

HISTORY OF THE FLAG OF UNITED KINGDOM



Where In The World



Trivia

The terms the "Union Jack" or "Union Flag" are equally correct and can be used in whatever context required. (This issue is discussed by The Flag Institute in a publication that can be found [here](#))

Technical Specification

Adopted:	1 st January 1801
Proportion:	3:5 on land, 1:2 at sea
Design:	A white-fimbriated symmetric red cross on a blue field with a white-fimbriated counter-changed saltire of red and white
Colours:	PMS - Red: 186, Royal Blue: 280 CMYK - Red: 76% Yellow, 91% Magenta, 6% Black. Royal Blue: 100% Cyan, 72% Magenta, 18.5% Black

Brief History

There was a union of the Scottish and English crowns on 24 March 1603 when James VI of Scotland became the King of England and Ireland as James I.

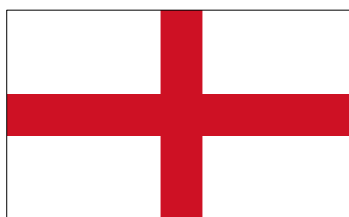
In 1606 King James proclaimed that there would be one flag that would represent the whole of the United Kingdom and it was created using the Saltire of Scotland and the St. Georges cross. This was known as the Flag of the Kingdom of Great Britain.

At this time Wales was considered to be part of England and it is therefore is represented on the flag as part of the English St. Georges cross.

In 1800 the Act of Union enabled the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland to join together and in 1801 the cross of St. Patricks was added to the Flag of the Kingdom of Great Britain to create the Flag of the United Kingdom - the Union Jack (flag) we have and use today.





St Andrew's Cross



St George's Cross



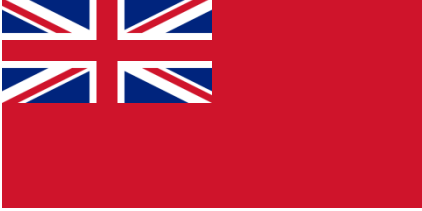
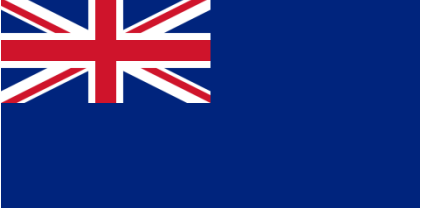
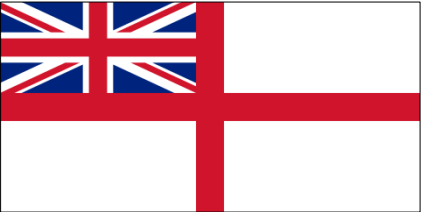

Flag of the Kingdom of Great Britain
1601 - 1800

	
<p align="center">Saint Patrick's Flag</p>	<p align="center">Flag of the United Kingdom 1801 - Present</p>

Other Uses of the Flag of the United Kingdom

The Union Flag is one of the most distinctive flags in the world. It has formed the basis for many other countries national flags and is often included as a canton or similar in deference to past histories and associations.

In the UK the Union Flag is also used on civil and military flags too as a way of distinguishing the source of origin. The most common uses are shown below.



	
<p align="center">Civil Ensign of the United Kingdom</p>	<p align="center">Government Ensign of the United Kingdom</p>
	
<p align="center">Navel Ensign of the United Kingdom</p>	<p align="center">Ensign of the Royal Air Force</p>

The Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom

The Royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom is the official coat of arms of Queen Elizabeth II. They are used by her in her official capacity as monarch of the United Kingdom.

Other members of the Royal Family have variants of the Royal Arms for their use as does the British government in connection with the administration and government of the country.

In Scotland, the Queen has a separate version of the Royal Arms, a variant of which is used by the Scotland Office.

	
<p align="center">Royal Coat of arms of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</p>	<p align="center">Royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom for use in Scotland</p>