

NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF THE UK

Each country in Britain has its own patron saint and floral emblem:



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PARTS OF THE UK



The UK consists of four parts.

THE UK FLAG



The UK flag consists of three elements: the cross of St. George (red on white) for England. The UK flag consists of three elements: the cross of St. George (red on white) for England, the cross of St. Andrew (white diagonal on blue) for Scotland. The UK flag consists of three elements: the cross of St. George (red on white) for England, the cross of St.

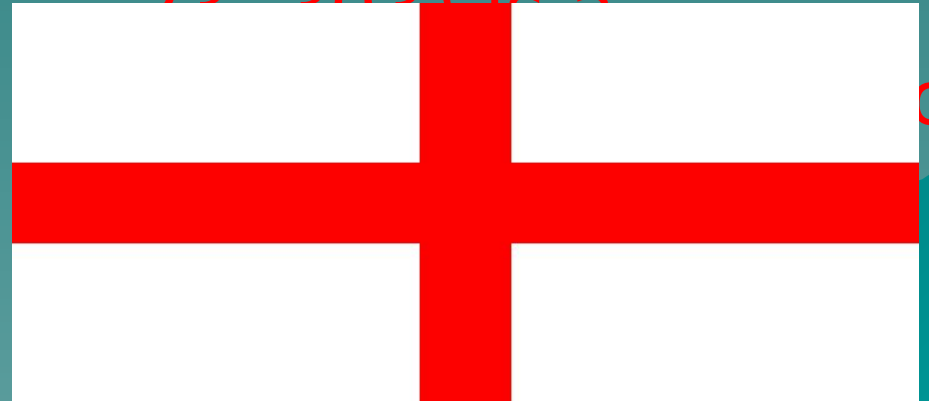
RED ROSE



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).

ST. GEORGE

Saint George (c. 275-280–April 23 23, 303 23, 303) is a Christian 23, 303) is a Christian martyr 23, 303) is a Christian martyr, who was a commander in chief 23, 303) is a



Christian martyr, who

THISTLE



The national flower of Scotland is the thistle, a prickly-leaved purple flower which was first used in the 15th century as a symbol of defence.

ST. ANDREW



About the middle of the tenth century, Andrew became the patron saint of Scotland. Several legends state that the



St.

SHAMROCK



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.

ST. PATRICK



Legend credits Patrick with teaching the Irish about the concept of the Trinity. Legend credits Patrick with teaching the Irish about the concept of the Trinity by showing people the shamrock, a 3-leaved clover, using it to highlight the Christian dogma of

LEEK and **DAFFODIL**



The national flower of Wales is the daffodil, which is traditionally worn on St. David's Day. The vegetable called **leek** is also a traditional emblem of Wales.

ST. DAVID



St. David lived a simple lifeSt. David lived a simple life teaching his followers to drink only water; to eat only bread with salt and herbs; and to spend the evenings in prayer, reading and writing.. His symbol, also the symbol of Wales, is the leek.

TEST YOURSELF

1. How many floral emblems does the UK have?
2. What is the emblem of England? Who is its patron saint?
3. What is the emblem of Scotland? Who is its patron saint?
4. What is the emblem of Ireland? Who is its patron saint?
5. What are the emblems of Wales? Who is its patron saint?
6. What is the name of the national flag of the UK?
7. What elements does it consist of?