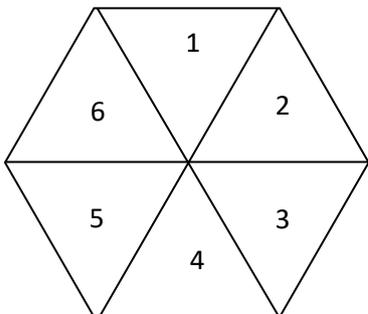
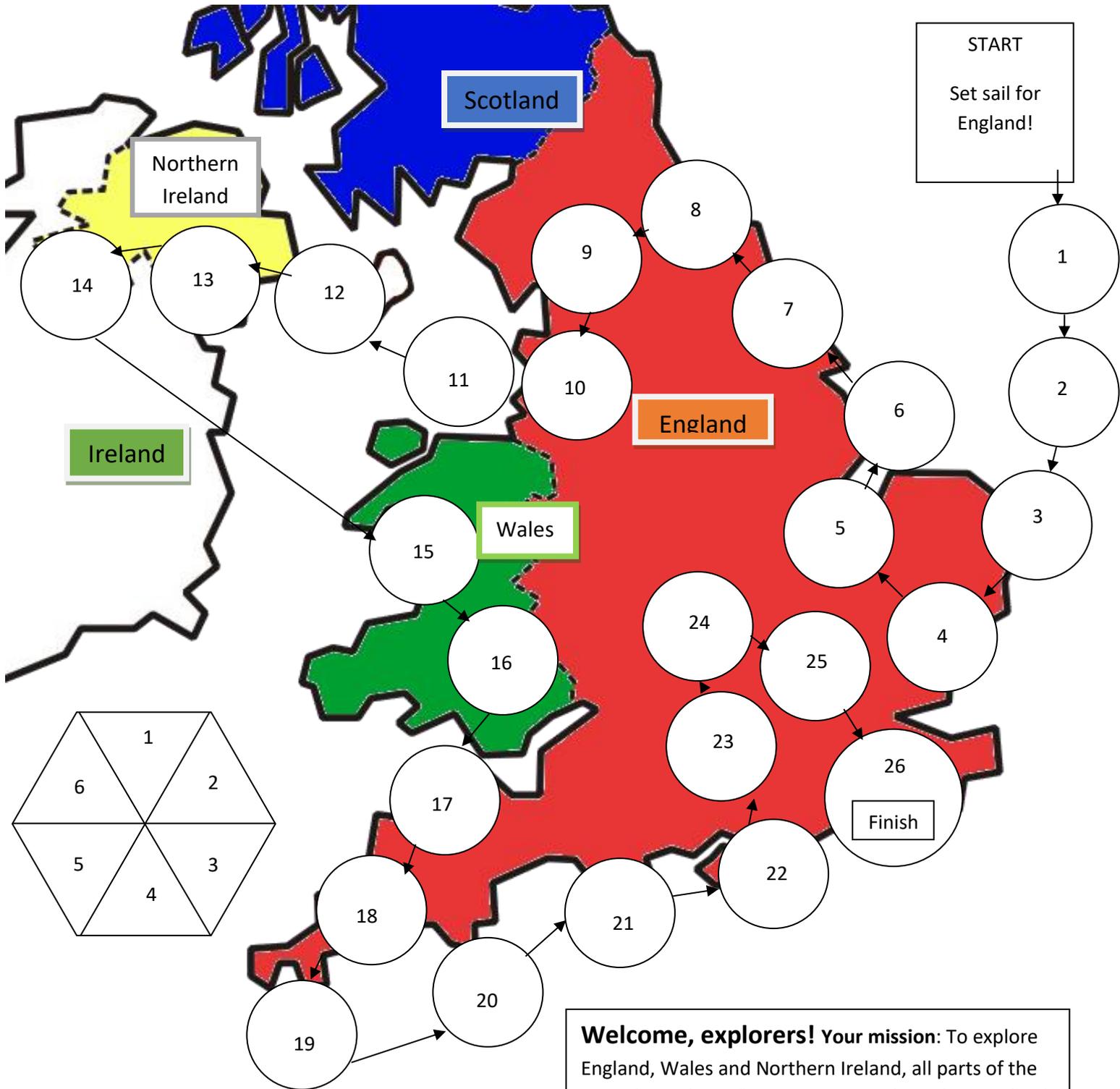


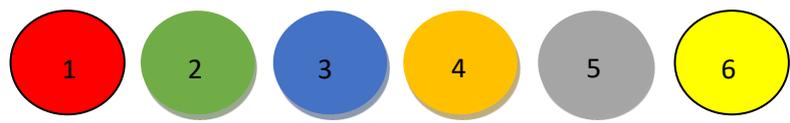
# Children's Activity sheets



Cut out the spinner (above) and put a thin straight stick through the centre to spin.

Counters

**Welcome, explorers! Your mission:** To explore England, Wales and Northern Ireland, all parts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Find out more about us and our three nations. You will need dice, or make the spinner, and each player will need a counter. Take turns to roll the dice or spin the spinner and then move your counter. Be prepared for an adventure! If you land on a circle with a number you must read the corresponding fact on the sheet to the group.



## Finding out about England, Wales and Northern Ireland Game

### Interesting facts of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (to accompany the Game)

England, Wales and Northern Ireland are all parts of the British Isles. When Scotland and more than 6,000 islands around us are added as well, we become: 'The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland'.

1. We each have our own flag and patron saint: **St George** for **England**, **St David** for **Wales** and **St Patrick** for **Ireland**.

### Government and Royalty

2. We are ruled by a democratic government with an elected **Prime Minister**, but we also have a **Queen** (or King) who is our Head of State.
3. Welcome to **London**! This is the capital city and it is where the government buildings are. These are called the **Houses of Parliament**. There is a clock tower there with a famous bell called **Big Ben**.
4. The official London home of the Queen (or King) is called **Buckingham Palace**.
5. We have many historic houses and castles. The oldest royal home is **Windsor Castle**. It was built more than 900 years ago and is the largest royal home in the world and still being lived in!
6. Do you know that when people reach their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday they get a card from the Queen (or King)?

### Things to be Proud Of

7. We may be a small island - but we have a long history of inventors who have brought new knowledge to the world.
8. Our educational system: all children get a free education until they are 18. We also have fee-paying private or independent schools. We get many students coming from other countries to go to our universities. **Oxford** and **Cambridge** are England's most famous and historic universities.
9. How lucky we are to have such a temperate climate – no extremes in any way! We are proud of our lush green countryside and farm land.
10. Because we are all islands, nowhere in the country are we more than 75 miles from the sea!

### Over the Irish Sea

11. Now we travel across to **Northern Ireland** - the main city here is **Belfast** and the Irish folk are here to welcome you! They are famous for their hospitality.
12. **The Giant's Causeway** is a very famous rocky area of the coast in Northern Ireland. It looks like thousands of giant steps. It is made up of thousands of hexagonal blocks of rock, formed by ancient volcanic eruptions.
13. **Loch Neagh**, in Northern Ireland, is the largest lake in the British Isles.

### Back Across the Sea

14. To **Wales** – another beautiful part of our islands! All the road signs in Wales are written in two languages: Welsh and English.
15. One town in Wales has one of the longest names in the world:  
**Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwryndrobwilllantysiliogogoch**  
(which means: *Saint Mary's Church in the hollow of the white hazel near a rapid whirlpool and the Church of Saint Tysilio of the red cave.*)
16. From all parts of our countries we have many famous authors, poets, explorers and composers who are known all around the world.

### More things to know

17. **Football** (or soccer) originated in England, and other sports such as **cricket, rugby and tennis** all started here. Some of our football clubs are known all over the world.
18. If you go anywhere in England, Wales or Northern Ireland you will be sure to try some favourite foods like: fish and chips, varieties of sandwiches, cheeses and cream teas!
19. There are beautiful beaches and coastlines all around us. Fishing and sailing, surfing and swimming – but be careful, the seas that surround us can be very cold!

20. **Stonehenge** is a famous prehistoric monument made up of a ring of massive standing stones. It is older than the Pyramids of Egypt and thought to have been created about 3,000 BC.
21. Believe it or not, the **postage stamp** originated here! The first stamp was issued in 1840.
22. Our **currency** of pennies and pounds is one of the oldest in the world that is still in use after 1200 years.
23. So – back to London again! London has the largest **library** in the world.
24. **London** also has one of the oldest **transport** systems in the world and one of the largest – both underground and above-ground.
25. **London** is a city where many people from countries all around the world come to visit. It has the highest number of **languages** spoken, by inhabitants and visitors, than in any other country – more than 300 languages.

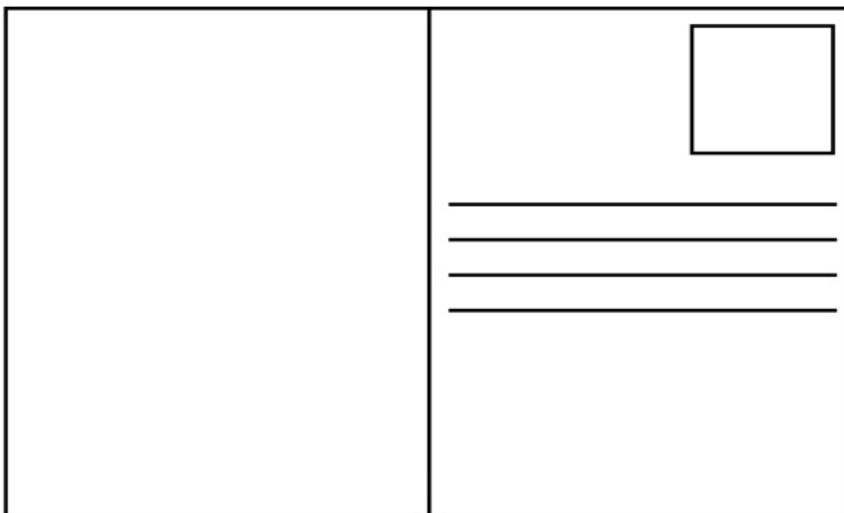
**Finish! We hope you have enjoyed your trip around England, Wales and Northern Ireland!**

**If you found that interesting, see if you can find out more information.**

### **CRAFT ACTIVITIES**

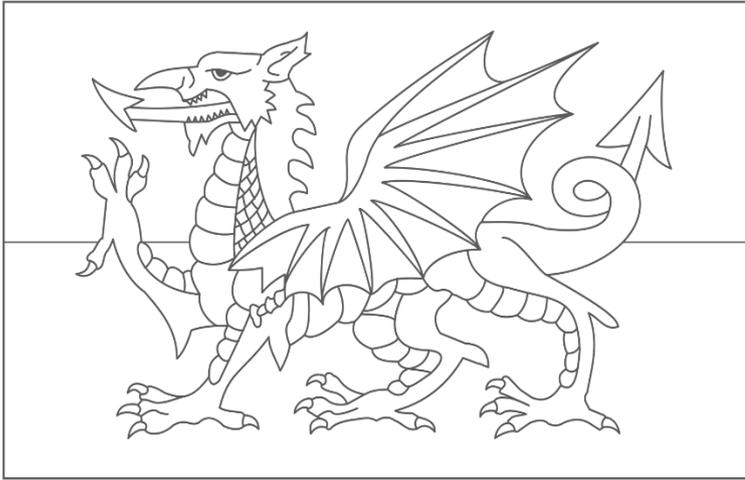
- Colour the flags of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Paint or decorate a stone. If the stone is large enough, then a message can be written, such as HOPE, LOVE, JOY or PEACE.

### **Postcard Template**



Draw or write

*'My hopes are....'*



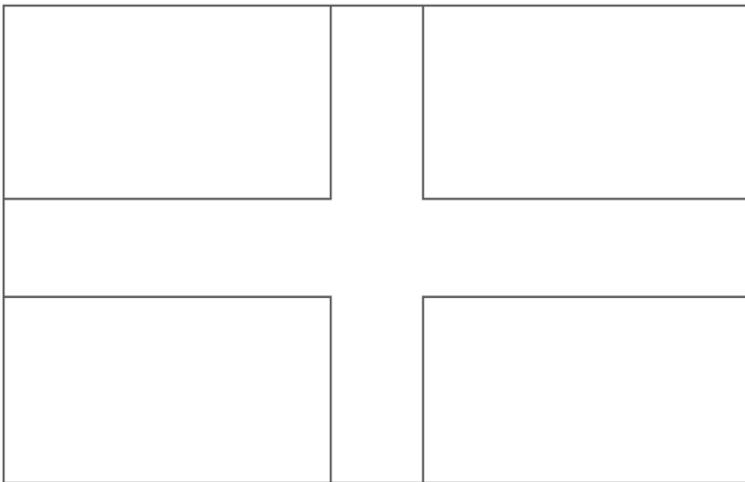
## Flag of Wales

In Welsh: Baner Cymru or Y Ddraig Goch, meaning "The Red Dragon".

The first recorded use of the flag was at the Battle of Bosworth in 1483.

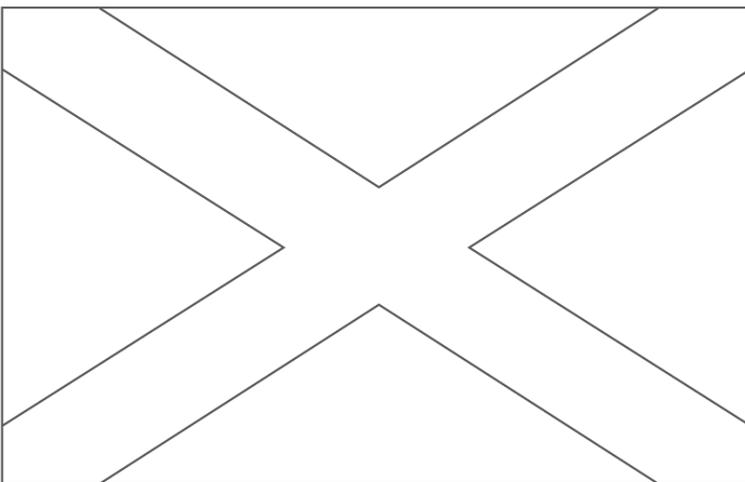
It was officially recognised as the Welsh national flag in 1959.

A red dragon on a white (top) and green (bottom) background.



## Flag of England

A red centred cross on a white background.



## Saint Patrick's Saltire

Red saltire (X-shaped cross) on a white field, used to represent the island of Ireland or Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.