

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK)

Present by
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Situation

The United Kingdom is the greater part of the British Isles.

The UK is situated north-west of the European continent between the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea. It has a total land area of 244,100 square kilometres, of which nearly 99% is land and the remainder inland water. From the north to south it is about 1,000 kilometres long. The UK consists of 4 countries which are England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The UK is an island state. The 2 main islands are Great Britain (where England, Scotland and Wales are situated) and Ireland. Northern Ireland and the independent Irish Republic are there. The 2 islands are separated by the Irish Sea.

The UK is separated from the continent by the English Channel and the Strait of Dover. The UK is also washed by the Atlantic Ocean in the north and the North Sea in the east.



Countries and their capitals

England is the largest country of Great Britain. London is the capital of England. This city has 16th place by the amount of population in the world.



Scotland is very famous for its beautiful scenery and the lakes called lochs. Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland.



Wales is famous by its musical festivals .There are the Cambrian Mountains in Wales.
Cardiff is the capital of Wales.



In Northern Ireland you may see different shades and tones of green. Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland.



Symbols of countries

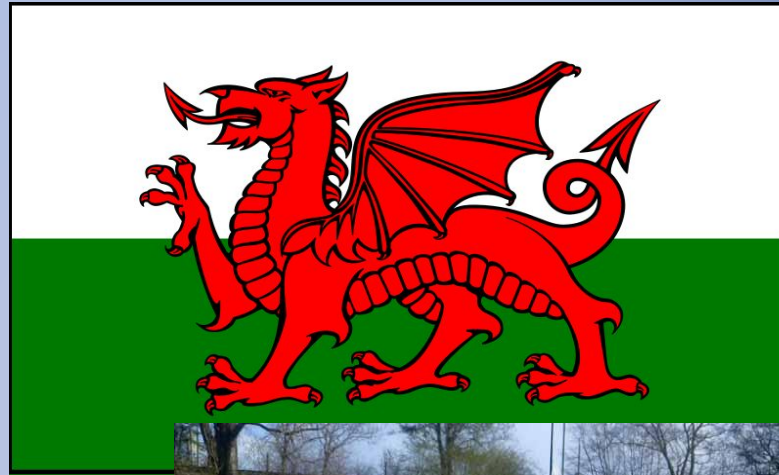
The symbol of England is a red rose, and English are crazy about gardening.



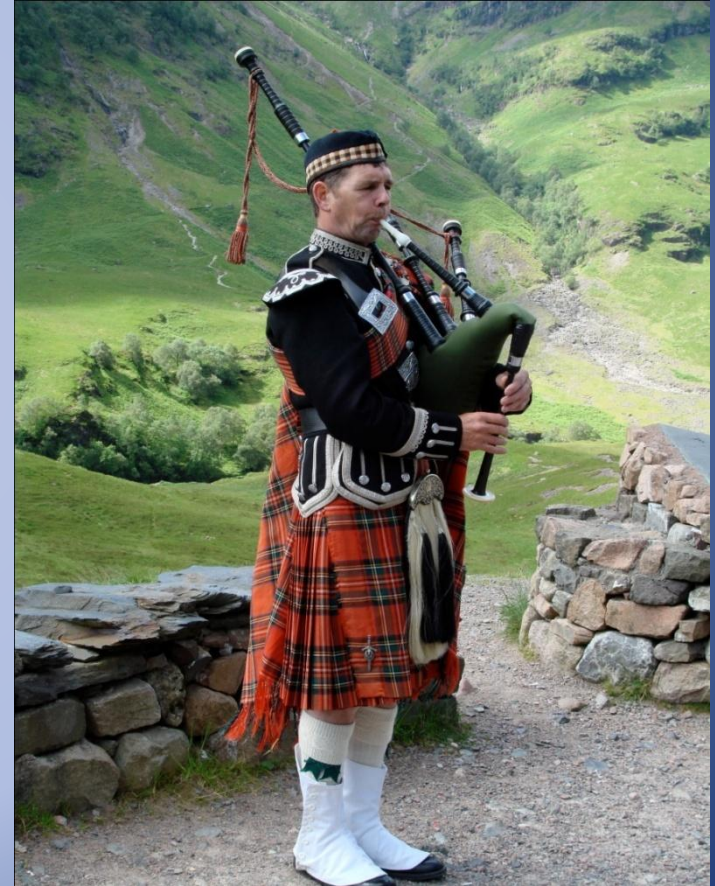
The most famous symbol of Ireland is the shamrock.



A red dragon is probably the oldest symbol of Wales. Another symbols of Wales are the leek and the daffodil.

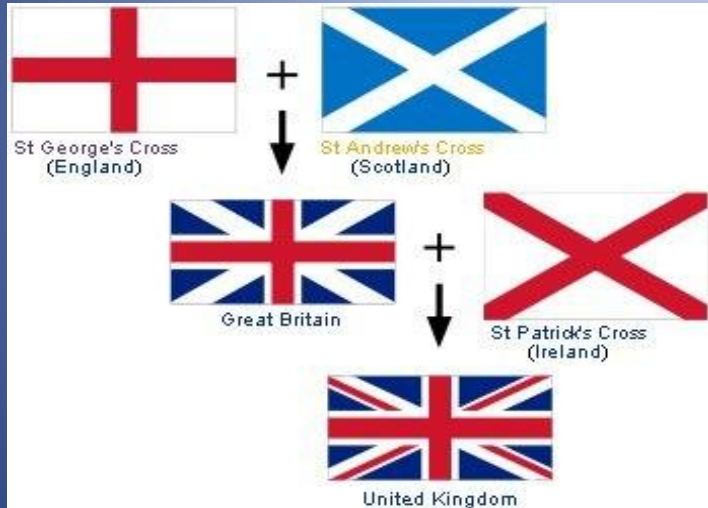


An important symbol of Scotland is a special kind of material called tartan. Another Scottish symbol is the thistle. People in Scotland play very unusual musical instruments called bagpipes.



SIX CLASSIC TARTAN PATTERNS

The flag of the United Kingdom is known as the Union Jack. It is made up of 3 crosses: the cross of St. George (the patron saint of England), the cross of St. Andrew (the patron saint of Scotland) and the cross of St. Patrick (the patron saint of Ireland).



Sports and holidays

In Wales, people wear the leek on their coats on St. David's Day, the Welsh national holiday, although some people wear another symbol– the daffodil.

Rugby is the national sport of Wales.



English football is famous, but there is another national sport too, cricket. English people like to talk about the weather. The English are also famous for their love of animals.



Green is one of the symbols of Ireland and everybody wears green on St. Patrick's Day , the Irish national holiday.

