

EMBLEMS OF GREAT BRITAIN

*National Personification - Britannia





* National Animal - Lion,
Bulldog

* The bulldog is sometimes
used as a symbol of the
United Kingdom and has
been associated with
Winston Churchill's
defeat of Nazi Germany.



 **ENGLAND**



*The national flower of England is the rose. The flower has been adopted as England's emblem since the time of the Wars of the Roses - civil wars (1455-1485) between the royal house of Lancaster (whose emblem was a red rose) and the royal house of York (whose emblem was a white rose). The struggle between the Roses ended by the marriage of Henry VII, the Lancastrian with Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV, the Yorkist. The red rose has since become the national emblem of England.



* Patron Saint - St George

* National
Animal - Lion



 **SCOTLAND**

*The thistle is the national emblem of Scotland. It happened in very old times when the Norsemen wanted to settle in this country. The Scots had their camps near the river Tay, the largest in Scotland. As they arrived late in the day, weary and tired after a long march, they immediately fell asleep. The Norsemen came close to the Scots' camps and saw there were no guards in the night and wanted to kill them in their sleep.



*That's why they took off their shoes so as to make no noise. But one of the Norsemen stepped on a thistle. The sudden and sharp pain he felt made him scream. The Scots woke up and put the enemy to flight. Unexpected help from the thistle, the Scots took it as their national emblem.

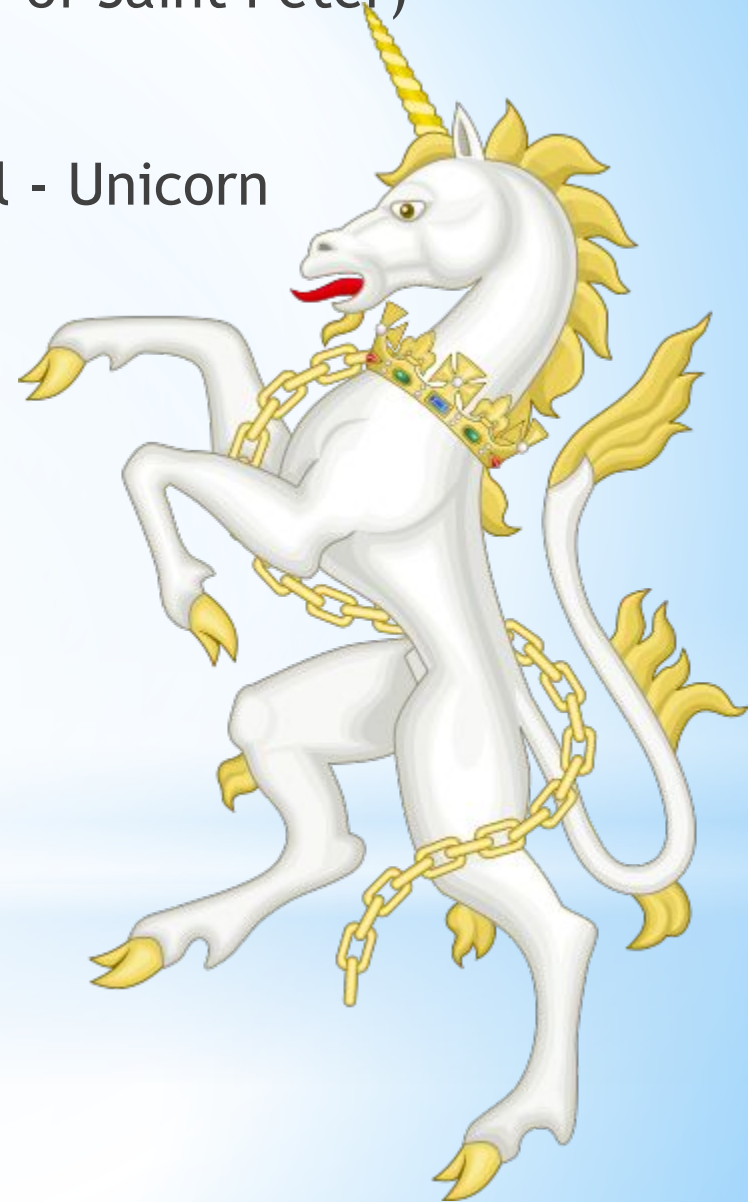
*The Scottish Bluebell is also seen as the flower of Scotland.





* Patron Saint - St. Andrew (is a Christian Apostle and the brother of Saint Peter)

* National Animal - Unicorn



 **WALES**

- * National flower - daffodil or leek

- * Welshmen all over the world celebrate St David's Day by wearing either leeks or daffodils. The link between the leek and St David is the belief that he is supposed to have lived for several years on bread and wild leeks.



- * We know that Welshmen wore leeks on St David's Day in Shakespeare's time. In «Henry V» we see mentioning of this tradition.



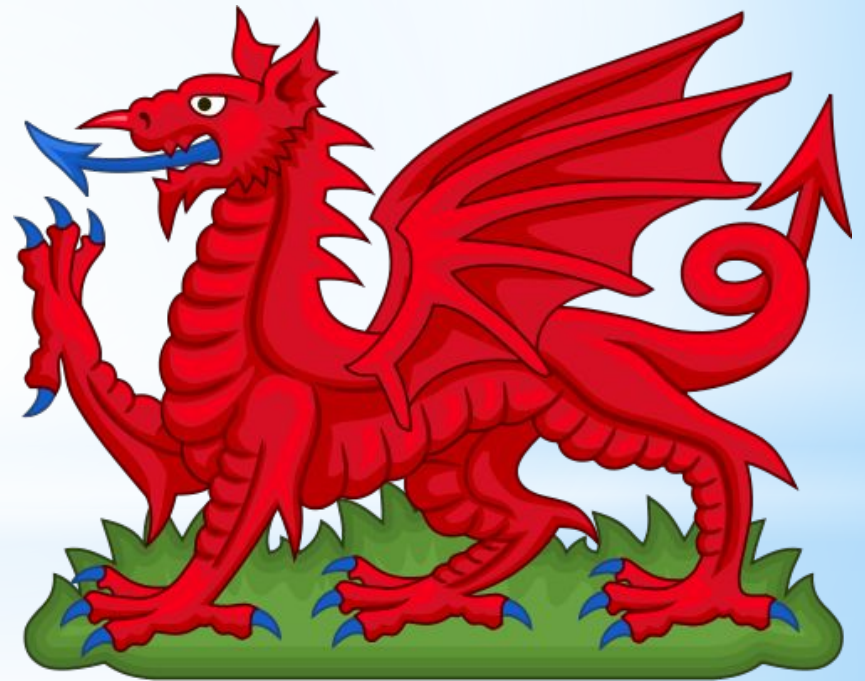
*The daffodil is also associated with St David's Day, due to the belief that it flowers on that day. It became an alternative to the Leek as a Welsh emblem in the present century, because some thought the leek to be too simple.

*There are many explanations of how the leek came to be adopted as the national emblem of Wales. One is that St David advised the Welsh, on the evening before the battle with the Saxons, to wear leeks in their caps to distinguish friend from foe.

* Patron Saint - St David (was a Welsh Bishop during the 6th century)



National Animal - Dragon



 **NORTHERN IRELAND**

*The national flower of Northern Ireland is the shamrock, a three-leaved plant similar to clover. An Irish tale tells of how Patrick used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.



Flax





* Patron Saint - St Patrick (was a Romano-British and Christian priest)