

## TRANSCRIPTS. NATIONAL DAYS IN UK

### 1.3. Listen and learn

1. England, Scotland and Wales together form Great Britain.  
Great Britain and Northern Ireland together form the 'United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland' (The UK).  
The capital of the UK is London.
2. England is in North-West Europe and is in the Southern part of Great Britain.  
London is the capital of England.
3. Scotland is a mountainous country in the North of the island of Great Britain.  
Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland.
4. Wales is in the South-West of Great Britain.  
Cardiff is the capital of Wales.
5. Northern Ireland is in Ireland.  
Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland.

### 2.1. Listen and learn

1. All of Great Britain has been ruled by the UK government in London since 1707.  
Great Britain is a parliamentary democracy with a constitutional Monarch as Head of State.
2. The party with the largest number of Members of Parliament in the House of Commons forms the government.  
The leader of the government is the Prime Minister.  
Parliament is made up of three parts:  
The Queen.  
The House of Lords.  
The House of Commons.
3. The Queen is the official Head of State. Britain has a constitutional monarchy where the Queen only rules symbolically.
4. There are 675 members of the Lords. The House of Lords is made up of people who have inherited family titles. The main job of the House of Lords is to 'double check' new laws to make sure they are fair and will work.
5. There are 659 members who have been elected by local residents. They discuss policies and making laws.

## 2.3. Story

Narrator: Melery, James, Una and Henry are watching a ceremony called 'The Changing of Guard' at half past eleven.

Then they interview a Foot Guard who is wearing a red jacket and a tall, furry hat called bearskin.

Melery: What do you do?

Guard: I protect Buckingham Palace. The Queen lives here when she is at home, you can see her royal flag flying from the flag pole on top of Buckingham Palace. This flag is called the Royal Standard.

James: So the Queen is in Buckingham Palace because the flag is on top.

Guard: You're right. This flag contains three other flags. The Union Flag, popularly known as the Union Jack, is the national flag of the United Kingdom.

Una: Why is it called 'Jack'?

Guard: The Union Flag is called 'Jack' because it is named after James I of Great Britain who introduced the flag following his accession to the throne.

Henry: Where does the Prime Minister live?

Guard: He lives in 10 Downing Street. Prime Ministers traditionally live with their families in Downing Street in the private flat on the second floor.

Henry: Thank you very much for your information.

Guard: Have a nice day!

Boys and girls: Good-bye

## 3.3. Listen and learn

1. This is the flag of England. England is represented by the flag of St. George. It is called the 'St. George Flag' and it is also the Flag of England.
2. The national day of England is on **23rd April**, St George's Day. St George is England's Patron Saint. A traditional custom at this time is to wear a red rose in one's lapel. Another custom is to fly or adorn the St George's Cross flag in some way.
3. Who was St George? St George rescued a maiden by slaying a fearsome fire-breathing dragon. The Saint's name was shouted as a battle cry by

English knights who fought beneath the red-cross banner of St George during the Hundred Years War (1338-1453).

4. The national flower of England is the rose. The flower has been adopted as England's emblem since the time of the Wars of the Roses.
5. The national song of England is 'God Save The Queen', the British National Anthem. It is usually sung before England's football matches as well as some other sporting events.
6. God save our gracious Queen!  
Long live our noble Queen!  
God save the Queen!  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the Queen.

### 3.6. Listen and learn

1. This is Scotland's flag. Scotland is represented by the flag of St. Andrew. It is called the 'St Andrew's Flag'.

2. The national day of Scotland is on **30th November**, St Andrew's Day. St Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland. St Andrew's Day is often a celebration of general Scottishness, with traditional food, music (especially bagpipes) and dancing. St. Andrew's Day marks the opening of Christmas Markets. The national dress of Scotland is a kilt with shirt, waistcoat and tweed jacket, stockings with garter flashes, brogue shoes and a sporran.

3. Who was St. Andrew? St. Andrew was one of Christ's twelve Apostles. Since medieval times the X-shaped saltire cross upon which St. Andrew was supposedly crucified has been the Scottish national symbol.

4. The national flower of Scotland is **the thistle**, a prickly-leaved purple flower which was first used in the 15th century as a symbol of defence.

5. A legend tells of how a group of Scots were sleeping in a field when a group of Vikings crept up to attack. Fortunately one of the Vikings stood on a thistle, whose prickles penetrated through to his foot and made him yell with pain. His cries woke the sleeping Scots who were able to fight off their attackers. It is said that from this day the thistle has been adopted as Scotland's national emblem.

6. Flower of Scotland is played at rugby and football games. However, athletes celebrate medals with Scotland the Brave. The song refers to the victory of the Scots, led by Robert the Bruce, over the English, under Edward II in 1314.

7. O Flower of Scotland,  
When will we see

Your like again,  
That fought and died for,  
Your wee bit Hill and Glen,  
And stood against him,  
Proud Edward's army,  
And sent him homeward,  
Tae think again.

### 3.9. Listen and learn

1. The Welsh dragon does not appear on the flag because when the first Union Flag was created in 1606, Wales was already united with England from the 13th century. As Wales was not a Kingdom but a Principality it could not be included on the flag.

2. The national day of Wales is on **1st March**, St David's Day. St David is Wales's Patron Saint.

Today the celebrations usually involve the singing of traditional songs followed by a Te Bach, a tea with bara brith (famous Welsh fruited bread) and Teisen Bach (Welsh cake). Young girls are encouraged to wear a national costume. This costume consists of a long woollen skirt, white blouse, woollen shawl and a Welsh hat. Many Welsh people wear a daffodil, which is a national emblem of Wales.

3. Who was St David? St David was a Celtic monk who lived in the sixth century. He spread the word of Christianity across Wales. The most famous story about Saint David tells how he was preaching to a huge crowd and the ground is said to have risen up, so that he was standing on a hill and everyone had a better chance of hearing him.

4. The national flower of Wales is the daffodil, which is traditionally worn on St David's Day. The vegetable called leek is also considered to be a traditional emblem of Wales.

There are many explanations of how the leek came to be adopted as the national emblem of Wales. One is that St David advised the Welsh, on the eve of battle with the Saxons, to wear leeks in their caps to distinguish friend from foe.

5. The Welsh National Anthem is *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau* (*Land of my Fathers*). It was written by Evan James in 1856.

6. The land of my fathers is dear unto me,  
Old land where the minstrels are honoured and free:  
Its warring defenders, so gallant and brave,  
For freedom their life's blood they gave.  
Land, Land, true am I to my Land,  
While seas secure this land so pure,  
O may our old language endure.

### 3. 12. Listen and learn

1. This flag represents the Patron Saint of Ireland.  
On the Union Flag, Northern Ireland is represented by the flag of St. Patrick.
2. The national day of Northern Ireland is on **17th March**, St Patrick's Day. St Patrick is Ireland's Patron Saint.  
St Patrick's Day is celebrated by the Irish in big cities and small towns alike with parades, 'wearing of the green', music and songs, Irish food and drink. Some communities even go so far as to dye rivers or streams green!
3. Who was St. Patrick? Saint Patrick is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. He was born in Wales, somewhere around AD 385. He was carried off by pirates and spent six years in slavery before escaping and training as a missionary. The most famous story about Saint Patrick is him driving the snakes from Ireland.
4. The national flower of Northern Ireland is the shamrock, a three-leaved plant similar to clover. An Irish tale tells of how Saint Patrick used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.
5. **Northern Ireland** generally uses **God Save the Queen** at events associated with the British tradition, and the Irish National Anthem '**The Soldier's song**' at events associated with the Irish tradition.
6. We will sing a song,  
We'll sing a soldier's song,  
With cheering rousing chorus,  
As round our blazing fires we throng,  
The starry heavens o'er us,  
Impatient for the coming fight,  
And as we wait the morning's light,  
Here in the silence of the night,  
We'll chant a soldier's song.

### 3. 21. Listen and sing

1. My name is Henry. I'm from England.  
St George rescued a maiden from a dragon,  
The Knights won the battle shouting his name,  
so St George is our Patron Saint.  
Let's celebrate on 23<sup>rd</sup> April St George's Day.
2. My name is Meleri. I am from Wales.  
St David advised the Welsh: You must wear leeks in your caps to distinguish friend to foe.  
The Welsh won the battle,  
so St David is our Patron Saint.  
Let's celebrate on 1<sup>st</sup> March, St David's Day.

3. My name is James. I'm from Scotland.  
During the night Vikings came and  
they pricked themselves with thistles,  
then they yelled out.  
The Scots woke up and won the battle,  
so the thistle is Scotland's national emblem.  
Let's celebrate on 30<sup>th</sup> November  
Saint Andrew's Day.

4. My name is Una. I'm from Northern Ireland.  
St Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Trinity.  
He drove away the snakes from Ireland,  
so St. Patrick is our Patron Saint.  
Let's celebrate on 17<sup>th</sup> March, St. Patrick's Day.

5. We are British, We are British  
We like roses, we like kilts,  
We like daffodils, we wear green.  
Let's celebrate our National Days in the UK.