

# St George (for April 23<sup>rd</sup> or any day!)

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



St. George is the patron saint of England. His emblem, a red cross on a white background, is the flag of England, and part of the British flag. St George's emblem was adopted by Richard The Lion Heart and brought to England in the 12th century. The king's soldiers wore it on their tunics to avoid confusion in battle. St George is a popular figure, although very little is actually known about him. He is believed to have been born in Cappadocia in what is now Turkey.

George became a soldier in the Roman army, but refused to follow the emperor's orders to renounce his Christian faith. St George was a brave Roman soldier who protested against the Romans' torture of Christians and died for his beliefs. The popularity of St George in England stems from the time of the early Crusades when it is said that the Normans saw him in a vision and were victorious.



One of the best-known stories about Saint George is his fight with a dragon. But it is highly unlikely that he ever fought a dragon, and even more unlikely that he ever actually visited England. Despite this, St George is known throughout the world as the dragon-slaying patron saint of England. In the Middle Ages the dragon was commonly used to represent the devil. The slaying of the dragon by St George was first credited to him in the twelfth century, long after his death. It is therefore likely that the many stories connected with St George's name are fictitious.

He was tortured and executed in Palestine on 23rd April 303. By coincidence, Shakespeare was born on this date in 1564 and died on the same date in 1616.

- St George is associated with chivalry, courage and honour. King Edward III adopted St George as the patron of the Knights of the Garter, a new order of chivalry. The medal, awarded for acts of gallantry in battle, shows George on horseback slaying the dragon.
- As well as England, St George is the patron saint of Moscow, Georgia, Lithuania, Portugal, Germany and Greece among others.
- Lord Baden Powell adopted St George as the patron saint of scouting. For scouts, St George's Day marks the first day of camping.
- In Russia and the Ukraine, the day is celebrated with spring festivals and picnics marking the end of winter.

Adapted from information at  
[www.enjoyengland.com/attractions/events/calendar/april/st-george.aspx](http://www.enjoyengland.com/attractions/events/calendar/april/st-george.aspx)  
[www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/stgeorge.html](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/stgeorge.html)

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## Task 1

1. Where was St. George from?
2. Apart from England, name three countries where he is patron saint.
3. What did the dragon represent in the Middle Ages?
4. Did St. George ever visit England?
5. When did he die?
6. What 3 qualities is he associated with?
7. What does St. George's day mark for Scouts?
8. Which countries have picnics to mark the end of winter on 23<sup>rd</sup> April?
9. Who adopted St. George's emblem?
10. Why did the soldiers wear his emblem in battle?

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## Task 2

St. George's Day is also celebrated in these countries:

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Portugal

Cyprus

Georgia

Serbia

Bulgaria

Greece

Romania


Put them in alphabetical order in the grid.

Look up the word *emblem* in a dictionary.  
Write down its meaning here:

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## Task 3

Your neighbours have decided to have a street party to celebrate St. George's day and they want you to come. Fill in the form below in BLOCK CAPITALS.

# St. George's Day Party

We are having a street party and we want you to come!

It's on 23<sup>rd</sup> April from 7.30pm

Please fill in your details:

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How many people will be coming to the party?

What type of food will you bring? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a special diet? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Task 4

Some politicians have called for St. George's Day to be a national holiday. This would mean an extra bank holiday and celebrations. What do you think?

Write a letter to your local MP saying what you think.

You need to write:

- Whether you think it is a good idea or a bad idea
- Why you think this
- What people could do on this day

You should write at least 3 paragraphs.

Use a dictionary to help you with spellings.

Make a plan first.

Then do a rough draft before checking your work and doing a neat copy.

**Plan:**

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**Rough Draft:**

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**Neat Copy:**