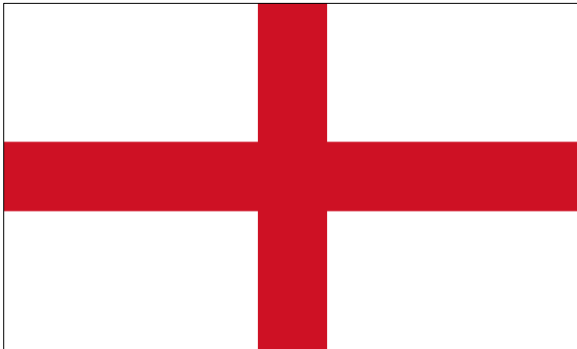
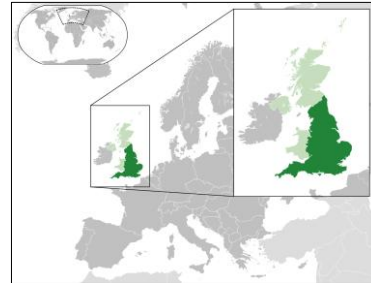


HISTORY OF THE FLAG OF ENGLAND



Where In The World



Trivia

The English flag has no official status within the United Kingdom.

Technical Specification

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Adopted: | (Formally) 1606 |
| Proportion: | 3:5 |
| Design: | A red centred cross on a white background |
| Colours: | PMS - Red: 186 CMYK - Red: 6% Black, 91% Magenta, 76% Yellow |

Brief History

The origins of the red cross on a white background can be traced as far back as the crusades. However when Henry II of England went on a crusade in 1188 the banner he used was of a white cross on a red background. At some point this designation was reversed as red crosses seem to have been used as a distinguishing mark worn by English soldiers from the reign of Edward I (1270s),

By 1300, there was also a greater "banner of St George", but not yet in a prominent function; the king used it among several banners of saints alongside the royal banner.

Saint George had become popular as a "warrior saint" during the crusades and Edward III, who in thanks for Saint George's supposed intervention in his favour at the Battle of Crécy gave him a special position as a patron saint of the Order of the Garter in 1348 and from that time, his banner was used with increasing prominence alongside the Royal Banner and became a fixed element in the hoist of the Royal Standard.

St. George finally rose to the position of the primary patron saint of England during the English Reformation when all religious flags, including all saints' banners except for his were abolished.

Under the stewardship of King James, in 1606 it was combined with the Scottish St. Andrew's Cross to form the Union Jack.

Since then the terms Britain and England were used largely interchangeably and the Union Flag was used as England's national flag even though it has never been officially adopted as such.

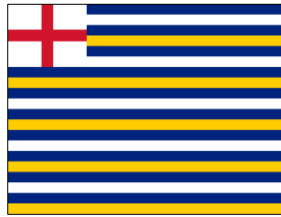
Naval Ensign of the United Kingdom

The White Ensign, at one time called the St George's Ensign due to the simultaneous existence of a cross-less version of the flag, is an ensign flown on British Royal Navy ships and shore establishments. It consists of a red St George's Cross on a white field with the Union Flag in the upper canton.

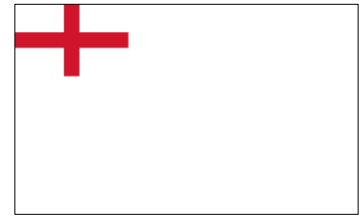
English naval ensigns were first used during the late 15th century and the first was striped in green and white (the Tudor colours) but as the monarchy changed other colours and styles were introduced until 1800 when the current design was introduced.



Tudor Ensign
1485 - 1603



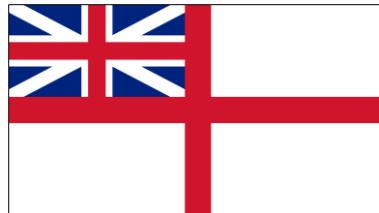
Stuart Royal Navy Squadron Ensign
1620



English White Ensign
1630 - 1707



White Squadron Ensign
1702 - 1707



British White Ensign
1707 - 1800



British White Ensign
1800 - Current

Flag of the City of London

The flag of the City of London is based on the English flag. It has a centred St George's Cross on a white background with a red sword in the top left quarter which is also known as the upper hoist canton.

Legend has it that the sword represents the sword that beheaded Saint Paul who is the patron saint of the city.

