

Do you know really United Kingdom ?



Everybody has already heard something about the U.K. but... Do you really know what is the U.K ?

If I say British, you will say : Big Ben, The Thames, Sherlock Holmes, James Bond, Double Deckers bus, The Beatles, Kate and William, Royal Baby... But British people can be either Scottish, English, Welsh or Irish.

The U.K. is an island situated north of France and it is a country composed of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (and not Southern Ireland because this country is independent)

Which is different from the Great Britain that is composed of England, Wales and Scotland but not Northern Ireland.

So in U.K., there are 4 countries and their inhabitants are either Scottish (Scottish people), English (English people), Welsh (Welsh people, Welshmen, Welshwomen) or Irish from Northern Ireland (Irish people, Irishmen, Irishwomen)

Well, if Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland are part of the U.K. they are different from the U.K. For example, the Welsh resent it when you call them English and it's the same feeling for Scottish and Irish people because they have their own identities, cultures, languages and dialects and they are very proud of their separate identities, cultures and dialects.

The U.K. is composed of four countries :

Scotland :



This is his flag, which is blue with a white cross

Scotland is a country in the U.K and England and Wales are its neighbours. Scotland's symbol is the Thistle and its capital is Edimburgh but most of the people know the Loch Ness due to the legend of Nessie.

(<http://www.authenticireland.com/lochness/>). There are so many beautiful other places like Glasgow or Inverness ! This country has so many famous people like Robert Carlyle who perfomed in *Once Upon a Time*, a famous American series or Alexender Fleming who was a physician.

Wales :



The Welsh flag is a red dragon with the half part green.

The Welsh symbol is a leek and its capital is Cardiff. But in this country, there are beautiful cities like Aber or Llan. In this country, there is a very famous legend which is called King Arthur. But there is not only a famous legend. Indeed, there are also famous people such as the actress Catherine Zeta-Jones or the actor Charlie Brooks or the writer Dylan Thomas.

Northern Ireland :



The flag of Northern Ireland is white with a red cross and his symbol is the famous Shamrock (with four leaf). The green is the favorite color!

The capital of Northern Ireland is Belfast and in this city there is a famous opera called the Grand Opera House. There are also famous people coming from this country such as a football player named Kyle Lafferty or the actor Liam Neeson without forgetting the group U2. In this country,

England :



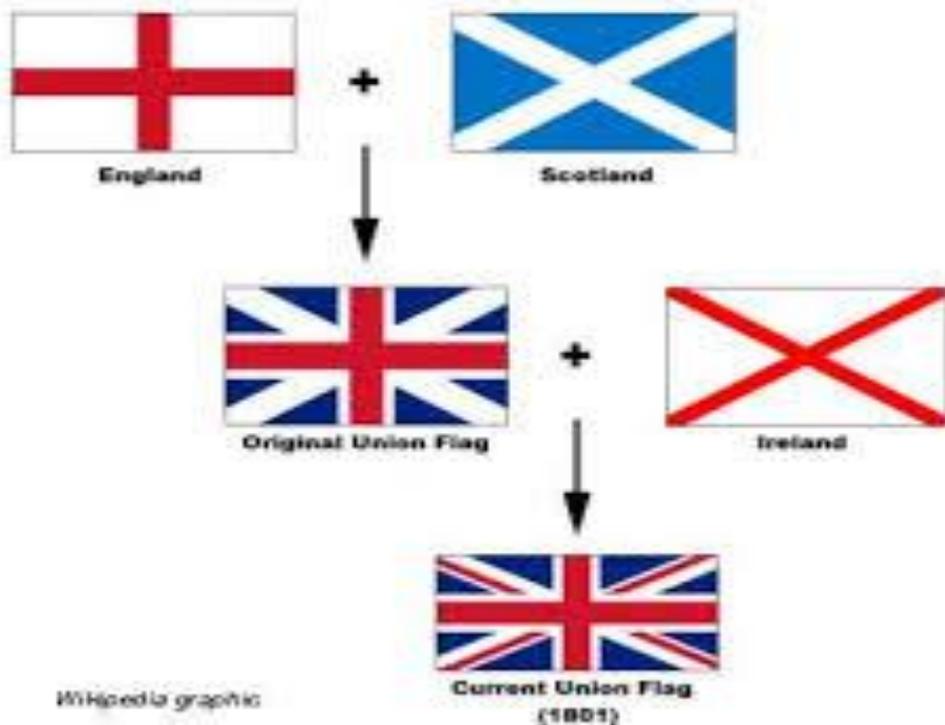
The English flag is white with a red cross and its symbol is a red rose.

The capital of England is the famous city of London! In London, we can see Big Ben or Buckingham Palace but many other places and monuments are famous too!

Many well-known people are of English origins: Queen Elizabeth II or her son William, his wife Kate and their children George and Charlotte but there are also singers such as Adèle or Ed Sheeran or actors like Daniel Craig and Andrew Lee Potts.

England dominates all the other countries because all of them speak English even if they have their own cultures, languages and dialects without forgetting that the Queen is the Queen of United Kingdom.

The flags



Well, now, let's study geography!

Wales is west of England and consequently England is east of Wales. England is south of Scotland and as a consequence Scotland is north of England.

Vocabulary corner: Britishness?

This adjectif comes of word « British » and the suffix « -ness ». The suffix « -ness » can be added to adjectives to form nouns meaning « *the state of being* » or « *the quality of being* »

So Britishness means the quality of being british or being typically British.



End of the chapter