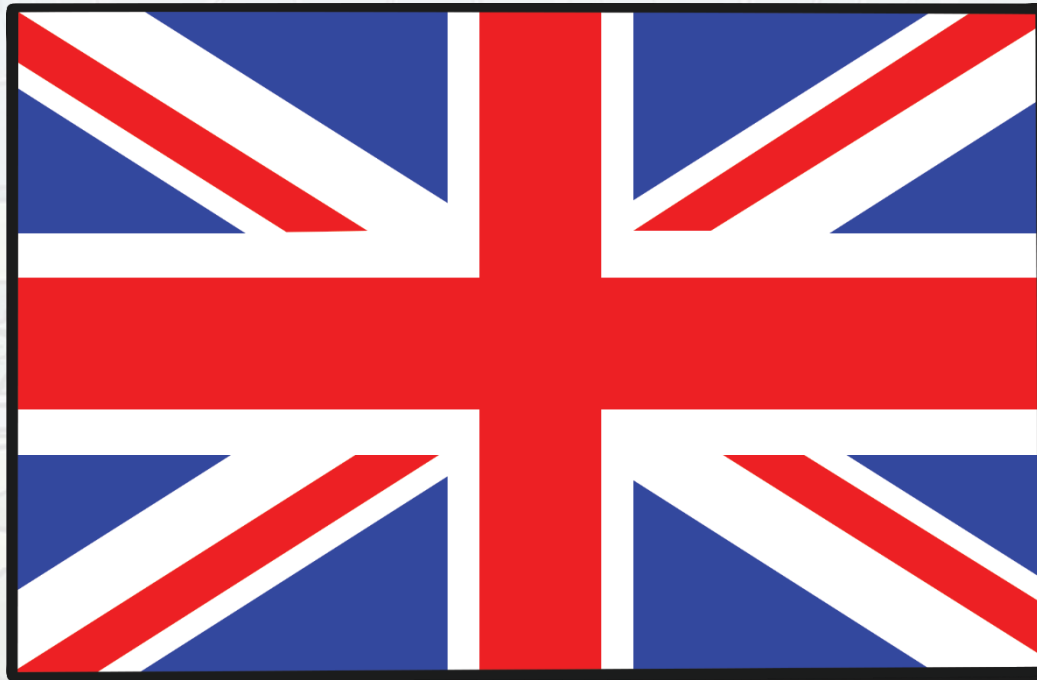


St. George's Day



The Flag of Saint George

The flag of Saint George makes up the English part of the Union Flag.



Press the flag to reveal the cross of Saint George

Was Saint George a Real Person?

Yes!

He was born in Turkey and lived during the third century AD.

He was a Christian and became a Roman soldier when he was 17.

He was known for his bravery and he protested against the persecution of Christians by the Romans. Even though he was imprisoned and tortured, he stayed true to his faith.

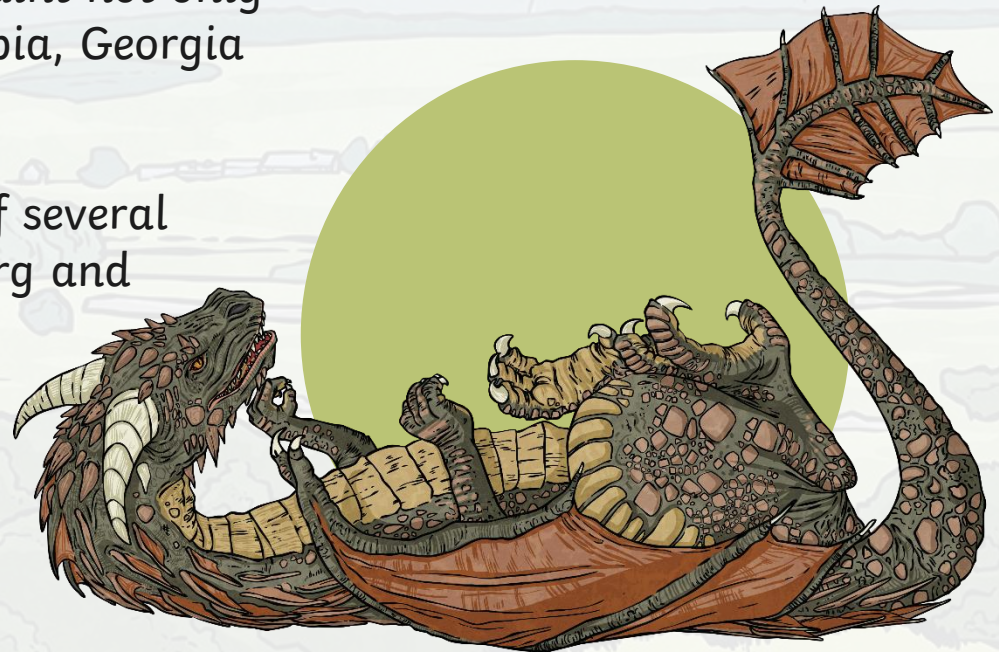


How Did He Become the Patron Saint?

King Edward III made him the patron saint of England after he defeated the French at the Battle of Crécy in 1350.

Saint George is the patron saint not only of England but also of Ethiopia, Georgia and Portugal.

He is also the patron saint of several cities, such as Beirut, Freiburg and Moscow.



When Did St. George's Day Start?

St. George's Day has been celebrated on 23rd April since 1222. This is believed to be the date that he died in AD303.

He became the official patron of England in 1415 after Henry V won the Battle of Agincourt.



Saint George and the Dragon

The legend of 'Saint George and the Dragon' tells of how he killed a dragon and saved a princess.

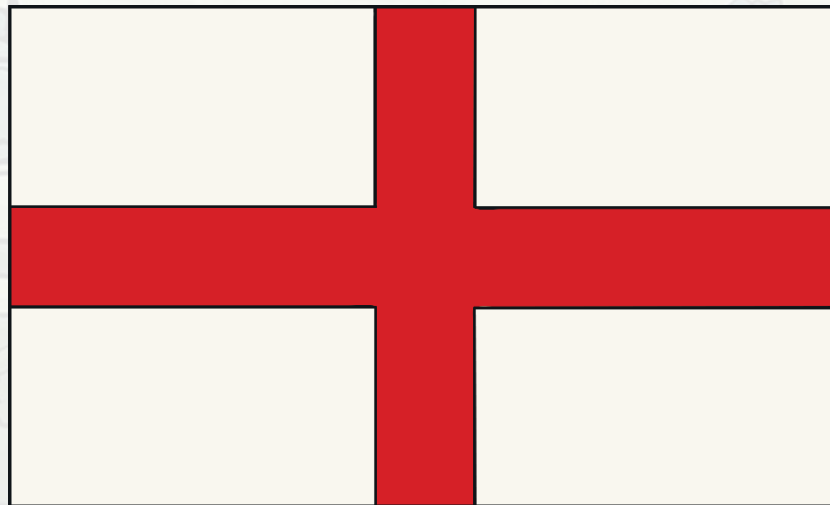
The tale of 'Saint George and the Dragon' is a legend. This means that some of it may be true; however, it may have been changed and embellished over time. In the past, dragons were used in stories to represent the devil.



St. George's Day Today

Even though some campaigners are trying, St. George's Day is not yet a national holiday in England.

Despite the lack of an official national holiday, many people celebrate the day either on 23rd April or on the nearest weekend.



St. George's Day Celebrations

There are many St. George's Day parades all around England, which often include Morris dancers and marching bands. Some parades also include re-enactments of the dragon legend.



Mummers' Plays

Mummers' plays are seasonal plays of folk tales, which are performed in public places by amateurs.

The legend of Saint George is a popular mummers' play.

