

# British Culture 1 - The United Kingdom

The name **United Kingdom** refers to the union of **England, Scotland, Wales** and **Northern Ireland**.

**Great Britain** is a political term which describes the combination of **England, Scotland** and **Wales**. **Britain** only refers to **England** and **Wales**.

The British flag, also known as the **Union Jack**, consists of three heraldic crosses.

The British currency (= money) is the pound sterling. The symbol for the pound is £. 1p is a penny and the plural of 'penny' is pence (2p = 2 pence).



**England** occupies most of the southern two thirds of **Great Britain**. The capital of **England** is London. It is also the capital of **the United Kingdom**. The inhabitants of **England** are the English. The English flag is a red cross on a white background. It is also the flag of St George, the patron saint of **England**. St George's day is celebrated on April 23. The national emblem and national flower of **England** is a red rose.



**Wales** is situated on the western side of **Great Britain**. The capital of **Wales** is Cardiff. The inhabitants of **Wales** are the Welsh. The Welsh flag represents a red dragon on a green and white field. The patron saint of **Wales** is St David. St David's day is celebrated on March 1. The national emblems of **Wales** are daffodils and leeks.



**Scotland** is located in the north of **Great Britain**. The capital of **Scotland** is Edinburgh. The inhabitants of **Scotland** are the Scots. The Scottish flag is a white saltire (= a cross in the shape of an X) on a sky blue field. It is also known as the cross of St Andrew, the patron saint of **Scotland**. St Andrew's day is celebrated on November 30. The national emblem and national flower of **Scotland** is the thistle.



**Northern Ireland** lies in the northeast of the island of Ireland. The capital of **Northern Ireland** is Belfast. The patron saint of **Northern Ireland** is St Patrick. St Patrick's day is celebrated on March 17. The national emblem and national flower of **Northern Ireland** is the shamrock.

