



THE UNION JACK



This is the national flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The current design dates from 1801.

The name refers to the “jacks” of the naval ships.

This flag embodies the emblems of three countries under one Sovereign. The emblems that appear on the Union flag are the crosses of three Patron Saints:

- the red cross of St. George, for England, on a white background;



- the white diagonal cross, or saltire, of St. Andrew, for Scotland, on a blue background;



- the red diagonal cross of St. Patrick, for Ireland, on a white background. The final version of the Union Flag, including the cross of St. Patrick, appeared in 1801, following the union of Great Britain with Ireland. The cross remains in the flag although now only Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom.



The Welsh flag is not part of the Union Jack because Wales was already part of England when the first Union Jack was designed in 1606.

