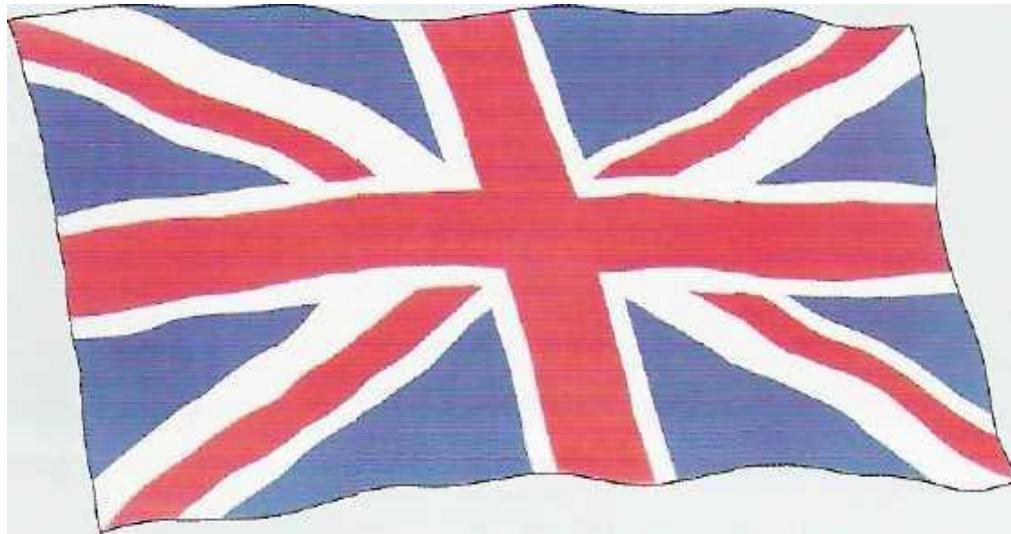














# Country and People of UK



The Union Jack

(O'Driscoll, James. 2003)

► Identifying symbols of the four nations

	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland
<b>Flag</b>	 St George's Cross	 Dragon of Cadwallader	 St Andrew's Cross	 St Patrick's Cross
<b>Plant</b>	 Rose	 Leek/Daffodil <sup>1</sup>	 Thistle	 Shamrock
<b>Colour<sup>2</sup></b>				
<b>Patron saint</b>	St George	St David	St Andrew	St Patrick
<b>Saint's day</b>	23 April	1 March	30 November	17 March

<sup>1</sup> There is some disagreement among Welsh people as to which is the real national plant, but the leek is the most well-known.

<sup>2</sup> As typically worn by sports teams of the different nations.

(O'Driscoll, James. 2003)

- At one time the four nations were distinct from each other in almost every aspect of life. In the first place, they were different racially.
- The people in Ireland, Wales and highland Scotland belonged to the Celtic race;
- Those in England and lowland Scotland were mainly of Germanic origin.
- This difference was reflected in the languages they spoke. People in the Celtic areas spoke Celtic languages: Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh.
- People in the Germanic areas spoke Germanic dialects (including the one which has developed into modern English).
- Today these differences have become blurred.
- Although there is only one government for the whole of Britain, and people have the same passport regardless of where in Britain they live, some aspects of government are organized separately (and sometimes differently) in the four parts of the United Kingdom. Moreover, Welsh, Scottish and Irish people feel their identity very strongly.
- The nationality of people from UK is the British.

# The dominance of England

- \* The system of politics that is used in all four nations today is of English origin.
- \* English is the main language of all four nations.
- \* The supply of money in Britain is controlled by the Bank of England
- \* The present queen of the country is universally known as 'Elizabeth the Second', even though Scotland and Northern Ireland have never had an 'Elizabeth the First.'

# National loyalties - double identity

Because of migration of people from Scotland, Wales and Ireland to England, there are millions of people who live in England but who would never describe themselves as English. They may have lived in England all their lives, but as far as they are concerned they are Scottish or Welsh or Irish.