



The United Kingdom

General



The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is situated on the British Isles.

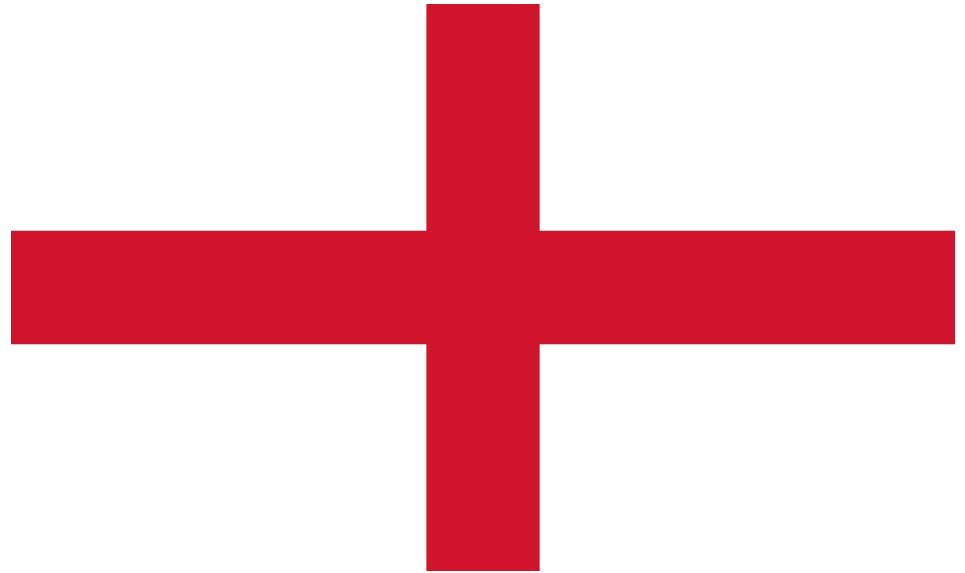
The United Kingdom consists of four parts:
England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.



England



Red Rose



Wales



daffodil



Scotland



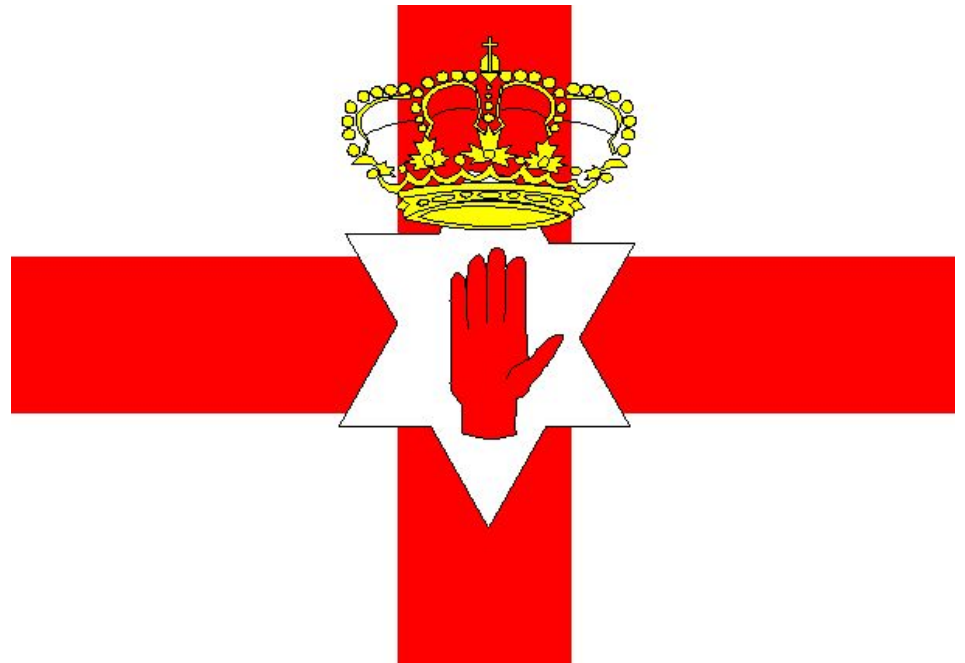
Thistle



Northern Ireland



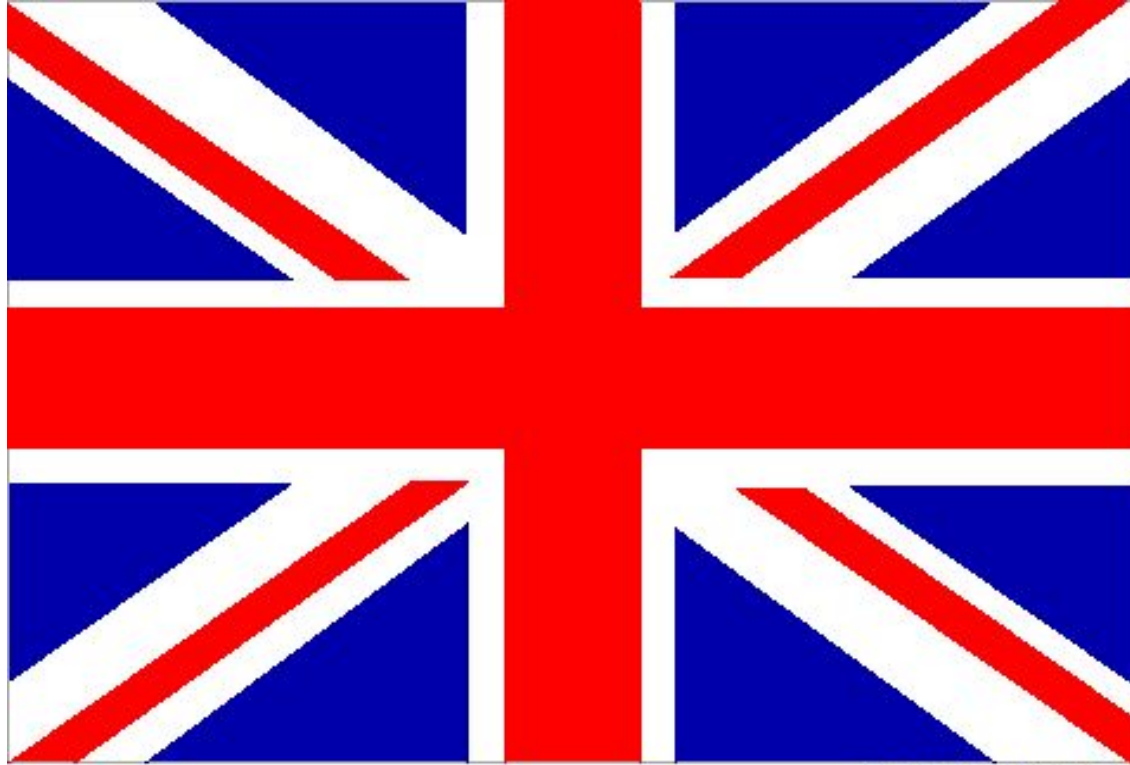
Shamrock



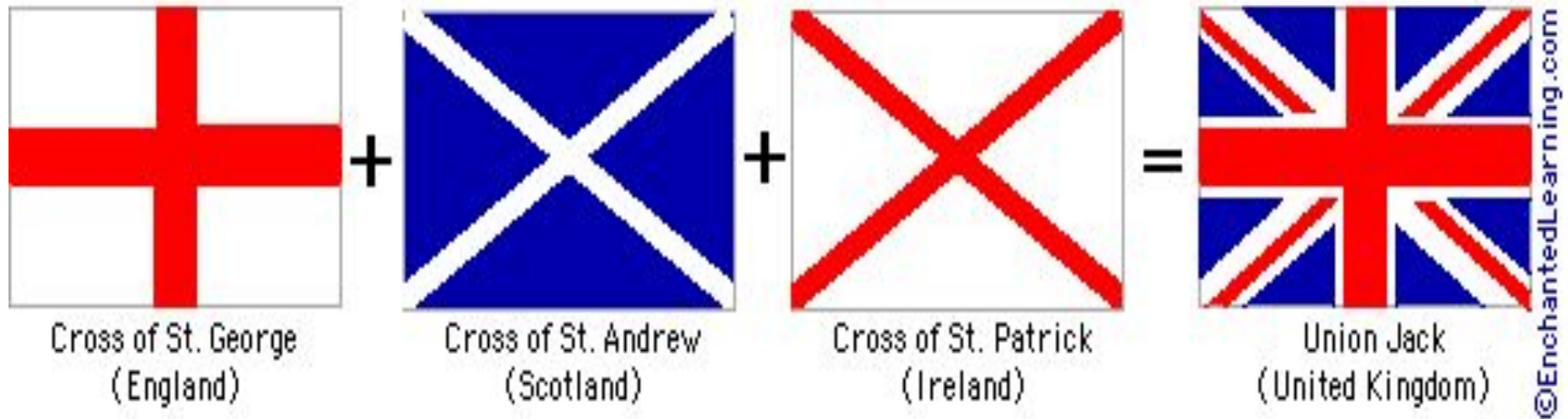


The territory of the United Kingdom is about 244 square kilometres. The population is over 55 million.

The Flag



The flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is sometimes called the Union Jack.



The flag of the UK is a combination of the flags of England (the cross of St. George), Scotland (the cross of St. Andrew), and Ireland (the cross of St. Patrick).



London is the capital of Great Britain, its political, economic and cultural centre.

Geographical position and physical features



The surface of Great Britain varies greatly. The northern and western part of the country is mountains and is called the Highlands

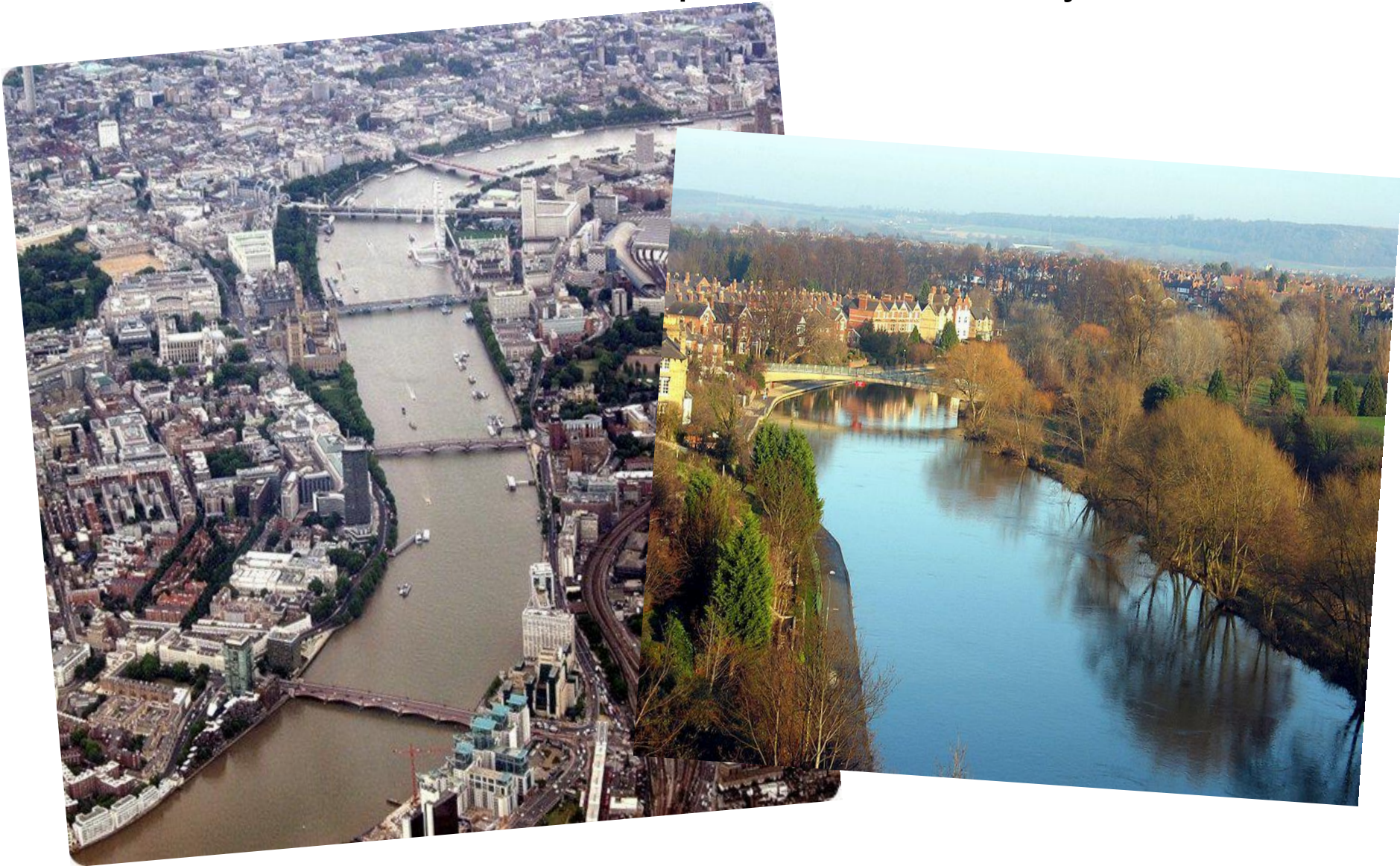


All the rest (south, east and centre) is a vast plain which is called the Lowlands.



There are many mountains in the north of England and in Scotland. The highest mountain in Great Britain is Ben Nevis.

The rivers are not long. The most important of them are the Severn and the Thames. There are many beautiful lakes in the mountainous parts of the country.



Climate



The climate of Great Britain is mild. It is often foggy and rainy.

The best time of the year in GB is spring(of course, it rains in spring too).





The two worst months in Britain are January and February.

National economy



Great Britain is a highly developed industrial country.



It is known as one of the world's largest producers and exporters of iron and steel products, machinery and electronics, chemicals and textile, aircraft and navigation equipment.



One of the chief industries of the country is shipbuilding.

Politic system



The United Kingdom is a parliamentary monarchy and the Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state.



But in practice it is ruled by the elected government with a Prime Minister at the head.



The British Parliament consists of two chambers: the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

 **Labour**



Conservatives



Liberal Democrats



There are three main political parties in Great Britain: the Labour, the Conservative and the Liberal parties. The Conservative party is the ruling party nowadays.