

DID YOU KNOW?

Every country has their own flag, a symbol of their nation, each with its own colours, design and symbolism. Do you know some of the history and meanings behind these flags?



St George's Cross of England



St Andrew's Cross of Scotland



St Patrick's Cross of Ireland

The flag of the UK combines the symbols of its then members to form the Union Jack.



MEANINGS:



AUSTRALIA:

The Union Jack is a tie to our membership to the Commonwealth, the seven pointed star represents the 6 states and the territories, and the remaining stars are the Southern Cross, a constellation only visible from the southern hemisphere.

USA:

The 'Stars and Stripes' has been in use in various incarnations since 1775. The current design features 50 stars representing the 50 states, and 13 red and white stripes for the original colonies that became the United States of America.



JAPAN:

The red circle at the centre of Japan's flag represents the rising sun. The white background symbolises purity, honesty, and integrity.



FRANCE:

The white on the French flag represents the monarchy, while the red and blue come from the city of Paris and represent Saint Denis and Saint Martin.



FLAGS OF THE WORLD



The study of flags is called *vexillology*.



The oldest flag that is still in use is Denmark's Red and White cross, which was designed in 1219 and has been unchanged since.

The most common design element used in flags of the world is stripes. With well over half using some combination of horizontal or vertical stripes.

The most common colours are red, white and blue. They are represented at least once on every world flag except for Jamaica which is black, yellow and green.



Belize has the only world flag that features an image of people on it.



The colour purple only appears on one country's flag, Dominica.

Some flags are incredibly alike. The flags of Indonesia and Monaco both feature a red and white stripe design with the only difference being the proportions of the two.



Romania



Chad

The flags of Romania and Chad are also almost identical, the only difference being shade of blue.