

## JAMAICA



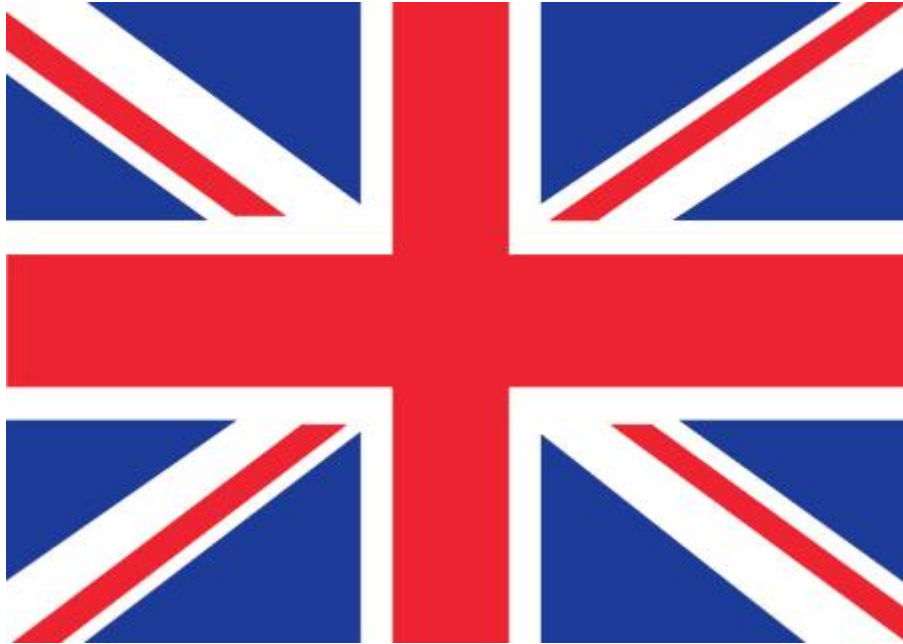
The **flag of Jamaica** was adopted on August 6, 1962 which was the original Jamaican Independence Day.

The present design emerged from those sent in by the public in a national competition. It was originally designed with vertical stripes, but this was considered too similar to the Tanganyikan flag, and so it was changed for the saltire (the diagonal cross).

Some people say that the yellow recalls the shining sun, black reflects hardships, and green represents the land. "Hardships there are but the land is green and the sun shineth" is the local explanation of the colors.

Other people say that the Black symbolises the strength and creativity of the Jamaican people. Gold represents sunlight and the country's natural wealth. Green represents hope for the future and the richness of the earth.

## GREAT BRITAIN



When King James VI of Scotland inherited the throne of England and was crowned James I of England in 1603, the crowns of the Kingdom of England (which since 1535 had included Wales) and the Kingdom of Scotland were joined together.

On 12 April 1606, a new flag to represent this union between England and Scotland was created. The flag was made up of a red cross with a white background, known as St George's Cross (for England and Wales) and a white saltire or diagonal cross with a blue background, known as the Saint Andrew's Cross (for Scotland).

Later a smaller red diagonal cross was added to stand for Northern Ireland. The whole flag is known as the Union Flag.

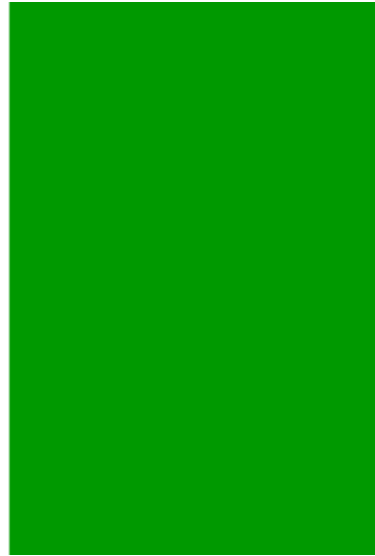
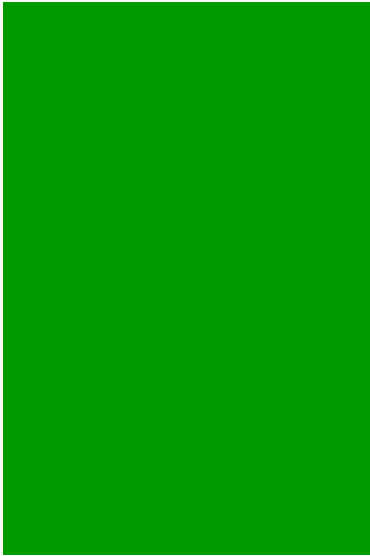
Sometimes it is called the Union Jack – but that is only when it is flying at sea

INDIA



A widely held unofficial interpretation is that the saffron (or yellow) stands for purity and spirituality, white for peace and truth, green for fertility and prosperity and the wheel for justice/righteousness.

## NIGERIA



The **flag of Nigeria** was designed in 1959 and first officially hoisted on October 1, 1960. The green bands represent the forests and abundant natural wealth of Nigeria while the white band stands for peace.

## POLAND



The **flag of Poland** consists of two horizontal stripes of equal width, the upper one white and the lower one red.

White and red were officially adopted as national colors in 1831. They come from the colours of the two Polish coats of arms: the White Eagle of Poland and the Pursuer of Lithuania, a white knight riding a white horse, both on a red shield

## TURKEY



The moon refers to the Greek goddess Artemis, while the star refers to the Virgin Mary (mother of Jesus)

It has also been said that the crescent moon and star are holy symbols for pre-Islamic Turkish tribes, red is the cardinal colour for west.

The origin of the flag is the subject of various legends in the country, some contradicting the historical knowledge about the Ottoman Flag.

The most accepted legend of the flag is that in a pool of blood of Turkish warriors there was a reflection of the crescent the moon and a star.

Some people think that in the year 1071, after the Battle of Manzikert and the defeat of the Byzantine army, a soldier was roaming the battlefield where he saw the reflection of the crescent moon and the star on a pool of blood of Turkish warriors. After he saw this image he decided that this would be the flag representing the Turks.

Other people say that After the Battle of Kosovo on July 28 1389, Murad I was assassinated and on that night Jupiter and the Moon moved next to each other.

Another theory is that the first Ottoman Emperor had a dream in which a crescent and star came out of his chest and expanded.

## AUSTRALIA



The Australian flag uses three prominent symbols, the Union Flag (also known as the *Union Jack*), the Commonwealth Star and the Southern Cross. The Union Flag is commonly thought to reflect Australia's history as a collection of British colonies, although a more historic view sees its inclusion in the design as demonstrating loyalty to the British Empire.

The five white stars of the fly of the flag represent the Southern Cross. The Southern Cross is one of the most distinctive groups of stars visible in the Southern Hemisphere. Each of these stars has seven points except for the smallest star, which has only five.

One of the flag's designers thought that the Southern Cross should stand for the four things that will make us good: doing the right thing (not breaking the law), being wise, being brave and not having any alcohol.

The large seven-pointed star below the Union Flag is the Commonwealth or Federation Star, which represents the group of countries that support Australia.

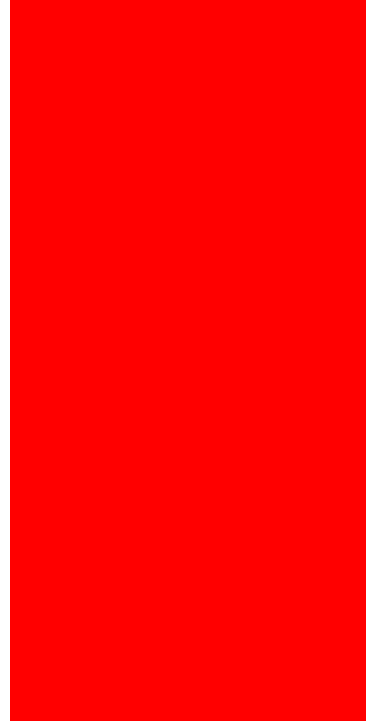
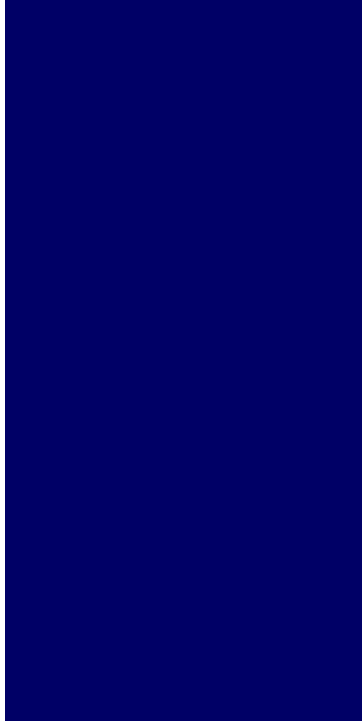
The blue colour has been described as representing Australia as an island continent, as the blue sky.

## ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



The sun represents the beginning of a new time; red - the energy of the people; blue - hope; black, the African ancestry of the people.  
The combination of yellow, blue and white represent the sun, sand and sea

## FRANCE



The colours of the French flag "combine" different symbols:

- - Blue is the colour of Saint Martin, a rich army officer who ripped his blue cloak with his sword to give one half of it to a poor person who was begging in the snow. This is the symbol of care, of the duty that the rich had to help the poor.
- - White is the colour of the Virgin Mary; it is also the colour of Joan of Arc, under whose banner the English were finally driven out of the Kingdom. It then became logically the colour of Royalty. The King's boats carried plain white flags at sea.
- - Red is the colour of Saint Denis, the patron saint of Paris.

## ETHIOPIA



The national flag symbolizes the honour and beauty of the Ethiopian nation: green represents the fertility of the country, yellow the religious freedom found there, and red the lives sacrificed to make the country.

## ST LUCIA



The flag represents the island surrounded by the sea - two triangular shapes on the flag represent two volcanic hills, the Pitons, which are recognized by the people of St. Lucia and by the world as the symbol of this island.

The yellow triangle stands for sunshine and the black arrowhead on white, for the twin cultures of the island.