

United Kingdom

National Anthems Comprehension

The national anthem of the United Kingdom is **God Save the Queen**.

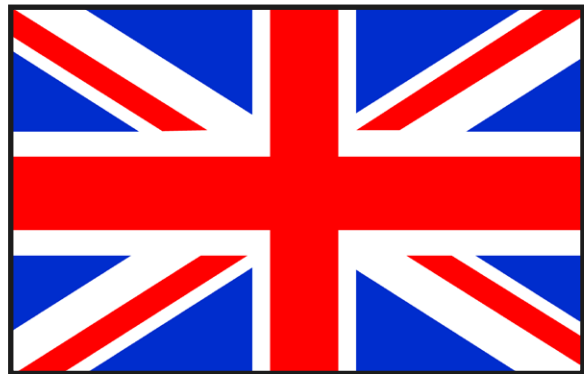
The United Kingdom is made up of four countries: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. All of these countries sing **God Save the Queen** as their official national anthem. It was first performed in 1745.

Sometimes, these countries want to sing a national song for their country only.



God Save the Queen

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.



The unofficial national song of England is called Jerusalem. The composer Hubert Parry set the short poem 'And did those feet in ancient time' by William Blake to his own melody.

Jerusalem was written in the Victorian times in the middle of the industrial revolution, a time when many factories were being built and cities were crowded. The words of the song remind people of the beauty of nature and the countryside. It is considered to be England's most popular patriotic song.

Jerusalem

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's
mountain green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant
pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
In England's green and
pleasant land.
Among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear!
O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in
my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and
pleasant land.

The Welsh national anthem is **Land of my Fathers**. It was written by a father and son in January 1856. Evan James was a poet and wrote the lyrics after his son James composed the tune as he was walking home along the bank of the River Rhondda. The lyrics were written in Welsh and there are a number of slightly different translations.

Land of my Fathers

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.



In Scotland, the song Flower of Scotland is performed as the national song at rugby and football matches.

Flower of Scotland was composed by Scottish folk musician Roy Williamson in 1967.

Roy learned to play the recorder at school, but didn't read music.

Flower of Scotland

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



At athletic events, **Scotland the Brave** is performed as the national song.

The tune is traditionally played on the bagpipes.

Scotland the Brave

Hark when the night is falling,
Hear! Hear the pipes are calling,
Loudly and proudly calling down
through the glen.
There where the hills are sleeping,
now feel the blood a-leaping,
High as the spirits of the old
highland men.



Cliff Hanley wrote the words to the song on Christmas day 1951.

Londonderry Air is the national song of Northern Ireland.

The tune is a traditional melody which, over time, various words have been set to; the most famous being the song 'Danny Boy' in 1913.

The words of the song are a message of love from a parent to a son off at war.

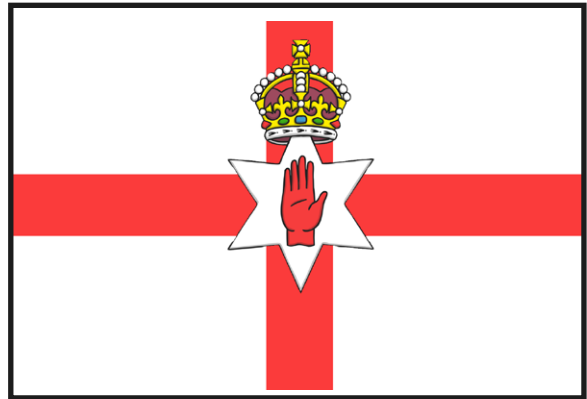
Londonderry Air

Oh Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes
are calling

From glen to glen, and down the
mountain side

The summer's gone, and all the
flowers are dying

'Tis you, 'tis you must go and I
must bide.



National Anthems

1. What year was the song God Save the Queen first performed?

2. Who composed the music for the unofficial national song of England?

3. Who wrote the lyrics for the Welsh national anthem?

4. Which country did Roy Williamson compose a national song for?

5. Which instrument traditionally plays Scotland the Brave?

6. Which song do the lyrics of the Northern Ireland national song come from?

National Anthems **Answers**

1. What year was the song God Save the Queen first performed?
1745
2. Who composed the music for the unofficial national song of England?
Hubert Parry
3. Who wrote the lyrics for the Welsh national anthem?
Evan James
4. Which country did Roy Williamson compose a national song for?
Scotland
5. Which instrument traditionally plays Scotland the Brave?
Bagpipes
6. Which song do the lyrics of the Northern Ireland national song come from?
Danny Boy