



# Virginia International Tattoo



## VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL 2023

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## WHAT IN THE WORLD'S A TATTOO?

### *Doe den tap toe!*

That's Dutch for "Turn off the taps!" It's a phrase used four hundred years ago when British soldiers were stationed in the Low Countries, now the Netherlands and Belgium. When the troops weren't off fighting, they joined the local townspeople at taverns and inns, enjoying fellowship and drinking ale.

To summon the soldiers back to their quarters for the night, a single military drummer would march through the towns beating a "doe den tap toe" message to the innkeepers to turn off the ale taps, or stop serving ale.

This signal was eventually trimmed to "tap toe" and then "tattoo," perhaps because of the drum's "rat-a-tat" sound. But while its name was shortened, the size and scope of the ceremony grew as the British army brought the tradition back home to the United Kingdom.

Over the centuries, music and marching were added to the tattoo. Massed military bands dressed in colorful uniforms and marched in impressive formations, playing drums, fifes, bagpipes, and other instruments. The tattoo, once a simple command to close the taverns, became a mighty display of military pageantry.

In Scotland, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, established in 1950, is one of the most popular of these exhibitions. Every year 200,000 people attend the tattoo at historic Edinburgh Castle.

Other countries also host tattoos, such as the Norwegian Military Tattoo and the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo of Canada. Each event is different and shaped by the culture of the country in which it is presented. Today, most tattoos include civilian entertainment as well as military bands and honor performers from nations outside of the host nation.

# VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

Now in its twenty-sixth year, the Virginia International Tattoo brings together hundreds of performers from around the world in a spectacular exhibition of music, marching, and more. Massed pipes and drums, precision drill teams, resplendent marching bands, colorful dancers, and melodious choirs perform together, creating the grandest show of its kind in the United States. Based in Norfolk, Virginia, home to the world's largest naval base, NATO's North American headquarters, and the largest population of active duty and retired military in the country, this year's Tattoo is a patriotic and gratitude-filled tribute to our nation's military families.

## 2023 Virginia International Tattoo Cast

### AUSTRALIA

Queensland Police Pipe Band

### FRANCE

Bagad de Lann-Bihoué

### LATVIA

Central Military Band of the Latvian National Armed Forces

### NEW ZEALAND

The Highland Dance Company of New Zealand

### SINGAPORE

Singapore Armed Forces Central Band

### UKRAINE

Studio 117 Crazy Drummers

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Andy's Tartan Army

Camden County Emerald Society Pipes and Drums

Granby High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps

Hampton Roads Police Color Guards

Norfolk Fire-Rescue Honor Guard

Old Dominion University Concert Choir

Tidewater Pipes and Drums

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Herald Trumpets

U.S. Marine Corps Band, Quantico

U.S. Marine Corps FAST Company

U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon

U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Band

Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus





## TATTOO-RIFFIC! WHAT TO EXPECT

The Virginia International Tattoo is an extravaganza of amazing sights and incredible sounds. Here's what you will see and hear:

**Musical instruments** Long ago, before radio or digital communications, musical instruments were a vital part of military life. Drums provided rhythms for marching. Bugles, trumpets, and fifes relayed orders from commanders to soldiers in the field. In the United Kingdom, Scottish bagpipers served in the military as far back as the 1600s. As the bagpipes were played into battle, their big, bold sound lifted the troops' spirits and struck fear in the hearts of the enemy.

**Marching** In most countries, marching is part of basic military training. Obeying marching orders, known as drill commands, requires discipline. To march in formation, or as a single unit, each individual in the group must keep in mind his or her dress, cover, interval, and distance.

**Dress:** alignment with the person to either side

**Cover:** alignment with the person in front

**Interval:** space between the person to either side

**Distance:** space between the person in front

**Military uniforms** You may wear a uniform at school, in your scout troop, or for your sports team. The uniform identifies you as a member of that group. Members of military organizations wear uniforms to show that they belong to the armed forces of a particular nation. A country's military uniform often reflects its history and tradition. In the United Kingdom, for instance, soldiers from the Scottish Highlands wore tartan—what we in America call plaid—into battle. In that mountainous area of Scotland, the various clans who lived there could be distinguished by the unique colors and patterns of their tartan kilts.

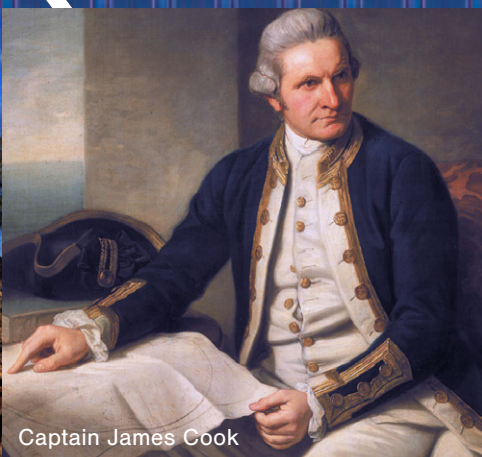
**Dancing** The Highland dance style comes from the mountainous Highlands region of northern Scotland. It is a technical form of dance requiring great strength and stamina. It's believed that centuries ago Scottish soldiers used Highland dancing as exercise to keep fit for battle. Until the early twentieth century, Highland dancing was performed mostly by men. During the World Wars, Scottish women learned to dance too, preserving the tradition while the men were away. Today, both males and females dance. Highland dance students practice many hours and train for many years. The laced leather shoes Highland dancers wear are called ghillies.







Outback



Captain James Cook



Coral of Great Barrier Reef - Hudson

## SPOTLIGHT ON AUSTRALIA

**CAPITAL:** Canberra

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** English



Hopping kangaroos, the dazzling sea creatures of the Great Barrier Reef, and a friendly greeting of “G’day, mate!” You’ll find all of these in Australia.

Australia is often called the Land Down Under because it’s located “down under” the equator in the southern hemisphere. Situated between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, Australia is also the only continent made up of a single country.

Australia enjoys a warm, sunny climate. With beaches, mountains, forests, grasslands, and deserts (known as the outback), Australia is home to a wide variety of unique animals, birds, flowers, and trees. Some of the better-known creatures that make Australia their habitat are the platypus, kangaroo, koala, wombat, dingo, emu, and kookaburra.

Stretching 1,300 miles off Australia’s northeastern coast, the Great Barrier Reef is the largest area of coral reefs and islands in the world. More than 400 species of coral build colonies here, where 1,500 species of colorful tropical fish swim.

The first inhabitants of Australia migrated from Asia thousands of years ago. Descendants of these Aboriginal people still live in Australia; some reside in modern cities and towns, while others live a more traditional lifestyle. Aboriginal painting—on bark, rock, even in sand—music, and dance are an important part of Australian culture.

In 1770, Captain James Cook, a British explorer, claimed Australia for Great Britain. On January 26, 1788—now celebrated in the country as Australia Day—eleven ships full of prisoners and guards arrived from Great Britain. Britain had decided Australia would be the perfect place to establish a penal colony, or a settlement for convicted criminals!

Free settlers also arrived from Great Britain, and the single colony in Australia grew to six. The settlers brought with them many British customs, including tea drinking. In 1901, the six colonies became the six states of a new nation, the Commonwealth of Australia.

Today, Australia enjoys a standard of living among the highest in the world. With its remarkable natural beauty, diverse population, and rich history and culture, it’s no wonder more than 25 million people call Australia home and many millions visit every year.



## Did You Know?

- Because Australia is in the southern hemisphere, its seasons are the reverse of those in the northern hemisphere, where the United States is located. While we bundle up in December, January, and February, Australians are enjoying summer!
- When leaves drop from the trees in the United States, we call the season fall. Australians don't call their autumn season fall because most of its trees are evergreen!
- The kangaroo and koala are marsupials, mammals whose young are carried in their mother's pouch. The platypus is a monotreme, a mammal whose young hatch from eggs.

**Learn more at:** National Geographic Kids

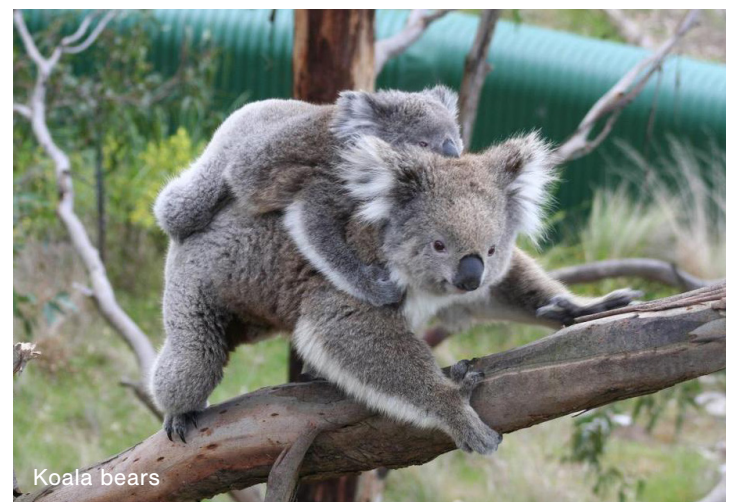
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/australia>



Platypus



Kangaroos



Koala bears



Nice



Napoleon



Pont du Gard, Roman aqueduct

**SPOTLIGHT ON**

**FRANCE**

**CAPITAL:** Paris

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** French



Incredible art, delicious cheese, fine wine, fancy perfume, high fashion—the world has France to thank for these things and more! France has made rich contributions in the areas of politics, philosophy, fine arts, film, literature, cuisine, and sports.

France is the largest country in Western Europe. It's often described as having six sides: three are coastlines, three border land. France's varied landscape includes beaches, like those of the French Riviera on the Mediterranean Sea; mountains, such as the Pyrenees and Alps; and picturesque rivers, like the Seine, Rhone, and Loire.

The French capital of Paris, also known as the City of Light, is home to the country's most recognizable landmark, the Eiffel Tower. Gustave Eiffel designed and built the iron tower in 1889 for the World's Fair; it still stands today, eighty stories tall! Many important museums are located in Paris, like the Louvre, which houses the Mona Lisa, the most famous painting in the world. Works by French artists Monet, Cezanne, and Renoir can also be found at the Louvre.

French cooking is considered by many to be the best in the world. Perhaps you've tried some of these French culinary creations: quiche, crepes, croissant, mousse, soufflé, and the long loaves of bread known as baguettes.

Le Cordon Bleu, a prestigious school devoted to the culinary arts (cooking), was founded in Paris in 1895.

France was not always called France. When Roman emperor Julius Caesar conquered the territory in 51 BCE, it was known as Gaul. By 400 CE the Roman Empire was in decline, and neighboring tribes—including the Franks, after which France would be named—invaded. In 843, the territory of West Francia was established; this would later become France.

Several kings ruled France until the monarchy was overthrown in 1798 during the French Revolution. Not long after, Napoleon Bonaparte, a general during the revolution, took control and declared himself emperor. He waged several wars against France's neighbors until he was defeated in 1815 at the Battle of Waterloo.

During World Wars I and II, France suffered great losses and was ultimately seized by the Nazis. The country was liberated in 1944 by a joint effort of the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada. France has since emerged as a prosperous and important world power and a popular tourist destination. Today more people visit France than any other country.

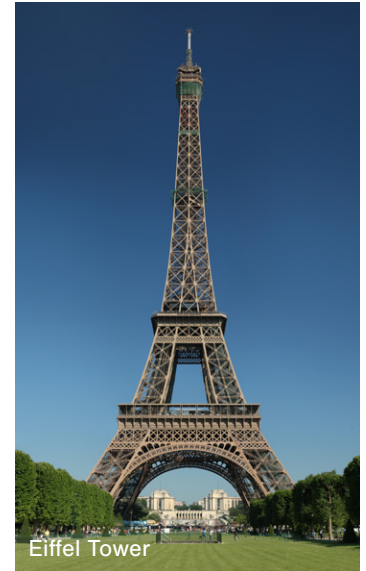


## Did You Know?

- Up, up, and away! Famous French inventions include the modern hot air balloon and parachute.
- The Eiffel Tower was intended to be torn down within twenty years of its construction for the 1889 World's Fair. It was allowed to stand because of its use as a wireless telegraph transmitter, and has since become the very symbol of France. The tower is repainted every seven years—with sixty metric tons of paint!
- The French were the first to use military camouflage, in 1915 during World War I. The word comes from the French verb camoufler, meaning “to disguise.” Guns and vehicles were painted by artists called camoufleurs.

**Learn more at:** National Geographic Kids

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/france>



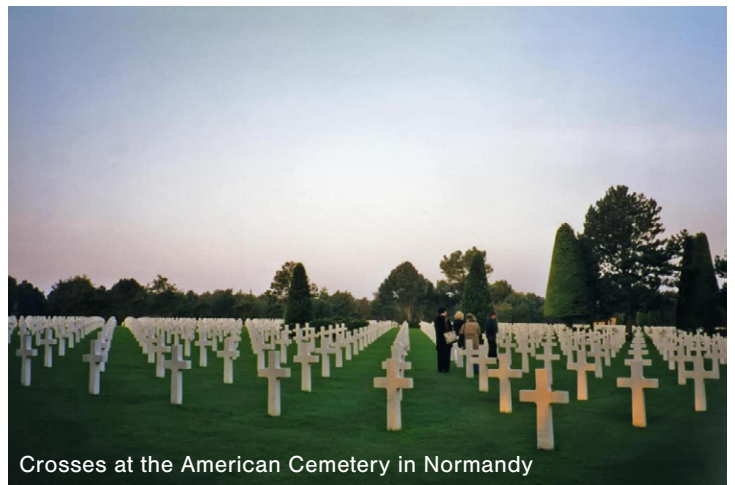
Eiffel Tower



Quiche



Le Louvre



Crosses at the American Cemetery in Normandy



Baltic Sea at Kolka Cape



Riga



Waterfall of Venta in Kuldīga - Algirdas

## SPOTLIGHT ON

# LATVIA

**CAPITAL:** Riga

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** Latvian



With more than a million folk songs, as well as a national song-and-dance festival featuring tens of thousands of performers, it's no surprise that Latvia's often called the Land That Sings. And while the small Northern European nation is huge in cultural heritage, it's equally proud of its pristine green forests, sparkling sandy beaches—and super-fast and accessible Wi-Fi!

Latvia, along with Estonia to its north and Lithuania to its south, is one of the Baltic states—European countries on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea. Russia and Belarus are Latvia's eastern neighbors. Latvia's coastal location gives it more than 300 miles of continuous shoreline. Forests filled with wildlife—including deer, moose, bear, wild boar, and wolves—cover more than half of the country, and thousands of rivers and lakes offer more animal habitats. Several nature preserves throughout the country, which is about the size of West Virginia, keep the animals and landscapes protected. A special landmark is the Venta Rapid; at nearly the length of three football fields, it's the widest natural waterfall in all of Europe.

In medieval times, several eastern Baltic tribes merged to form the ethnic core of the Latvian people. Over the following centuries, the region came under the control of Germans, Poles, Swedes, and Russians. An independent Latvian republic emerged following World War I, but it was taken over by the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist

Republics, or the Soviet Union) in 1940.

Latvia reestablished its independence in 1991 following the breakup of the USSR, but not before mounting a most remarkable demonstration. To express the people's demand for independence from the Soviet Union, on August 23, 1989, approximately 2 million people stood hand in hand across all three Baltic states—more than 400 miles!—in one of the most unique nonviolent protests the world has ever seen. As church bells sounded throughout Latvia and its neighbors Estonia and Lithuania—who'd also come under Soviet rule—the protestors linked hands and chanted "Freedom!" in each country's language. The "Baltic Way" demonstration was a significant step toward Latvia and the other Baltic states regaining their independence.

That nonviolent struggle for independence of the late 1980s and early 1990s is known as the Singing Revolution, because of the Baltic countries' defiant singing of their own folk songs to protest Soviet rule, which had been restricted by the ruling USSR. In Latvia, the Song and Dance Festival has been a joyful celebration of national identity and dignity since 1873. Every five years for a week in July, the entire capital city of Riga becomes a massive stage for choir singers, folk dancers, folklore musicians, craftspeople, and amateur theatre troupes, young and old, dressed in folk costumes, bringing centuries-old traditions to vibrant life.



Latvia's steeped in tradition, to be sure, but it's also forward-thinking and innovative. Latvia's a top-ten country for internet speed, and with wireless connectivity on every street corner, Riga is often called the free Wi-Fi capital of Europe. Advances in biomedicine, drones, sound, wind, and other technologies keep Latvia at the cutting edge.

## Did You Know?

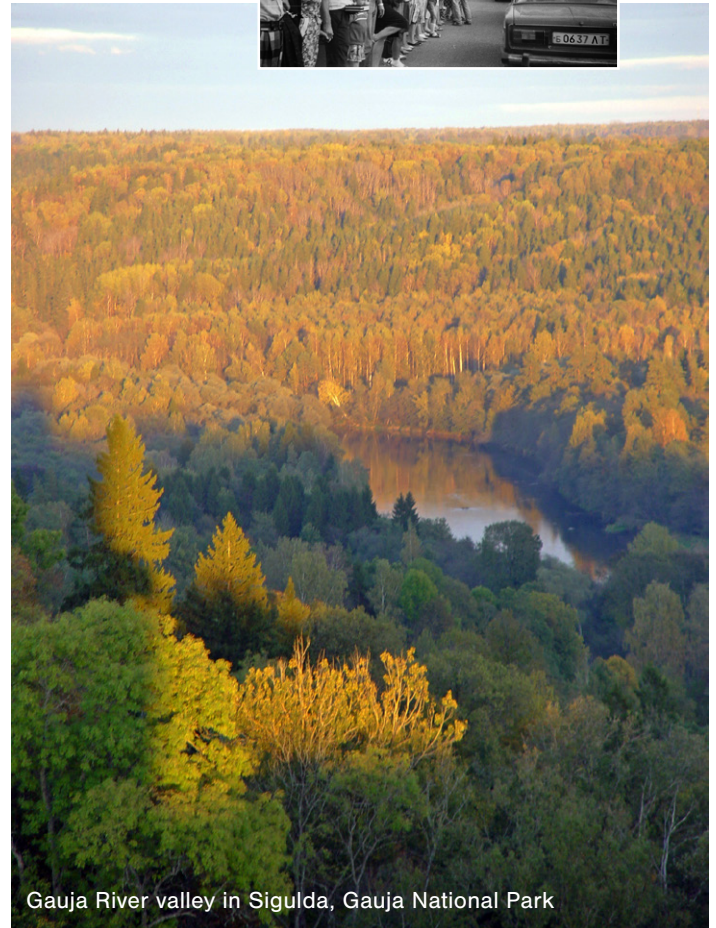
- Latvia loves to read. It's the ninth most literate nation in the world, with nearly 14 million books borrowed yearly from its 1,671 libraries; 39% of Latvians say reading is their hobby.
- Latvian-born tailor Jacob Davis joined with fabric merchant Levi Strauss in the late 1800s in Reno, Nevada, to make the very first blue jeans. Jacob designed those little rivets you find on your denim apparel.
- Latvians are fungi fanatics! Latvians hand-harvest mountains of mushrooms—more than 60,000 tons a year of the three hundred species of edible fungi found in the country's forests.

**Learn more at:** Latvia Travel

[www.latvia.travel](http://www.latvia.travel)



"Baltic Way" demonstration



Gauja River valley in Sigulda, Gauja National Park



Mushrooms (*Cantharellus cibarius*)



Milford Sound, Fiordland National Park



New Zealand Maori Girls



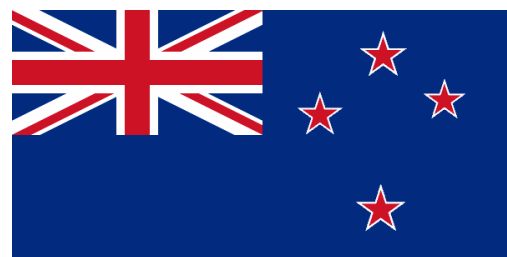
Aoraki/Mount Cook

## SPOTLIGHT ON

# NEW ZEALAND

**CAPITAL:** Wellington

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES:** English/Maori



Spectacular glaciers, rugged mountains, a volcanic plateau, and miles of coastline with sandy beaches—New Zealand has it all!

Located 1,000 miles from Australia in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, New Zealand consists of two main islands, North and South, plus smaller islands offshore. A “spine” of mountain ranges runs through the middle of the North Island, with gentle rolling farmland on both sides. An active volcanic area dominates central North Island. The massive Southern Alps form the backbone of the South Island.

New Zealand’s rich history reflects its unique mix of Maori and European culture. The Maori people were the first to arrive in New Zealand—or Aotearoa, the “land of the long white cloud”—journeying in canoes from Polynesia about 1,000 years ago. A Dutchman, Abel Tasman, was the first European to sight the country, but the British eventually made New Zealand part of their empire.

In 1840 the British and Maori signed the Treaty of Waitangi. It established British law in New Zealand and is considered New Zealand’s founding document and an important part of the country’s history. New Zealand gained its independence from the British in 1947.

With its patchwork of Maori, European, Pacific Island, and Asian cultures, New Zealand is a melting-pot population. Today, of the 5 million New Zealanders (informally known as Kiwis, after the country’s flightless bird), three-quarters live on the North Island, with one-third of the total population living in the city of Auckland.

Because of New Zealand’s remote location, until humans arrived, there were no mammals on the islands, except for those that could swim there (seals, sea lions, whales) or fly there (bats). Without natural predators, birds didn’t need to fly, so New Zealand is home to a large population of flightless birds, like the kiwi. Birds and insects evolved to take the ecological place of mammals, resulting in some very unusual species. The giant weta, for instance, is a cricket-like creature that weighs three times more than a mouse, making it one of the world’s heaviest insects!

New Zealanders are known for their innovation and ingenuity. Kiwi scientist Sir Ernest Rutherford was a trailblazer in the field of nuclear physics. Famous Kiwi inventions include the disposable syringe, the propeller-free Hamilton jet boat, the wind-powered recreational vehicle called the Blokart, and the bungee jump. Indeed, Kiwis seem to excel at outdoor sports; New Zealand mountaineer and explorer Sir Edmund Hillary was the first to climb to the top of Mount Everest in 1953. He also reached both the South and North Poles.

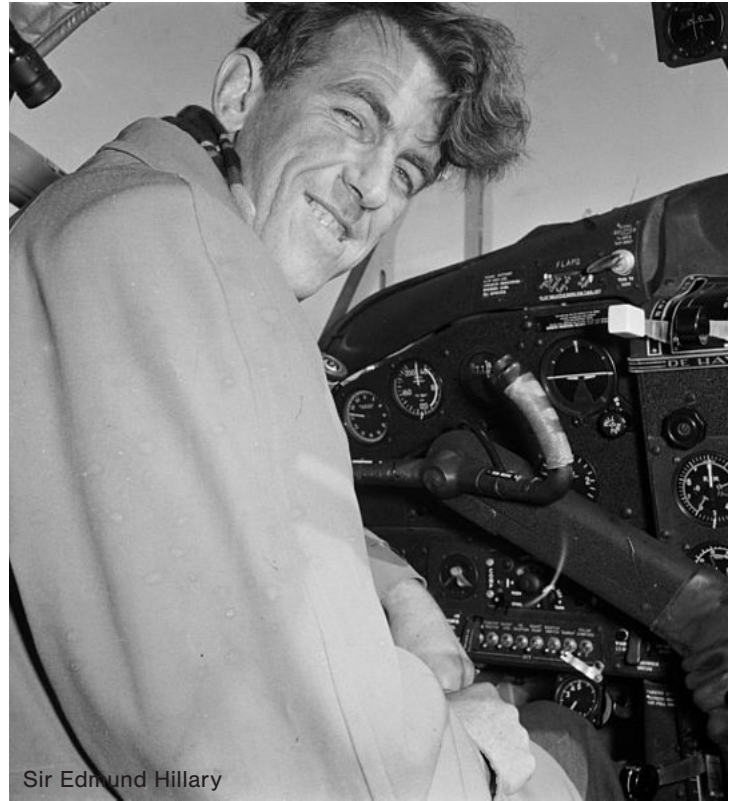


## Did You Know?

- New Zealand was the first country to give women the right to vote, in 1893.
- While the kiwifruit is one of New Zealand's greatest exports, it is actually native to northern China, and is also known as the Chinese gooseberry.
- The *Lord of the Rings* movies were filmed in New Zealand.

Learn more at: National Geographic Kids

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/new-zealand>



Sir Edmund Hillary



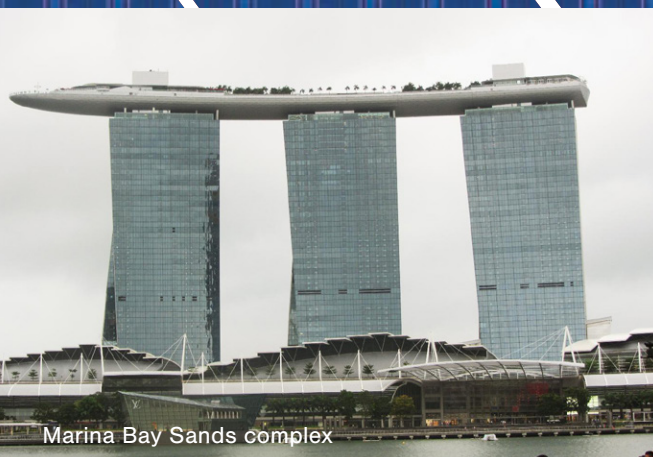
Blokart - Alastair Seagroatt



Kiwi. Photo - Thyssen



New Zealand Weta - Urby



Marina Bay Sands complex



National Orchid Garden



Merlion (half fish-half lion), Marina Bay

### SPOTLIGHT ON

## REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

**CAPITAL:** Singapore is a city-state; its capital city is also called Singapore.

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** English, Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil



The island nation of Singapore might be physically small, but it's a giant in other ways—it's one of the economic, tourism, and multicultural powerhouses of South-east Asia. Located at the tip of the Malay Peninsula, the city-state—meaning it is both a city and a country—includes the island of Singapore, plus more than fifty smaller islands.

For centuries, Singapore's strategic location at the meeting point of several sea routes made it a natural trading post for vessels sailing between Europe and East Asia. In the nineteenth century, Singapore became a British possession and a major trade hub. The thriving city quickly grew, attracting immigrants from China, India, the islands of the Malay Archipelago, and beyond. Development of rubber-tree plantations resulted in Singapore becoming one of the world's largest suppliers of rubber.

Singapore's prosperity suffered a major blow, though, when it was attacked by the Japanese in World War II. After the Japanese surrendered in 1945, Singapore became a British Crown Colony; then Britain withdrew in 1958 and Singapore governed itself. In 1963, Singapore joined the newly formed country of Malaysia, comprised of numerous states and territories in the region. In 1965, Singapore left Malaysia to become a fully independent nation, which it remains today.

Evidence of Singapore's multicultural, colonial, and wartime past is preserved in historic architecture, monuments, museums, and memorials in and around the city. In downtown Singapore's Colonial District, you can find aromatic spice stores in Little India, calligraphers and fortune tellers in Chinatown, and stores selling fine fabrics and colorful silks in the Arab Quarter.

Singapore enjoys a tropical climate, as it sits just one degree north of the equator; it's hot and humid year-round, with daytime temperatures typically in the upper 80s. Singapore is known as the Garden City, as lush greenery and flowering gardens are woven among modern skyscrapers, shopping malls, restaurants, and hotels. The coasts feature long stretches of sandy beach.

Singapore was once known as the Lion City. Legend tells that a fourteenth-century Sumatran prince who ruled a settlement on the island went hunting one day and spotted a strange creature. His advisors identified it as a lion; the prince named the island Singapura, which means "lion city" in Sanskrit. Today, Singapore's mascot is the "Merlion," a mythical creature with a lion's head and a fish's tail partly inspired by the Sanskrit name. An interesting twist to the story: there are apparently no records of lions native to Singapore. Instead, it might have been a tiger that the prince saw, since tigers were found in the wild in Singapore up to the 1930s.



## Did You Know?

- A grove of eighteen towering “supertrees” lights up the night at Singapore’s 250-acre Gardens by the Bay. The man-made structures are actually vertical gardens that also generate solar power and collect rainwater.
- Singapore’s award-winning Changi Airport features an outdoor nature trail, swimming pool, movie theater, food stalls, children’s play areas, sleep stations, and even a koi pond!
- Singapore’s Night Safari is the world’s first nocturnal zoo, showcasing more than 2,500 animals that are most active under the moonlight. Bring your PJs?

**Learn more at:** National Geographic Kids

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/singapore>



Gardens by the Bay "supertrees" - Soo



Changi Airport - Takemoto



Buddha Tooth Relic Temple





Wheat field - Dobrych



Soviet-era  
Motherland Monument



Kyiv - Anzola

## SPOTLIGHT ON UKRAINE

**CAPITAL:** Kyiv

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** Ukrainian



Nicknamed the Breadbasket of Europe, Ukraine is home to vast, fertile farmland whose wheat and other crops feed many nations beyond its boundaries. Nestled among Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Moldova, and Belarus, Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe, behind only the European portion of Russia, with which it also shares a border. While it may be large in size, Ukraine's total population is less than those of smaller European countries, with most Ukrainians living in cities and towns.

Ukraine has a rich cultural history shaped by its settlement by many different peoples from many areas of the world, including tribes from what is now Iran in the the eighth century BCE and Greek and Roman colonists in the sixth century CE. In the fifth and sixth centuries CE, tribes of people called Slavs also settled there, joined later by Viking invaders called Varangians, creating the powerful kingdom of Kyivan Rus. Mongols invaded in the 1200s, followed by Lithuania taking control in the 1300s. When Poland ruled Ukraine after 1569, many Ukrainians became serfs, or poor farmers working on land they did not own. Some rebellious serfs joined a military force called the Cossacks, which in 1648, with help from Russia, led a fight against Polish rule.

The Cossacks won independence from Poland, but their new state soon became part of the Russian Empire.

Ukrainians tried to keep their culture and traditions, but Russia banned the Ukrainian language. By 1922, Ukraine had become part of the new Soviet Union, or USSR, the largest country ever to exist, made up of many states across Europe and Asia, including what we know today as Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Moldova, along with Russia. The Soviets took over Ukraine's many farms, leading to millions of Ukrainians dying from starvation in the 1930s. Germany invaded Ukraine during World War II, forcing millions of Ukrainians into slave labor and murdering more than half a million Ukrainian Jews.

When the USSR broke up in 1991, Ukraine finally gained its independence. In 2004 many Ukrainians protested the results of a presidential election they thought was unfair. While those protests, known as the Orange Revolution, led to a new election, Ukraine's political problems continued. Then, in March 2014, Russian troops invaded a part of southern Ukraine called Crimea. Russian president Vladimir Putin claimed that the people in Crimea had voted for independence from Ukraine, and he signed a treaty that made Crimea part of Russia.

Many countries and the United Nations condemned Russia's actions, and Ukraine announced that it still considered Crimea part of Ukraine, not Russia. Later in 2014, fighting erupted on Ukraine's eastern border;



Russian-backed rebels there wanted all of Ukraine to belong to Russia.

In 2019 Ukrainians elected Volodymyr Zelensky president, who hoped to unite the country and end the fighting with Russia. On February 24, 2022, however, Russia invaded Ukraine, bombing cities and military targets, forcing millions of Ukrainians to flee their country to escape the attacks. Leaders around the world again condemned Russia's actions, and many imposed sanctions—halting trade with and/or banning travel to and from Russia—as punishment. Russia's attacks have continued, and Ukrainians have been fighting back to regain full control of their independent country. Many nations around the world have been assisting Ukraine with military and humanitarian aid, and have been taking in Ukrainian war refugees until it is safe for them to return to their homeland.

## Did You Know?

- The Arsenalna Metro Station, in the capital city of Kyiv, is one of the deepest underground train stations in the world. It was built beneath the Dnieper River, at a depth of 346 feet—an escalator ride to reach the train platform can take as long as five minutes! Since the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, the station is also used as a bomb shelter.
- Do you like sunflower seeds? Ukraine does! The country is the world's largest producer of sunflower seeds. Sunflowers were introduced in Ukraine in the 1700s; Ukrainians found sunflower seeds great for snacking and for crushing into oil. Today you can find sunflowers blooming in fields and gardens across Ukraine. Can you guess the country's national flower? Yes, the sunflower!
- One of the many folk traditions of Ukraine is the fancy decorated Easter egg, or pysanky. The complex designs and patterns date back thousands of years to early Slavic cultures. There's even a Ukrainian museum devoted to this art form, with more than 10,000 eggs in its collection!

### Learn more at:

National Geographic Kids

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/ukraine>



A mix of traditional Ukrainian, diasporan and original pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs) - Petrusha





Stonehenge - Garethwiscombe



Queen Victoria



Changing of the guard - Bortescristian

**SPOTLIGHT ON**

# UNITED KINGDOM

**CAPITAL:** London

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** English



From Stonehenge to Buckingham Palace, the United Kingdom is known for its rich history and royal heritage. Located off the northwestern coast of Europe, the United Kingdom consists of four parts: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. England, Scotland, and Wales make up an island called Great Britain; Northern Ireland sits at the north of the island of Ireland, to the west of Great Britain. (Though Ireland and Northern Ireland comprise one large island, Ireland is actually its own independent country and Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom.)

It's believed that Stone Age man came to Britain via a land bridge that once joined the island to Europe. When melting ice raised the seas thousands of years ago, Britain became a separate island. Around 2000 BCE one of the UK's most famous landmarks was built: Stonehenge. This stone monument of giant columns and curved crosspieces was constructed even before the wheel had been invented. Scientists are still not sure exactly how and why the mysterious Stonehenge was created.

Around 500 BCE, the Celtic people arrived in Britain from Europe, followed by the Romans in 43 CE. The Romans ruled for nearly four hundred years. They built forts, roads, and bathhouses, the ruins of which can still be seen today all over Britain. They also brought the practice of medicine and law and key ideas about government on which the UK's parliamentary system is based. Many words in the English language come from the Latin language of

the Romans. You may have studied some Latin root words in school.

By 500 BCE, Germanic tribes called the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes invaded Britain. The name "England" comes from the Angles; English people became known as Anglo-Saxons. Viking, Danish, and Norman invaders ruled England from the 900s to the 1400s. In 1485, Henry Tudor from Wales became king, the first of five Tudors to claim the crown. Later, kings and queens came from other families.

During the reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901), Britain became one of the most powerful and wealthy nations in the world, thanks to trade and a growing overseas empire. Most of Britain's colonies gained their independence after the two World Wars, though, as the nation was drained of its might. Many people from the former colonies in the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia migrated to the UK, creating the diverse British population of today.

It was under Queen Victoria's rule that Buckingham Palace in London became the official residence and workplace of the British monarchy. A favorite tourist attraction is the daily guard-changing ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Dressed in traditional red coats and tall, black bearskin hats, a group of soldiers—the Queen's Guard—stationed at the royal residence exchanges duties with a new group.

Many great names in literature came from the United Kingdom, including playwright William Shakespeare, poet



Robert Burns, novelist Charles Dickens, and children's writer Roald Dahl. You may have also heard of British author J. K. Rowling, who wrote a series of books about a boy wizard named Harry Potter!

## Did You Know?

- Do you play soccer? Modern soccer was invented in the United Kingdom, where it's called football. Other popular sports—including rugby (similar to American football), cricket (similar to baseball), modern boxing, and golf—also got their start in the UK.
- The British enjoy their tea, as a nation drinking 165 million cups a day!
- The tune of “The Star Spangled Banner,” the American national anthem, was composed by British organist John Stafford Smith. American lawyer Francis Scott Key set his poem about a battle he witnessed in the War of 1812 to Smith’s melody. In 1931, “The Star Spangled Banner” became the official anthem of the United States by a congressional resolution.



### Learn more at:

National Geographic Kids

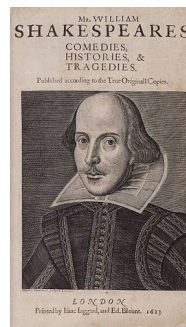
[www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/unit-ed-kingdom](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/unit-ed-kingdom)

BBC Hands on History: Ancient Britain

[www.bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory/ancient-britain.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory/ancient-britain.shtml)



Soccer - Dikeman



Cover of sheet music



## THANK YOU, MILITARY FAMILIES

Do you know a member of a military family? Your classmate, your teacher or coach, the mail carrier or supermarket cashier, your best friend, maybe even you—military family members are people you likely see every day, especially if you live in an area with an Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard base nearby. Anyone whose parent, child, spouse, sibling, or other relative is now serving, or served in the past, in a branch of the military belongs to a military family.

What do you know about being part of a military family? Here are some things to consider:

Military families are pretty much like yours. Think about your family and what makes it special. Military families are no different. They're people who care deeply for each other and those around them. They're probably involved in their community. They surely like to have fun. They just do these things around the schedule and demands of the military member's career.

Deployments can be hard. When a service member is deployed—moved with a military unit from one place to another, typically for six to eighteen months—that person's family must adapt. There's a hole in the family—an empty chair at the kitchen table, a missing cheer from the bleachers, a bedtime story or kiss goodnight that will have to wait. It can be a sad and even scary time. A helping hand, kind word, or listening ear from friends and neighbors can make this tough time a bit easier for military families.

It's not easy being the new kid. Most military families move a lot, usually every two to three years. It's possible for a military child to have changed schools as many as nine times between kindergarten and graduation from high school! While it's exciting to experience new places and meet new people across the country—or even around the world—it can be hard to leave friends behind and make new ones. A warm welcome or kind gesture from new classmates and neighbors is always appreciated.

We often say to military members “Thank you for your service,” meaning we are grateful for the sacrifices they make to protect our nation and ensure our freedom. Military families deserve our thanks as well, for the things they do and the challenges they face so that their service member can complete these important duties.

### **Learn more about military families and how to support them at:**

“5 Things to Know About Military Families,” USO  
<https://www.uso.org/stories/2277-5-things-to-know-about-military-families>

“Easy Ways to Support Our Troops and Their Families Around Memorial Day,” Military.com  
<https://www.military.com/memorial-day/support-troops-and-families.html>



## RESOURCES

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### Virginia Standards of Learning

**Dance:** History: WG.1, 3, 5; WHII.1

**Foreign Language:** 1.NL; 1.NM; 1.NH; 2.NL; 2.NM; 2.NH;  
4.NL; 4.NM; 4.NH; 9.NL; 9.NM; 9.NH; 1.IL; 1.IM; 1.IH; 9.IL;  
9.IM; 9.IH; HL1.1.NM; HL1.1.IM; DL1.2.NL Dance: K.1, 3, 5-6,  
11; 1.3-6, 11; 2.3-6, 18; 3.3-6; 4.3, 6; 5.3-7; 6.3-7, 11; 7.3,  
5-7; 8.3, 6; DI.3-7; DII.3-4, 6; DIII.3-4, 6; DIV.3, 6

**Music:** K.3-7, 9; 1.3-7, 9; 2.3-7, 9; 3.3, 5-7; 4.3-7; 5.3-7;  
EI.3-7, 10-11; 6.3-7, 10-11; 7.3-6, 11; 8.3-6; MIB.3-7, 10-11;  
MII.3-6, 11; MIAD.3-6; MCB.3-7, 11; MCI.3-6, 11; MCAD.3-  
6; HM.3-6, 11; HMT.3-6, 11; HIB.3-6, 11; HII.3-6; HIAD.3-6;  
HIAR.3-6; HCB.3-6, 11; HCI.3-6; HCAD.3-6; HCAR.3-6

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## FEEDBACK FORM

We need your feedback to make our Education Programs even better! Please take a moment to complete this form and either return it to the Virginia Arts Festival office at 440 Bank Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, fax it to (757) 605-3080, or e-mail your answers to [education@vafest.org](mailto:education@vafest.org).

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

How did your students respond to the performance?

How did you prepare your students for this performance? Did you use the Education Guide? If so, how?  
Did students enjoy the materials?

How did this performance contribute to experiential learning in your classroom?

What role do the arts play in your school? In your classroom?

If you could change one thing about this experience, what would it be?

Please include quotes and comments from your students as well!

(Optional)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be part of our database?  Yes  No