

British Symbols

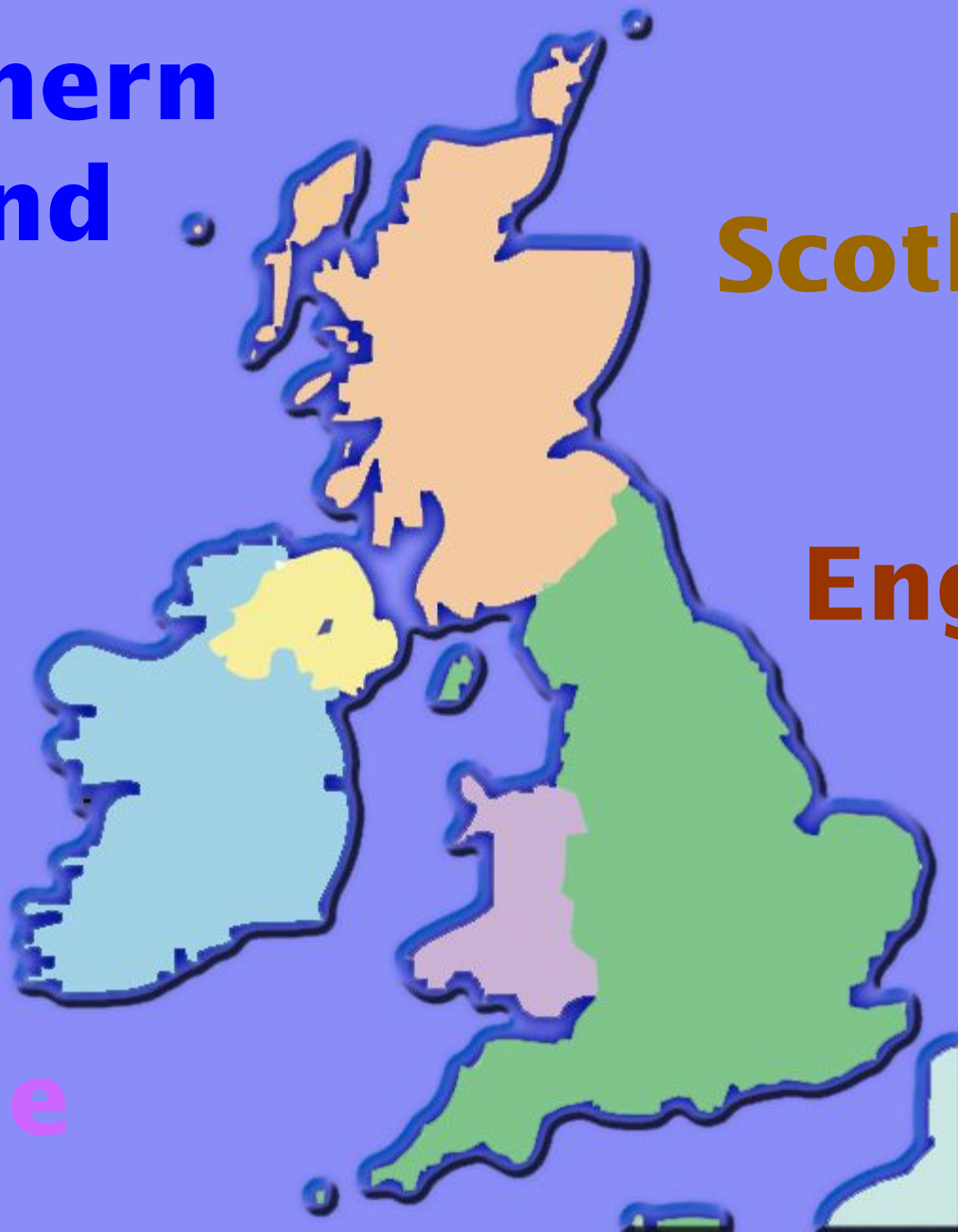


**Northern
Ireland**

Scotland

England

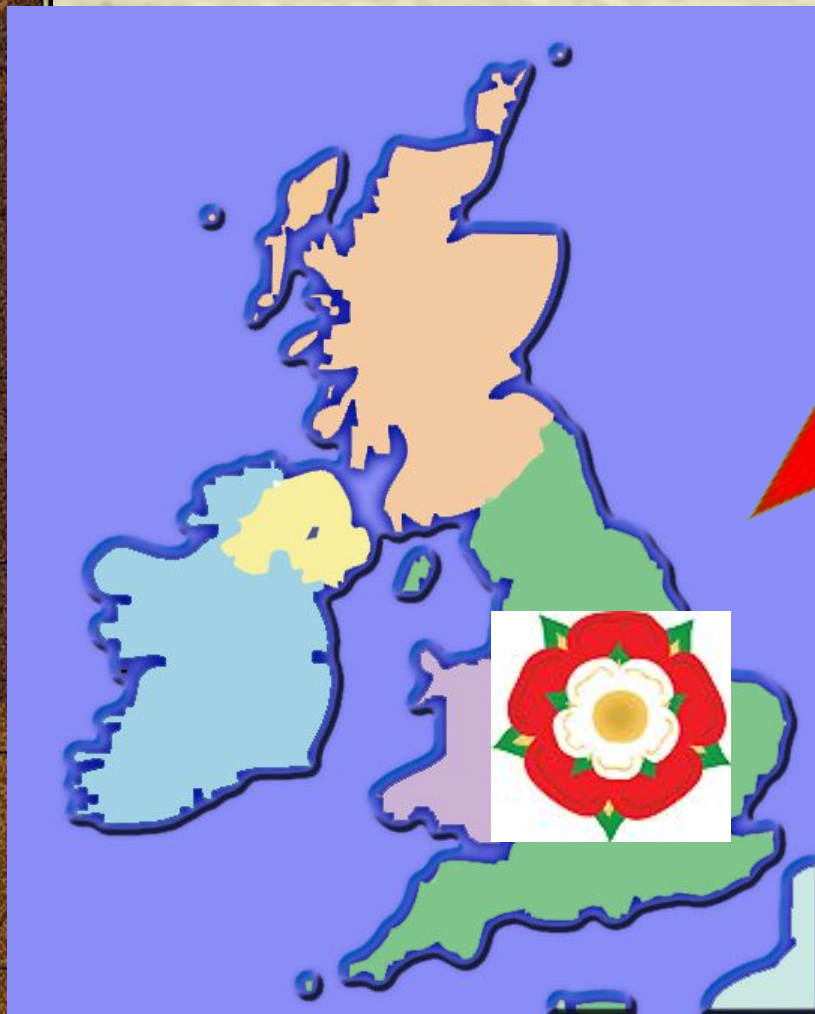
Wales





The national flower of Northern Ireland is the shamrock, a three-leaved plant similar to clover. It is a symbol of trinity

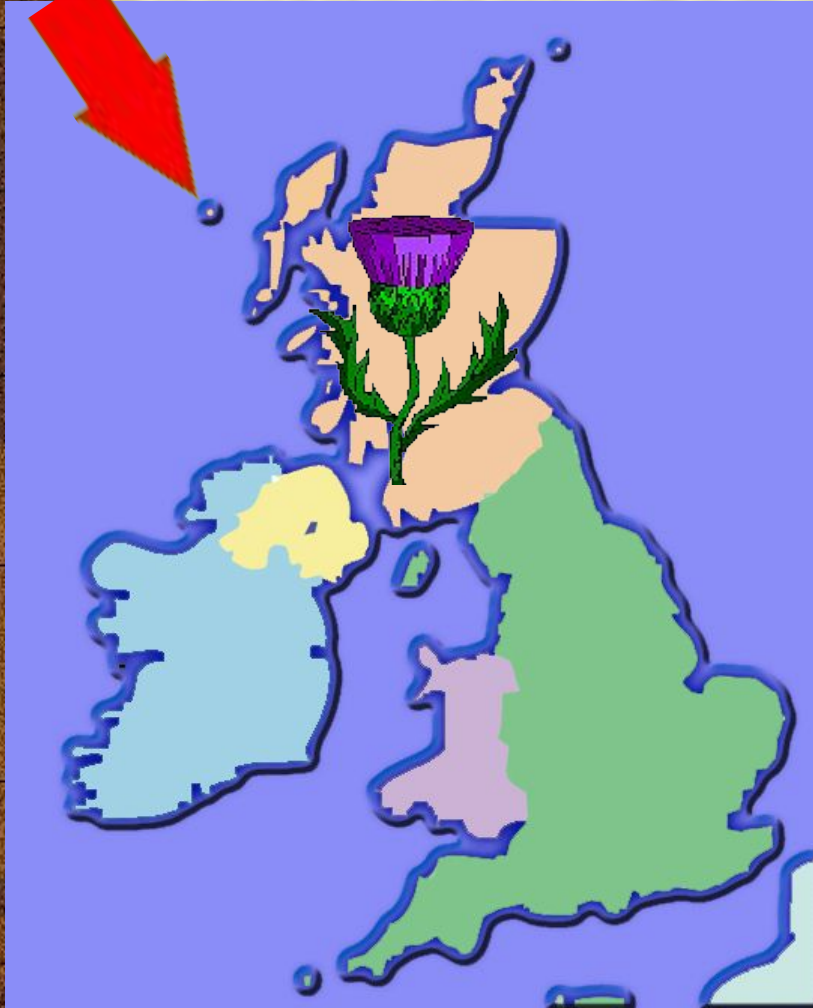
**Northern
Ireland**



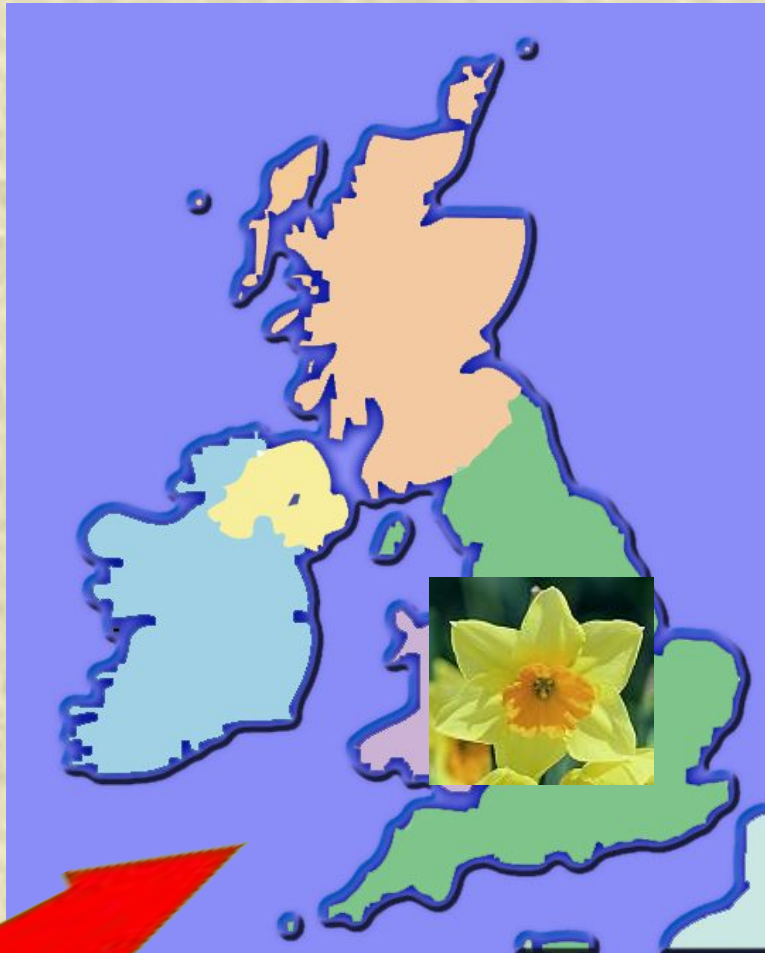
The Tudor rose is the national floral emblem of England. It symbolizes the end of the Wars of the Roses.

England

Scotland



The national flower of Scotland is the **thistle** is a prickly-leaved purple flower which was first used in the 15th century as a symbol of defence. The thistle has been a Scottish symbol for more than 500 years. It was found on ancient coins and coats of arms.



The national flower of Wales is the daffodil, which is traditionally worn on St. David's Day.

Wales

The flag of the UK is a combination of the flags of England (the cross of St. George), Scotland (the cross of St. Andrew), and Ireland (the cross of St. Patrick).



Cross of St. George
(England)

+



Cross of St. Andrew
(Scotland)

+



Cross of St. Patrick
(Ireland)

=



Union Jack
(United Kingdom)

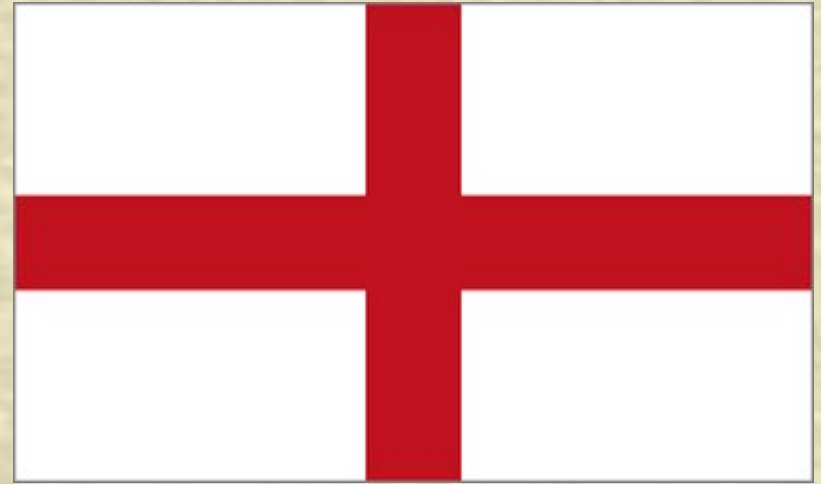


The flag of Scotland - St Andrew's Cross

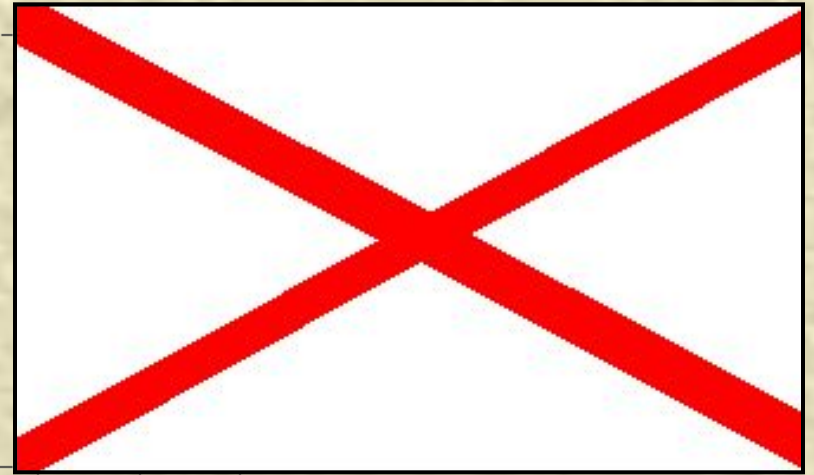


Dating to the 12th century, the historic cross of St. Andrew was first hoisted in 1512. Also known as the Saltire, it is one of the oldest country flags. The Saltire is a flag with a diagonal cross whose arms extend to the corners of the flag

The flag of
England - St
George's Cross



The flag of
Ireland - St
Patrick Cross



Royal Banner of the King or Queen of the United Kingdom Today.



The Royal Banner of England



The Welsh flag



This flag was officially adopted in 1959, but the red dragon (*possibly Roman in origin*) has been associated with Wales for many centuries. The green and white background stripes represent the House of Tudor, a Welsh dynasty that once held the English throne.

UK Royal Coat-of-Arms



Trafalgar Square



Trafalgar Square

- There are always a lot of people and pigeons on the square.
- Every winter there is a big Christmas tree which is a gift from Norway in the middle of the square.
- On New Year's Eve people gather around the tree.
- In the middle of the square there is Admiral Nelson's Column.



Buckingham Palace



- This is the Queen's home.
- It was built in 1703.
- There is a great collection of paintings.

The Queen of Great Britain

- The Queen of Great Britain is Elizabeth II. Her husband is Duke of Edinburgh.
- They have got 4 grown-up children: Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward.



Westminster Abbey

- This is a holy place.
- All English kings have been crowned and buried in the church since 1308.



Westminster Cathedral



- It was built between 1895 and 1903.
- This is the seat of the Cardinal Archbishop and the leading Roman Catholic Church in England.
- Its bell tower is 84 metres high.

The Houses of Parliament

- This big palace is the most famous building in the world – the British Parliament.
- The building is 280 metres long.
- There are more than 1000 rooms.



Big Ben



- Big Ben, the big clock tower, is the symbol of London. It strikes hours.



Tower

- The Tower of London has been a fortress, a palace, an arsenal, a mint, a prison, an observatory, a zoo, the home of the Crown Jewels and a tourist attraction.



Imperial State Crown

- The Tower's greatest treasure is the Imperial State Crown.
- There are 2 800 diamonds on it.



Beefeaters



- The guards of the Tower are called Beefeaters.
- The legend says that if the ravens leave, the Tower and the country will fall.



Tower Bridge

- The most famous bridge in London is a Tower bridge.



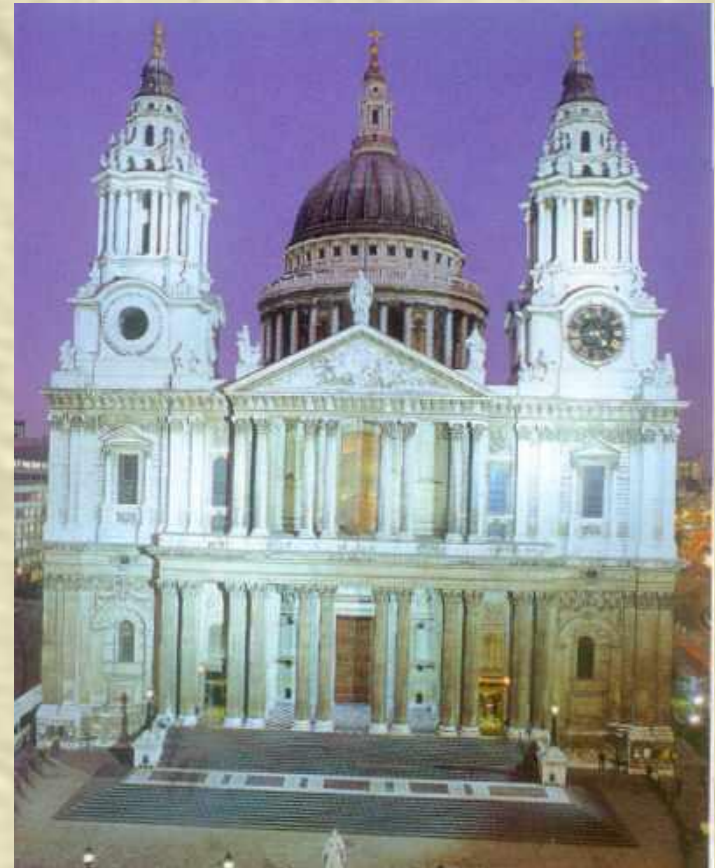
Tower Bridge



- Tower Bridge is a bascule-bridge.
- The bascules will open to let ships pass through.

St. Paul's Cathedral

- St. Paul's Cathedral is a famous building too.
- Prince Charles and Princess Diana married here in 1981.



Madame Tussauds Waxmuseum



- Here you can see famous people, good and bad, made of wax.
- This is Queen Elizabeth I.

King Henry VIII with his wives



Double-deckers



- There are big red buses called double-deckers in London.
- People sit upstairs and downstairs on these buses.
- Tourists like them very much.

Taxis

- Taxis in London are old-fashioned black cars.



Telephone booths

From here you can call your friends.



River Thames



- Thames flows through London.
- The River Thames is 338 km long.
- It is 245 m wide here.
- Even big seaships can visit London.

Other British symbols



Tartan



Tartans are an internationally recognized symbol of Scotland. Highlanders wore clothes with distinctive striped or checked patterns, and the growth of clan and family tartans became popular in the mid-18th century

British souvenirs

