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Государственные символы Соединенного Королевства (The State Symbols of the United Kingdom)

Проект

Секция: Иностранные языки (английский язык)

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Introduction

State symbols of the United Kingdom penetrate into our life. We can come across them in such spheres as fashion, tourism, business. This issue becomes important because many people come to the UK. Children of our age should know state symbols of the United Kingdom because we must expand our horizons.

So we decided to choose this theme because it is the most interesting for us. In our work we try to answer the following questions: What are the state symbols of the UK? Why do the United Kingdom state symbols look like that?

Starting the research we see its *aim* as following to explain the meaning of the UK state symbols.

Taking into consideration the aim of the research we defined the following *tasks*:

- to analyze special literature on the topic;
- to learn the history of the United Kingdom state symbols.

1. The History of the Union Flag.

It is called the Union Flag because it symbolizes the administrative union of the countries of the United Kingdom. It is made up of the individual flags of three of the Kingdom's countries all united under one Sovereign: England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. As Wales was not a Kingdom but a Principality it could not be included on the flag.

The only reason that the UK flag is not symmetrical is because of the relative positions of the crosses of St Patrick and St. Andrew. The red cross of St. Patrick is offset such that it doesn't relegate the white cross of St. Andrew to a mere border for it. St. Andrew's cross has the higher position at the hoist side, with St. Patrick's cross in the higher position on the opposite side. (Appendix 1)

On 12 April 1606, the National Flags of Scotland and England were united for use at sea, thus making the first Union Jack. Ashore however, the old flags of England and Scotland continued to be used by their respective countries.

On 1 January 1801, Ireland was united with Great Britain and it became necessary to have a new National Flag in which Ireland was represented. The cross St Patrick was combined with the Union Flag of St George and St Andrew, to create the Union Flag that has been flown ever since.

As Scotland joined the Union nearly two hundred years before Ireland, St Andrew's Cross was placed uppermost in the top quarter nearest the flagstaff, this being the most honourable position according to heraldry, while the Irish Cross was given the second most honourable position, the top quarter of the fly.

In order to avoid having the red of the Irish Cross directly upon the blue field of the Scottish one an edging of the white field of the Irish Cross is used.

To summarize...

The formation of the Union Flag (Union Jack) came about as the result of the progressive merging of the inhabitants of the British Isles under one throne.

1606 - the National Flags of Scotland and England were united for use at sea, thus making the first Union Flag.

1707 - during the reign of Queen Anne, the first Union Flag was by royal proclamation made the National flag of Great Britain, for use ashore and afloat.

1801 - Ireland was united with Great Britain and the present Union Flag was formed.

2. The Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom.

The Royal Arms we see today have evolved over nine centuries, since Richard the Lionheart chose three lions to represent England the. This symbol on the King's shield would immediately identify him in the midst of battle.

The main element of the Arms is the shield which is divided into four quarters. (Appendix 2)

The first and fourth quadrants represent England and contain three gold lions passant (in plain English, three gold lions with their right forepaws raised and their heads facing the viewer) on a red field; the second quadrant represents Scotland contains a red lion rampant on a gold field; the third quadrant represents Ireland and contains the gold harp of Ireland on a blue field.

Why is Wales not represented on the shield and Coat of Arms?

Wales was recognised as a Principality by the creation of the Prince of Wales long before the incorporation of the quarterings for Scotland and Ireland in the Royal Arms. The arms of the Prince of Wales show the arms of the ancient Principality in the centre as well as these quarterings.

3. The Royal Anthem of the United Kingdom.

The National Anthem is God Save the Queen. The British National Anthem originated in a patriotic song first performed in 1745. It became known as the National Anthem from the beginning of the nineteenth century.

"God Save the Queen" (alternatively "God Save the King") is an anthem used in a number of Commonwealth realms, their territories, and the British Crown Dependencies. The words and title are adapted to the gender of the current monarch, e.g., replacing "Queen" with "King", "she" with "he", and so forth, when a king reigns. The author of the tune is unknown, and it may originate in plainchant, but a 1619 attribution to John Bull is sometimes made. (Appendix 3)

When is the British National Anthem sung? The National Anthem is played whenever The Queen makes a public appearance and is played by the British Broadcasting Corporation every night before closedown.

God Save the Queen is the de facto British national anthem and has this role in some British territories. It is one of two national anthems for New Zealand and for several of Britain's territories that have their own additional local anthem. It is the royal anthem of Australia, Canada, Barbados, Jamaica, and Tuvalu. In countries not previously part of the British Empire, the tune of "God Save the Queen" has provided the basis for various patriotic songs, though still generally connected with royal ceremony. In the United States, the British anthem's melody is used for the patriotic "My Country, 'Tis of Thee."

Beyond its first verse, which is consistent, it has many historic and extant versions: Since its first publication, different verses have been added and taken away and, even today, different publications include various selections of verses in various orders. In general, only one verse is sung. Sometimes two verses are sung, and on rare occasions, three.

Conclusion

In our work we have tried to answer the following questions: What are the state symbols of the UK? Why do the United Kingdom state symbols look like that.

We have found out that the official flag of the United Kingdom is made of three flags of its countries. Besides we have found out that it is called the Union Jack.

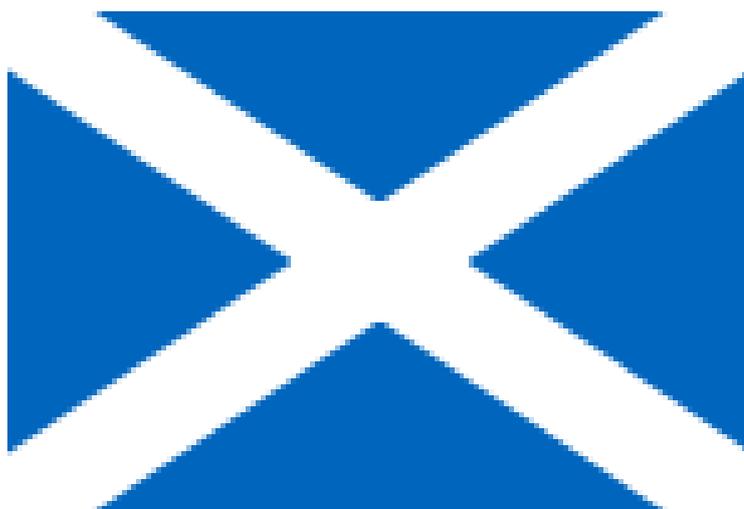
We have also learned much new about The Royal Coat of Arms. It was Richard the Lionheart who chose three lions to represent England. And the main element of the Arms is the shield which is divided into four quarters.

One more state symbol is the Royal Anthem "God Save the Queen" ("God Save the King"). It is interesting that the anthem used in a number of Commonwealth territories. The words and title are adapted to the gender of the current monarch, e.g., replacing "Queen" with "King".

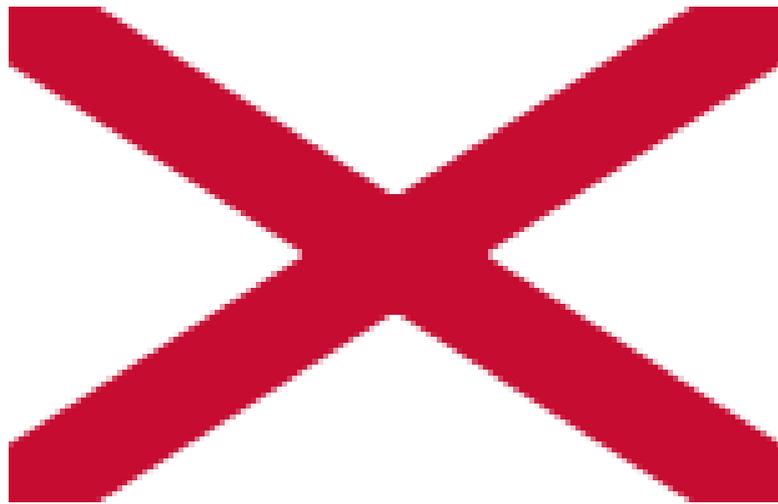
It is important for children of our age learning the English language to know the states symbols of the United Kingdom that is a part of its culture and lifestyle.



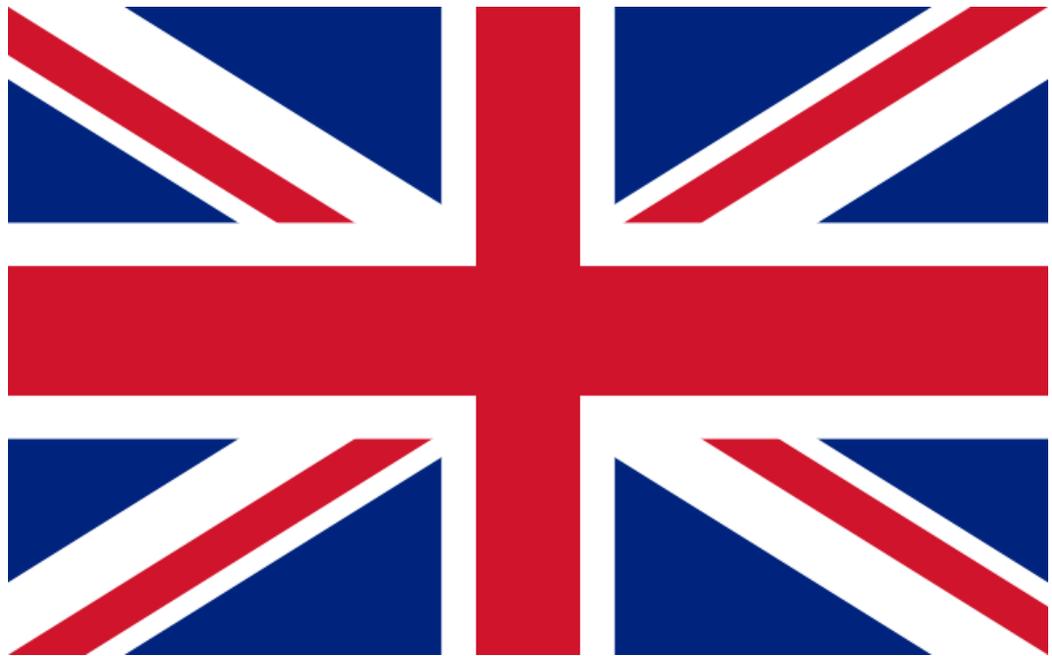
St. George Cross



St. Andrew Cross



St. Patrick Cross



Union Jack



The Royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom

The National Anthem of the United Kingdom
“God Save the Queen”

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

O lord God arise,
Scatter our enemies,
And make them fall!
Confound their knavish tricks,
Confuse their politics,
On you our hopes we fix,
God save the Queen!

Not in this land alone,
But be God's mercies known,
From shore to shore!
Lord make the nations see,
That men should brothers be,
And form one family,
The wide world ov'er

From every latent foe,
From the assasins blow,
God save the Queen!
O'er her thine arm extend,
For Britain's sake defend,
Our mother, prince, and friend,
God save the Queen!

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign!
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,

God save the Queen!