"; and the glottal stop is used, so that the [t] in the middle of "bottle" is not pronounced.

IRELAND

"What's the craic?"
("What's happening?"; craic [kræk] = fun, enjoyment)

Ireland hasn't always been an English-speaking country. English became the dominant language only in the mid-19th century. Although only a very small minority of the population now speaks Gaelic, certain Irish words are rarely translated into English; for instance, government positions: the prime minister is the **Taoiseach** ['tiːʃək], and Ireland's police force is referred to as the **Garda. Eire** ['eərə], the Irish word for Ireland, can be seen on Irish euro coins and on postage stamps. Gaelic is still a part of everyday speech in Ireland, however, in the form of words such as **fáilte** ['fɔːltʃə] (Welcome!) and **Sláinte** ['slɑːntʃə] (Good health!).

The Irish accent has a noticeable lilt, and people talk about a "brogue". Many Irish people don't pronounce "th" [θ] or [ð], but use a [t] or a [d] sound instead: "thirty-three", for example, sounds like "tirty-tree".

brogue	[brəʊg]	(ling.) irischer Akzent
compulsory	[kəm'pʌlsərɪ]	obligatorisch
differ from	['dɪfə frəm]	sich unterscheiden von

Fotos: Alamy, iStock

SCOTLAND

"Ach, awa wi ye."
("Oh, I don't believe you.")

In Scots — a regional dialect of English — vocabulary and some aspects of grammar differ from standard English. In Scotland, you will certainly hear **bairn** [beən] for child, **bonnie** for beautiful and **wee** for small. **Awa** [ə'wɑ] (away) can mean "go", but it is also used on its own or in the phrase **awa wi ye** [ə'wɑ wɪ jɪ] to express disbelief. **Dreich** [driːx] is a peculiarly Scots word that can describe grey, miserable weather.

The Scottish accent differs from standard English in that the "r" is pronounced with a rolling sound. Scottish English also has a sound that is difficult for most English people to pronounce: [x], found at the end of words such as **loch** — and German *ach*.

Gaelic is spoken by as few as one per cent of the Scottish population today, but it can still be seen in written form on road signs, as many place names are of Gaelic origin. The **ben** in Ben Nevis means "mountain", the **loch** in Loch Ness means "lake" and the **glen** in Glenlivet means "valley".

WALES

"Happy I am, me."
("I'm happy.")

Especially when compared to either Scottish or Irish English, the English spoken in Wales does not differ greatly from standard English. One of its most general features is its lilting intonation, characterized by the rise-fall at the end of sentences.

For emphasis, the word order may be reversed, as in: **Coming to stay with us, she is.**

Although the Laws in Wales Acts of 1535 and 1543 imposed English as the official language, Welsh is still very much alive. Since 1999, the teaching of Welsh has been compulsory in schools. Most road signs in Wales are bilingual, and when you enter the country, you will probably see a sign that says: "Welcome to Wales" — **Croeso i Gymru.**

disbelief	[ˌdɪsbɪ'liːf]	Zweifel, Unglaube
for instance	[fə'ɪnstəns]	zum Beispiel (→ p. 61)
glottal stop	[ˌglɒtəl 'stɒp]	(ling.) Glottisschlag, Knacklaut
impose	[ɪm'pəʊz]	(gesetzlich) einführen, anordnen
in contrast to	[ɪn 'kɒntrɑːst tə]	im Gegensatz zu
intonation	[ˌɪntə'neɪʃn]	Satzmelodie
lilt	[lɪlt]	singender Tonfall