

YEAR 1: The United Kingdom



Contents Include:

The United Kingdom

Scotland

Northern Ireland

Wales

England

Please Note: The activities included in this pack are suggestions only. Teachers should adapt the lessons to ensure they are pitched correctly for their pupils. For an outline of the content included in Year 1 Geography see the [History and Geography Sequence](#).

Lesson 1: The UK

This lesson is the first lesson in a series that introduces children to the United Kingdom. Children will become familiar with maps of the United Kingdom and will be able to identify England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. They will learn some of the key features of these countries and begin recognise their flags. In this first lesson in the unit of work, children will learn about the Union Jack and will begin to develop an understanding of the concept of union. The Union Flag has been known as the Union Jack for many years. The origin of the name 'Union Jack' is uncertain. The name may have come from a command by Charles II that only Royal Navy ships could fly the flag as a 'jack', which was a flag attached to the bowsprit (a pole extending from the prow of the ship). The most important thing for children to understand during this lesson is that the flag represents the joining together of four countries.

See page 123 of *What your Year 1 Child Needs to Know*

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
To understand that the United Kingdom is a union of four countries.	<p>Union means joined together.</p> <p>The United Kingdom is a union of four countries.</p> <p>The four countries in the United Kingdom are: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.</p>	<p>Look at maps of the UK and begin to identify the countries within it.</p> <p>Discuss children's possible experiences of the countries in the UK.</p> <p>Look at the creation of the Union Jack from different component flags. Discuss how union means 'joined together'.</p> <p>Discuss the recent referendum on independence for Scotland and the resulting 'No' vote. Help children to understand that people in the country were asked to decide if Scotland should stay in the United Kingdom or not.</p> <p>As a homework task children could design a flag representing their class or perhaps their family.</p>	<p>England</p> <p>Northern Ireland</p> <p>Scotland</p> <p>Wales</p> <p>union</p> <p>united kingdom</p>	<p><i>What does union mean?</i></p> <p><i>Which countries are in the United Kingdom?</i></p> <p><i>Can you describe the union flag?</i></p> <p><i>How was the union flag created?</i></p> <p><i>What does kingdom mean?</i></p>

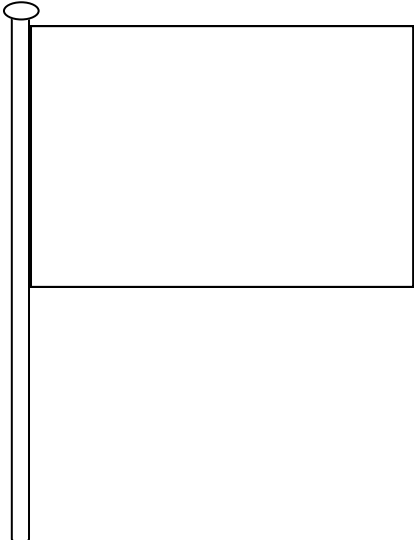
Resources:

The United Kingdom - [National Geographic for Kids](#)
[Project Britain](#) by Mandy Barrow including a page explaining the [Union Flag](#)
[The Scottish Referendum](#) from BBC Newsround
 Information about the history of the [Union Jack](#)

Name:

Date:

The United Kingdom



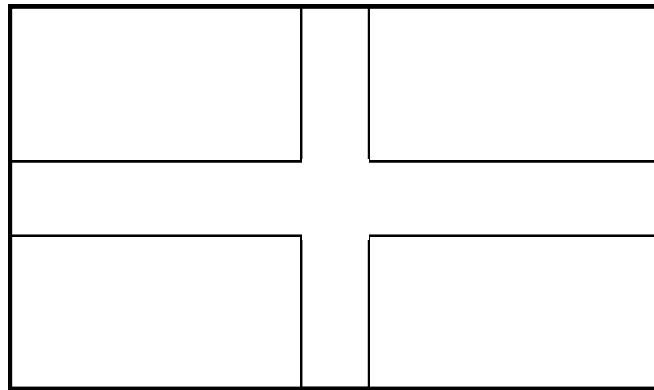


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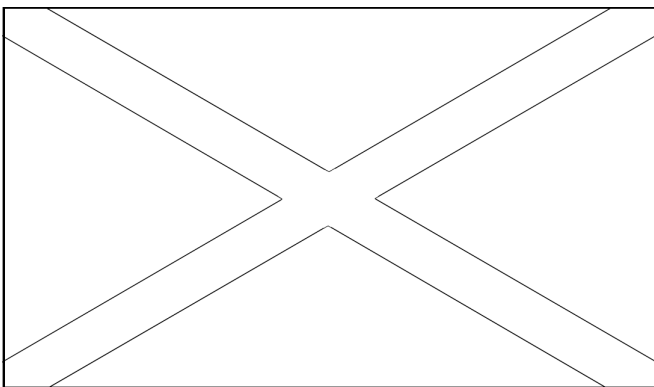
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The Creation of the Union Jack

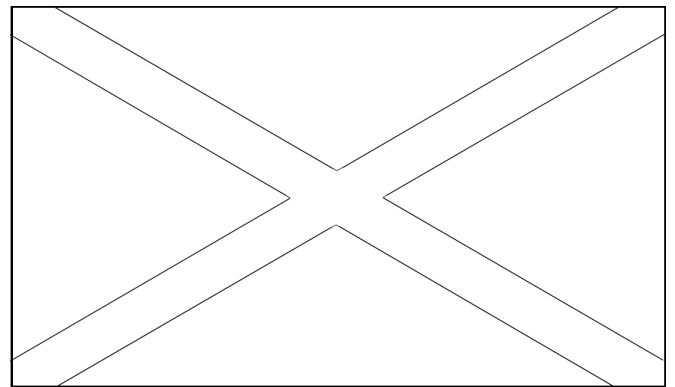
St George's Cross



St Patrick's Cross

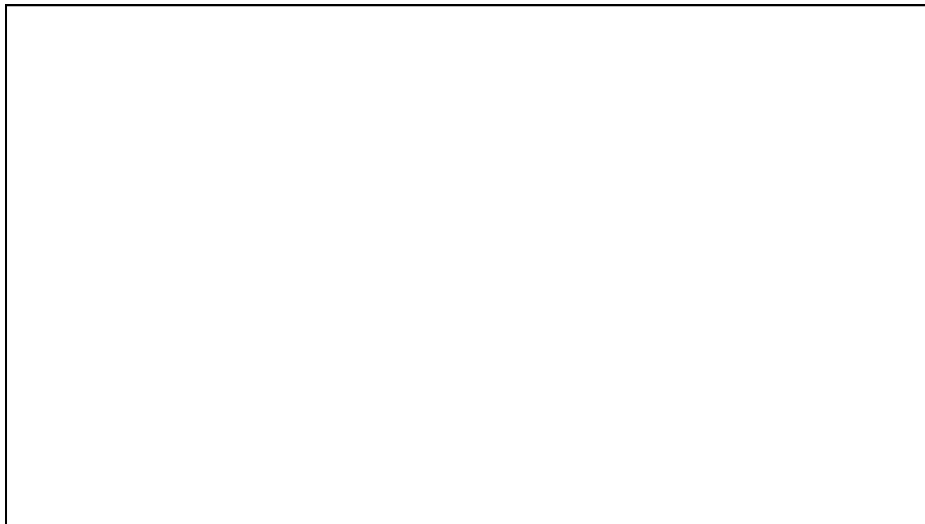


St Andrew's Cross



Can you draw the Union Jack here?

The Union Jack



What does the Union Jack represent?

United Kingdom Word Bank

Union



Wales



England



Northern Ireland



Scotland



Union Jack



United Kingdom Word Bank

Union



Wales



England



Northern Ireland



Scotland



Union Jack



Lesson 2: Scotland

In this lesson children will learn about one of the countries in the United Kingdom; Scotland. They will use atlases and maps to locate Scotland and will begin to recognise the shape of the United Kingdom from looking at maps. Edinburgh Castle is in Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland, and it is one of the most famous castles in the world. Edinburgh is also the location of the Scottish Parliament where people are elected to make decisions about the country. The southern part of Scotland is where the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh are located, while the northern part of the country, called the Highlands, is more rural. Here you can find large mountains called Munros, valleys and enormous lakes called lochs. One of the deepest lakes in Britain is Loch Ness and there is rumoured to be a monster that lives in the murky waters at the bottom of the loch.

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
To recognise Scotland as one of the countries in the United Kingdom.	Scotland is a country in the United Kingdom. Scotland is located to the north of England. The Scottish flag is blue with a white cross.	Use atlases and maps to locate Scotland. Look at the shape of the land and identify some of the many islands surrounding the mainland. Locate the capital city, Edinburgh. Look at images of Hadrian's wall which for some time in the past was the boundary between Caledonia (Scotland) and Britannia (roughly Wales and England). Identify the actual border which lies to the south of the wall. Find out about Scottish traditions and customs such as wearing kilts and playing bagpipes. Create some tartan by weaving ribbons or strips of coloured paper. Children could create a factsheet for Scotland and include information such as place names, the Scottish flag, the symbol of the thistle etc. Look at some images of Scotland such as the Grampian Mountains, Loch Ness, thistles etc. Talk about how symbols such as thistles can represent countries. Find out about different animal species found in Scotland. Discuss the mysterious Loch Ness Monster and write a newspaper report after a 'sighting'.	Scotland islands kilt bagpipes thistle Caledonia Britannia Loch Ness Grampian Mountains Hadrian's Wall Edinburgh	<i>Can you tell me something about Scotland?</i> <i>Can you find Scotland on a map?</i> <i>Can you describe the Scottish flag?</i> <i>What is the capital city of Scotland?</i>

Resources:

Teacher knowledge: [Facts about Scotland](#)

Information and images from [Visit Scotland](#)

[Scotland's landscape](#) - including several video clips

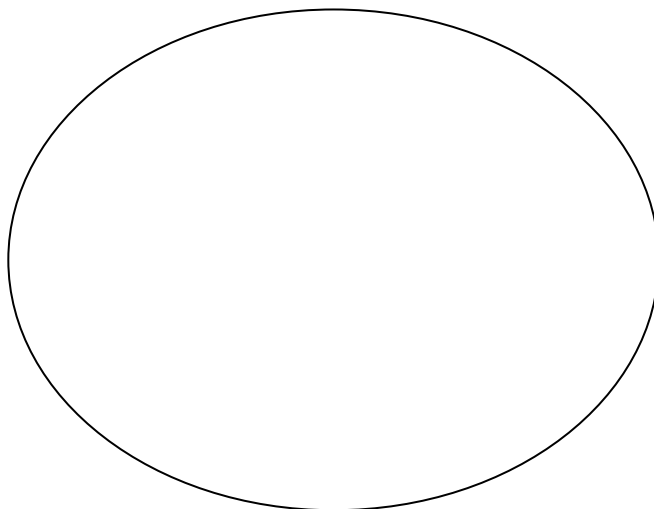
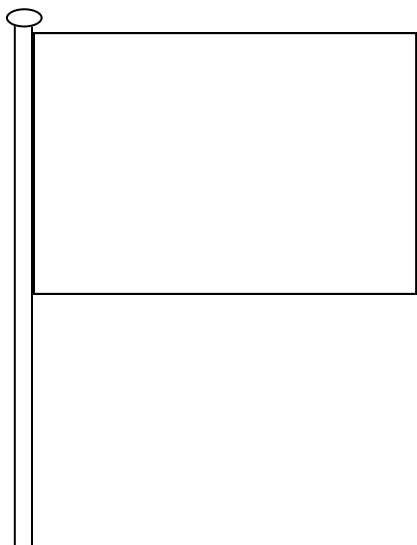
Sing or listen to [The Skye Boat Song](#) - a traditional Scottish lullaby or read a book from the [Katie Morag](#) series by Mairi Hedderwick

Name:

Date:

Scotland

Draw the flower of Scotland here:



Scotland Word Bank

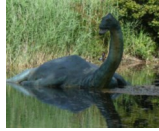
thistle



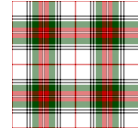
saltire



Loch Ness Monster



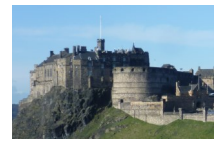
tartan



bagpipes



Edinburgh Castle



Scotland Word Bank

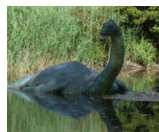
thistle



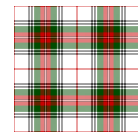
saltire



Loch Ness Monster



tartan



bagpipes



Edinburgh Castle



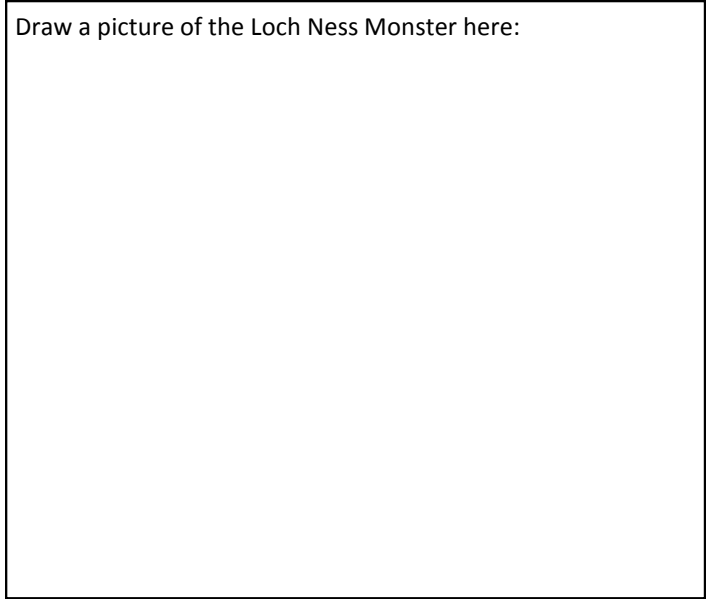
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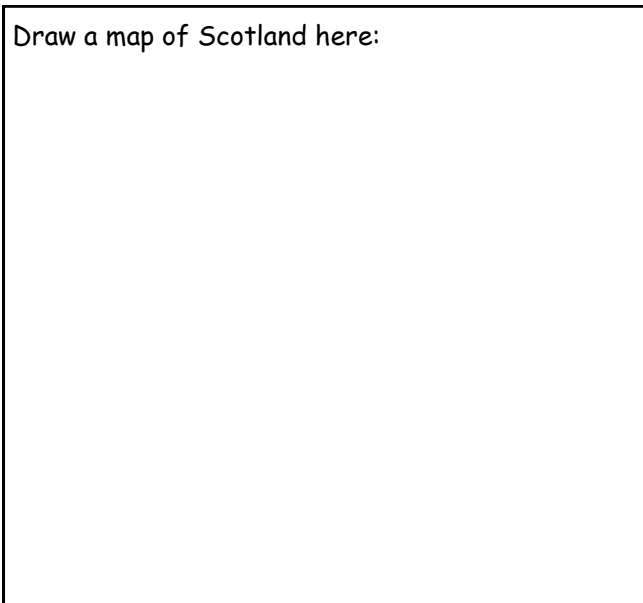
SPOTTED!

The mysterious Loch
Ness Monster has
been spotted in
Scotland!

Draw a picture of the Loch Ness Monster here:



Draw a map of Scotland here:



Questions to support the writing of a newspaper report. (Link to literacy)

These questions could be copied and cut out to use as prompt cards whilst children are writing.

Where was the monster seen?

Who saw the monster?

Can you describe what the monster looks like?

What did the person say when they saw the monster?

Lesson 3: Wales

In this lesson, children will learn that Wales is a country to the west of England. The capital of Wales is Cardiff which is located in the south of the country. The patron saint of Wales is St David, and the flag is white and green with a red dragon. The reason the red dragon of the Welsh flag is not represented in the Union flag is because when the flag was created, Wales had already entered into a union with England. This union was formed as early as the 13th century and Wales was considered a principality. This means that Wales was ruled from England. Now Wales has gained some autonomy and has its own democratically elected government called the Welsh Assembly. Specific powers have been devolved in areas such as health, education and the environment. Children should understand that England and Wales were joined together a long time ago, but that the Welsh government now has power to decide some things for the Welsh people.

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
To recognise Wales as one of the countries in the United Kingdom.	<p>Wales is one of the countries in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>There is a red dragon on the Welsh flag.</p> <p>Cardiff is the capital of Wales.</p>	<p>Recap by locating the UK and then Scotland on a map of the UK. Locate Wales on the map too. Discuss the location of major towns and the capital city, Cardiff. If possible, look at a relief map of Wales that indicates the shape of the land so children can see where hills and mountains are located. Draw contrasting pictures showing a mountain and a valley scene.</p> <p>Show children the flag of Wales and explain that there are many stories of dragons throughout history, and we cannot be sure why the dragon was chosen for the Welsh flag. We do know that Henry Tudor carried a flag depicting the dragon into battle in 1485 at the Battle of Bosworth Field. Many Welsh people today are proud of the red dragon as it symbolises strength and courage.</p> <p>Children could create a factsheet for Wales and include information such as place names, the Welsh flag, the symbol of the daffodil etc.</p>	<p>Wales</p> <p>Cardiff</p> <p>Red Dragon</p> <p>Daffodil</p> <p>mountain</p> <p>valley</p> <p>peak</p> <p>slope</p> <p>summit</p>	<p><i>What can you tell me about Wales?</i></p> <p><i>Can you describe the Welsh flag?</i></p> <p><i>What does the Red Dragon on the Welsh flag symbolise?</i></p> <p><i>What is the name of the capital city of Wales?</i></p>

Resources:

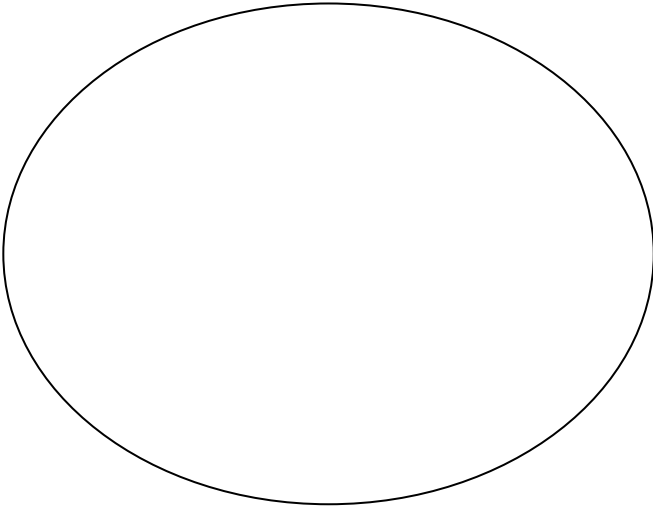
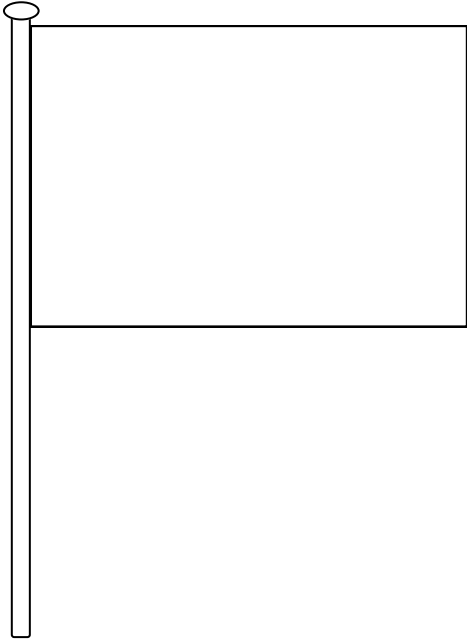
Craft ideas based on the [Red Dragon](#) of the Welsh flag.
 BBC Class Clips - [Barnaby Bear](#) climbs a mountain in Wales.
 Teacher knowledge: [Wales](#)
 Listen to some Welsh [rhymes and songs](#)

Name:

Date:

Wales

Draw the flower of Wales here:



Wales Word Bank

daffodil



Brecon Beacons



dragon



River Severn



Cardiff



Welsh Assembly



Wales Word Bank

daffodil



Brecon Beacons



dragon



River Severn



Cardiff



Welsh Assembly

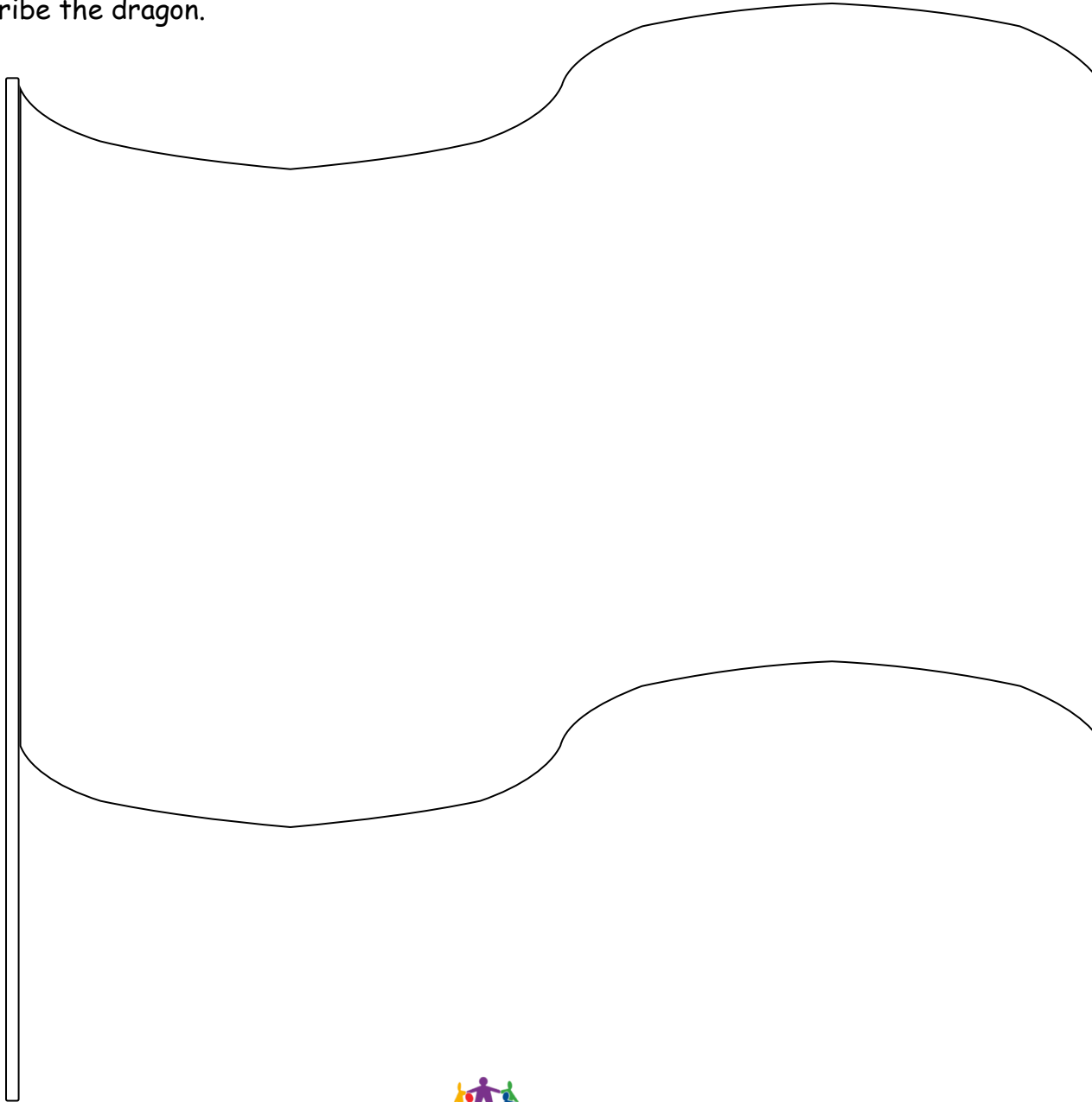


Name:

Date:

The Welsh Flag

Draw the Welsh Flag and then label the flag
with adjectives to describe the dragon.

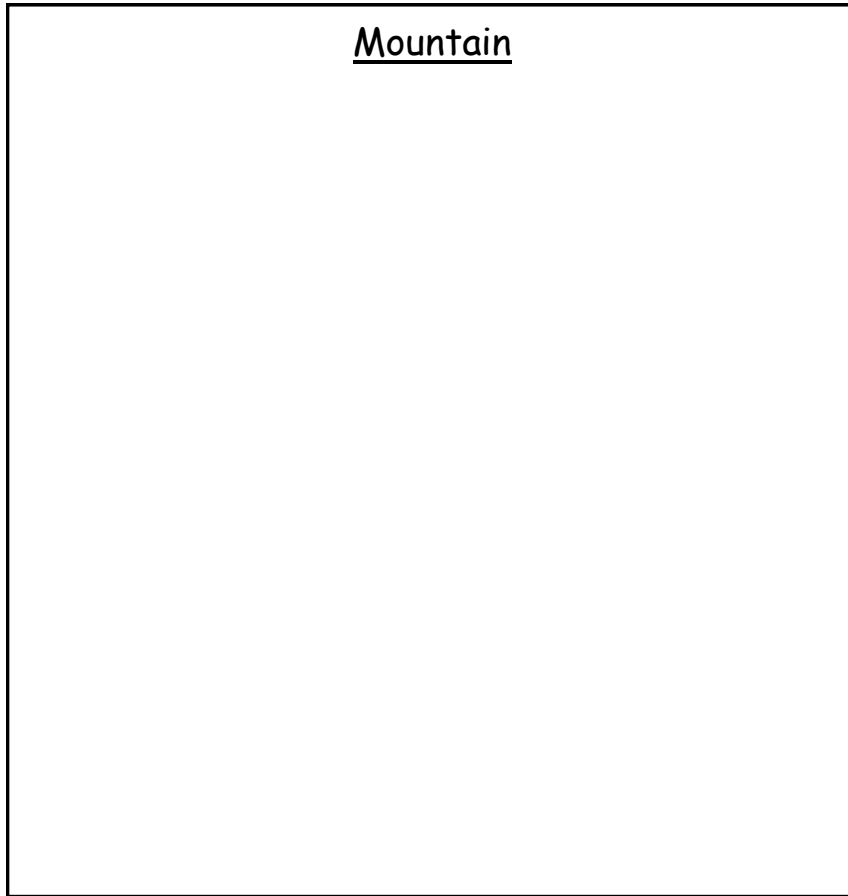


Name:

Date:

Landscape in Wales

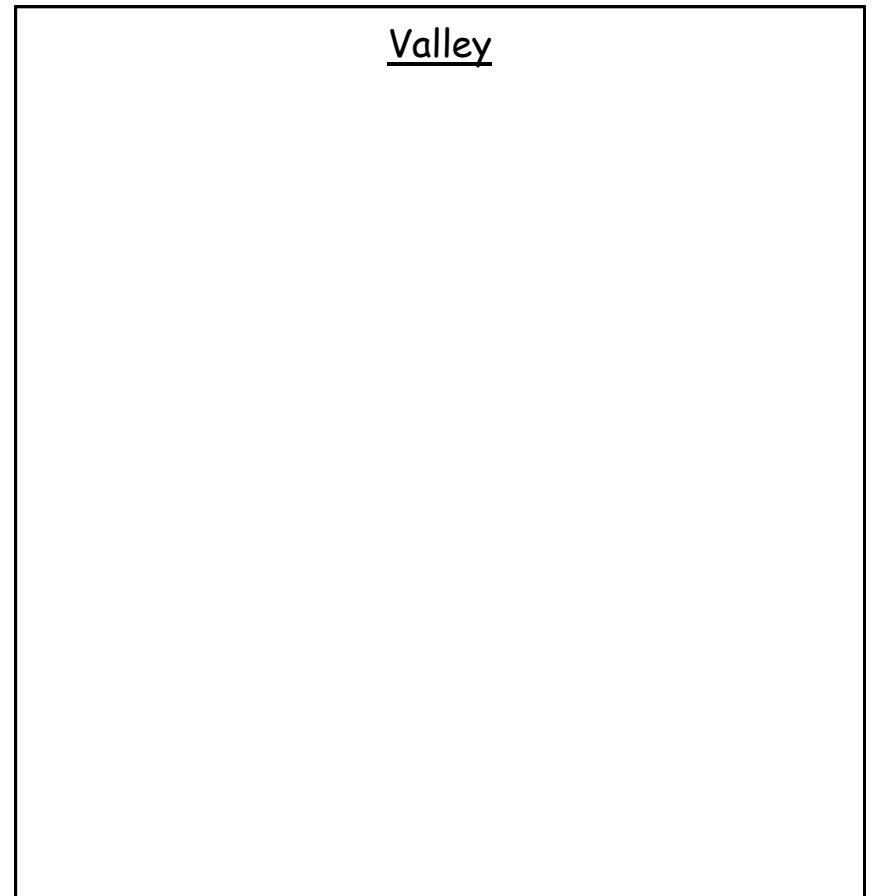
Mountain



Can you draw a picture showing:

- Mountain peaks
- Steep slopes
- Rocks
- A waterfall

Valley



Can you draw a picture showing:

- The valley floor
- Trees
- A river
- Homes

Lesson 4: Northern Ireland

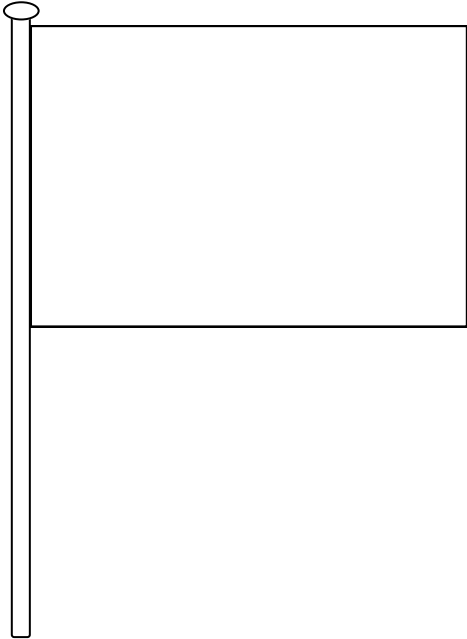
In this lesson children will begin to understand that Ireland is made up of two countries: the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Located to the west of Britain, Ireland has two big cities: Dublin, which is the capital of the Republic of Ireland and Belfast, which is the capital of Northern Ireland. Most people in Northern Ireland speak English, but Ireland has its own language called Gaelic. The Shamrock is a symbol of Ireland and it is said that Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, used the shamrock to explain the Christian Holy Trinity. Much of Ireland is green and therefore Ireland is sometimes known as the Emerald Isle. Ireland has many traditions, one of which is Irish dancing where the dancers keep their arms straight by their sides but move their feet very quickly. Gaelic football is the largest participation sport in Northern Ireland and is a very popular sport across the whole of Ireland. Children can begin to understand that Ireland is made up of two countries, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and that Northern Ireland is a part of the United Kingdom.

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
To recognise Northern Ireland as one of the countries in the United Kingdom.	<p>Northern Ireland is one of the countries in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The capital city of Northern Ireland is Belfast.</p> <p>The southern part of Ireland is an independent country and is not part of the United Kingdom.</p>	<p>Use maps and atlases to identify Ireland and more specifically, Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Watch some video clips of Gaelic football and Irish dancing.</p> <p>Read the story that tells the legend of how the Giant's Causeway was formed. Children could retell or write their own versions of this legend (link to Literacy). Explain that the interesting shape of the rocks is due to a volcanic eruption which happened around 60 million years ago.</p> <p>Find out what the flag of Saint Patrick looks like and look at how the union flag altered when the flag of Saint Patrick was added.</p> <p>Children could create a factsheet for Northern Ireland and include information such as place names, the flag of Saint Patrick, the symbol of the daffodil etc.</p>	<p>Northern Ireland</p> <p>Republic of Ireland</p> <p>Belfast</p> <p>Saint Patrick</p> <p>Gaelic</p> <p>Giant's Causeway</p> <p>shamrock</p>	<p><i>What can you tell me about Northern Ireland?</i></p> <p><i>Can you tell me about an important place in Northern Ireland?</i></p> <p><i>Can you describe the flag that was added to the Union flag to represent Ireland?</i></p>
<p>Resources:</p> <p>The Legend of the Giant's Causeway</p> <p>Facts about Northern Ireland from Project Britain by Mandy Barrow</p> <p>Riverdance performed at the Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin, 1994</p>				

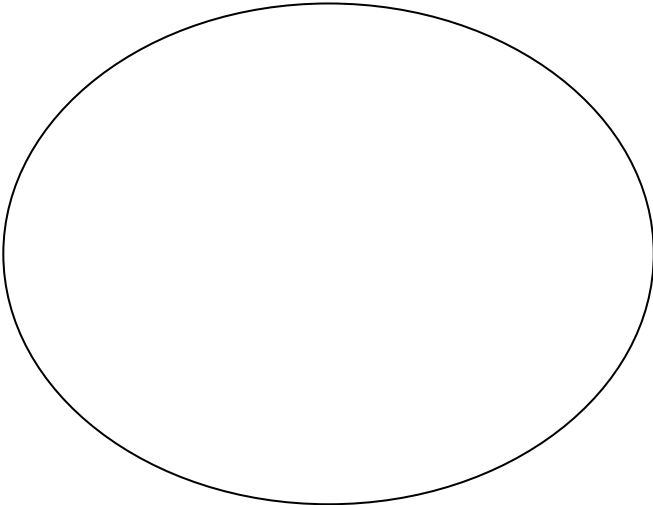
Name:

Date:

Northern Ireland



Draw the flower of Northern Ireland here:



Northern Ireland Word Bank

shamrock



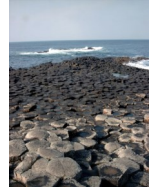
Irish Dancing



Belfast



Giant's Causeway



Flag of Saint Patrick



Gaelic Football



Northern Ireland Word Bank

shamrock



Irish Dancing



Belfast



Giant's Causeway



Flag of Saint Patrick



Gaelic Football



Lesson 5: England

In this lesson children will learn about England, the biggest country in the United Kingdom. The English flag is a red cross on a white background and is known as St George's cross. Saint George is the patron saint of England and legend has it that he killed a dragon to save a princess. The capital city of England is London, which is also the capital of the United Kingdom. The Houses of Parliament are in London and this is where the government makes decisions about the rest of the United Kingdom. The river that runs through London is called the River Thames. There are many famous bridges that cross the River Thames including Tower Bridge. The southern part of England is quite flat which means it is good land for growing food. The north of England is much hillier and the tallest mountain in England, located in Cumbria, is called Scafell Pike.

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
<p>To recognise England as the country in which we live.</p>	<p>England is a country in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The cross of St George is a white flag with a red cross in a + shape.</p> <p>The capital city of England is London.</p>	<p>Locate the school (or the largest nearby town/city) on a map of the United Kingdom. Find out which county or borough the school is located in. Look at the schools address and explain each part.</p> <p>Find out about London and look at images of famous buildings such as Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament.</p> <p>Show children images that depict different regions of the UK, for example, a city image in contrast to a countryside image. Children could label images to compare and contrast places in England. If children have completed a page for each region of the UK, they can compile these into a 'book'.</p> <p>Read the legend of Saint George and the Dragon and identify St George's Cross in the Union Jack.</p>	<p>England</p> <p>London</p> <p>Buckingham Palace</p> <p>Houses of Parliament</p> <p>River Thames</p> <p>city</p> <p>countryside</p> <p>Saint George</p>	<p><i>What can you tell me about England?</i></p> <p><i>Can you describe the flag of England?</i></p> <p><i>What important places in England do you know about?</i></p>

Resources:

Read about the legend of Saint George and the Dragon on page 103 of *What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know*.

Factfile on England from [Time for Kids](#)

A selection of videos from [Visit England](#)

A range of England resources from [Twinkl](#)

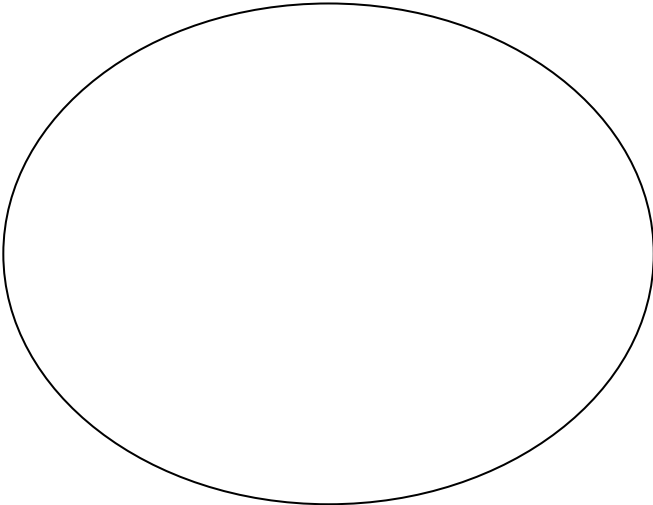
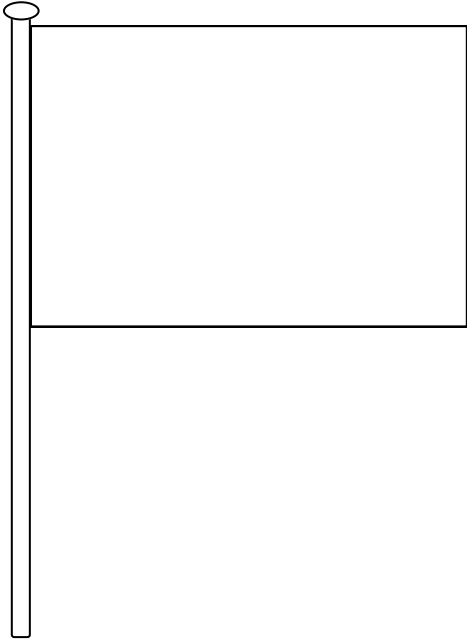
Sing 'The Roast Beef of Old England' a traditional song from [Singup!](#) (Subscription required)

Name:

Date:

England

Draw the flower of England here:



England Word Bank

rose



Buckingham Palace



London



River Thames



Flag of Saint George



cricket



England Word Bank

rose



Buckingham Palace



London



River Thames



Flag of Saint George



cricket



Name:

England: Contrasting the city and the countryside

Date:

The City

The Countryside

Name:

England: Compare and Contrast

Date:

City

Countryside

Name:

Date:

England: Compare and Contrast

Label these pictures to show differences between the two places.



City



Countryside

Lesson 6: Assessment/Extended Writing Task

In this lesson, children will apply the knowledge they have learned in the previous lessons in this unit. Some suggested activities are detailed below but this lesson is an opportunity for the children to complete any form of assessment task that is deemed suitable.

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge (Consolidation)	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
<p>To be able to explain that there are four countries in the United Kingdom: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>The United Kingdom is made up of four countries: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>Children can complete the assessment task provided which offers them an opportunity to show what they have learned about the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Alternatively, children could create a booklet about the United Kingdom with a page for information about each country. Children could then pair up with another class to share their learning.</p> <p>Children could create an information poster using the template included. (This template could be enlarged onto A3 paper to give children more space for their writing.)</p>	<p>All previous vocabulary as necessary.</p>	<p><i>What do you know about the United Kingdom?</i></p> <p><i>Can you name the countries in the United Kingdom?</i></p>
<p>Resources: All previous resources as required.</p>				

Name:

Date:

Assessment Task: The UK

England

Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom

Scotland

Wales