

KATAPULT

FUN WITH FLAGS



- Basil
- Mozzarella
- Tomato
- Pineapple



- Beer sold in pints
- People weighed in stones and pounds
- Distances measured in yards and miles
- Making fun of Americans for not using the metric system



- Tesla
- Netflix
- Amazon
- Affordable health insurance

The Swastika Flag



As one might expect, the use of the swastika flag is prohibited in Germany. But did you know it's also banned in many other countries? In many parts of the world, the Nazi swastika has come to be synonymous with one of the worst genocides in human history. Nevertheless, there are cultures in some parts of the world that still use the swastika. In Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism, the swastika is still considered a symbol of good luck.

In Germany, swastikas are only allowed to be used for the purpose of "civic education." Therefore, war toys with swastikas are forbidden because they would glorify Naziism, but in cartoons, works of art and for religious practice the use of swastikas is generally allowed. Germans initially banned anti-Nazi symbols as well, including the crossed-out swastika. However, this ruling was overturned by the Federal Court of Justice in 2007. If the swastika is clearly displayed in a negative light, its use is permitted.

Swastika



Composition of the Union Jack



Officially, the Union Jack is called the Union Flag. It represents the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and is a combination of the English, Scottish and the Irish flag as it looked at the time the Union Flag was designed.

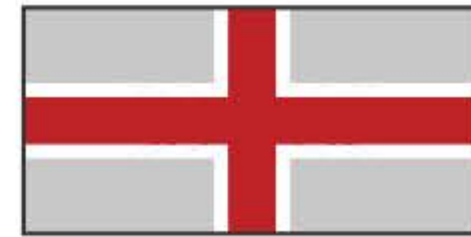
Beginning in 1603, Scotland and England had the same king. That meant their ships had to fly both countries' flags starting in that year. The problem: They were forced to fly one flag above the other, which normally signified that the country of the upper flag had defeated the country of the lower flag. As you might guess, the English raised their flag to the top, and the Scots did it the other way around.

The Scottish and English King, James I, therefore commissioned a flag which was meant to unite both sides. The result? The Scots found that their flag wasn't prominent enough in the new combined flag. From then on, both sides hoisted their own version of the Union Flag.

It wasn't until 1801 that the red St. Andrew's Cross was also added to the combined flag to represent Ireland. The Welsh flag never made it into the Union Jack because Wales had already belonged to England since 1536. Nevertheless, there is hope for the Welsh yet: Margaret Hodge, the British Minister for Culture, said in 2007 that a new design of the Union Jack wasn't out of the question.



44 %



ENGLAND

42 %



SCOTLAND

14 %

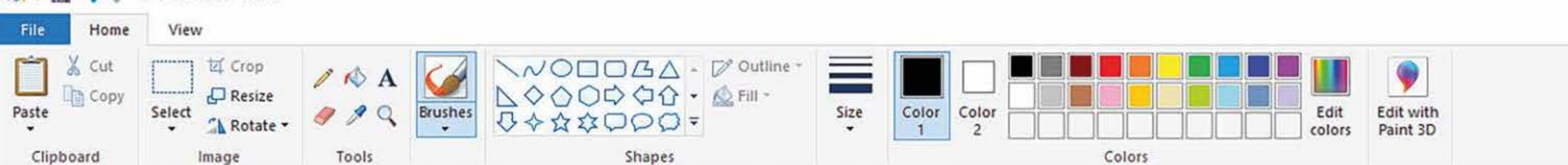


NORTHERN IRELAND

0 %



WALES



Provo, Utah (until 2015)



Round Rock, Texas



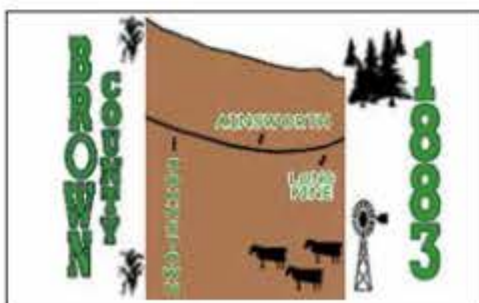
Oceanside, California



Bienville Parish, Louisiana



Brown County, Nebraska



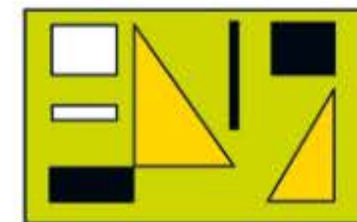
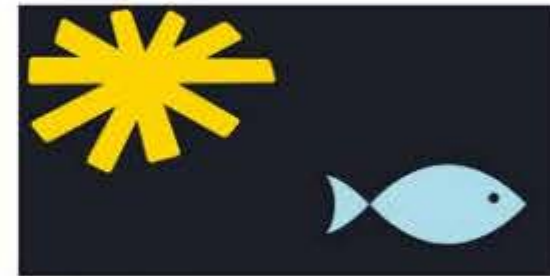
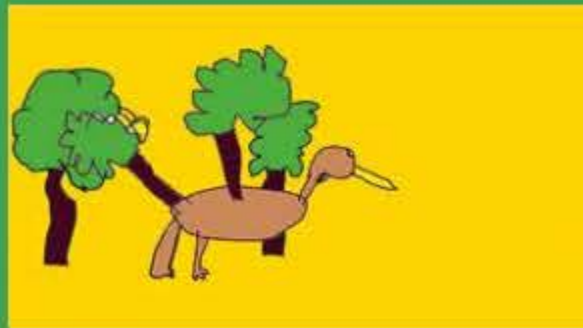
Pocatello, Idaho (until 2017)



Flags That Were Created with Microsoft Paint

What the hell is that supposed to be, Louisiana? Who in the world thought this flag for Bienville Parish was a good idea? The name of the city in huge letters drifting slightly over the border line ... If that was an oversight, it's embarrassing. If it was intentional, it's high art. On top of that, there's a selection of seemingly random objects: a deer, a watermelon, an oil rig and a tree with underground roots. Perched at the top of the parish outline, you can see the slogan: "Progressing with Pride." Whoever made this flag must not only have been proud of their great melon city, but also quite confident in their own artistic talents. Thank you for this flag!

Submissions in the New Zealand Flag Contest That Were (Sadly) Rejected in the First Round :(



FUN

WITH POLAND,
NIGERIA, BRAZIL



- Pierogi
- Churches as far as the eye can see
- LGBTQIA+ rights



- Fighting poverty
- Electing honest politicians
- Beating Germany in soccer



- Nigeria
- Nigeria
- Niger

FUN

WITH THE UK,
IRELAND, CANADA



- Beer sold in pints
- People weighed in stones and pounds
- Distances measured in yards and miles
- Making fun of Americans for not using the metric system



- Beautiful grass
- Amazingly fresh air
- High water quality
- Sunny days



- Breathtaking nature
- Moose
- Maple syrup
- Conversations without saying "sorry"

Flag Burning

Many countries that make flag desecration a punishable offense don't actually seem to care about it in practice. France, however, does. In 2010, an Algerian man, upset by the poor service given by employees of the local administration office, grabbed and destroyed a French tricolor. He was given a fine – not for damage of property, but for insulting the flag.

Flag desecration is also illegal in Mexico. The poet, Sergio Witz, published his poem "La patria entre mierda," or "The Fatherland in the Midst of Shit," in 2002. In it is the following line: "I dry the urine with the flag of my country." Six years after publication, a judge imposed a symbolic fine of 50 pesos – about two and a half U.S. dollars – on Witz. Witz said the fine was ridiculous and refuses to pay it to this day.

The EU flag has been relatively heavily protected from desecration since 2020, at least in Germany. Following the trampling of EU flags by neo-Nazis at demonstrations, German law changed to allow prison sentences of up to three years. Damaging the flags of other countries can result in a maximum penalty of up to two years imprisonment. Luckily for many wannabe criminals, burning the EU flag is often impossible anyway because the flag material used is not normally flammable. Many Brits had to learn this lesson when they desperately tried to burn EU flags after the Brexit vote. They just wouldn't burn.

So you wanna desecrate a flag?

You're free to do so here.



You can do it here too, but only the national flag.





Flag of Cyprus



Flag of Colorado (in the style of Cyprus)

THE WORLD IN FLAGS

