

United Kingdom

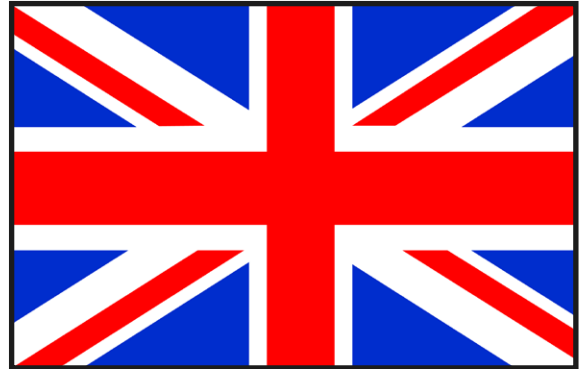
National Anthems Comprehension

The National Anthem of the United Kingdom is **God Save the Queen**. It was first performed as a patriotic song in 1745 but only became known as the National Anthem from the beginning of the 19th Century. **God Save the Queen** represents the whole of the United Kingdom. However, when England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland compete as separate countries in sporting events, they have other national songs.



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.



Since 2010, England has used the song **Jerusalem** as their national song at the Commonwealth Games after it won a public poll. The composer, teacher and historian of music 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, who was a harpist and musician, 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.



There is no official national anthem of Scotland, however at Scottish rugby and football matches, **Flower of Scotland** is performed as the national song, and at athletic events, **Scotland the Brave** is performed as the national song.

Flower of Scotland was composed by Scottish folk musician Roy Williamson in 1967. Roy was musical from an early age; at school he learned to play the recorder, but he couldn't read the music. When his teacher found out, he was banned from music lessons!

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



The tune of **Scotland the Brave** is an old bagpipe melody, and the words were written to the melody on Christmas day 1951 by Glaswegian Cliff Hanley.

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.



Londonderry Air is the national song of Northern Ireland when the country competes individually at events such as the Commonwealth Games. 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. There are various theories as to the meaning of the lyrics, but many believe the song to be a message from a parent to a son going off to war.

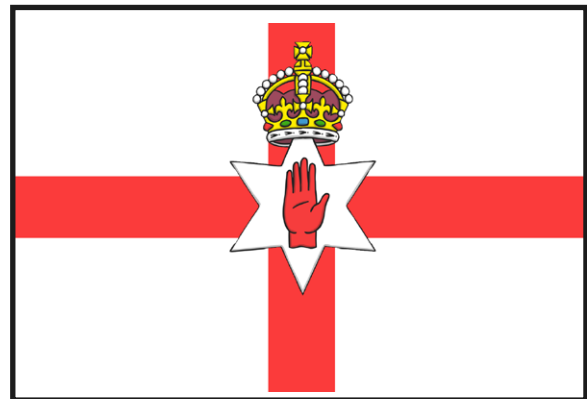
Londonderry Air

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. In which century did God Save the Queen become known as the national anthem of the United Kingdom?

2. Which poet wrote the lyrics used in the song Jerusalem?

3. Which river inspired the music of the Welsh national anthem?

4. Which musical instrument was Roy Williamson good at playing at school?

5. What time of year was Scotland the Brave composed?

6. What are the lyrics of the Northern Ireland national song about?

National Anthems Answers

1. In which century did God Save the Queen become known as the national anthem of the United Kingdom?
19th century
2. Which poet wrote the lyrics used in the song Jerusalem?
William Blake
3. Which river inspired the music of the Welsh national anthem?
Rhondda
4. Which musical instrument was Roy Williamson good at playing at school?
Recorder
5. What time of year was Scotland the Brave composed?
Christmas
6. What are the lyrics of the Northern Ireland national song about?
Message from a parent to a son going off to war.