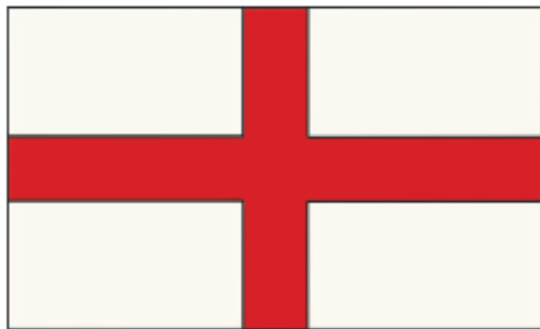


St George's Day

What Are Patron Saints?

- Patron saints are chosen to be special protectors for different areas of life. England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales each have their own patron saint. Each patron saint has their own day named after them.
- The patron saint of England is Saint George and St George's Day is celebrated



on 23rd April every year. The symbol of Saint George is a red cross on a white background. This is also the flag of England and a part of the flag of Great Britain.

What Is the Legend of Saint George?

- There is a famous legend about Saint George slaying a dragon to rescue a princess. This is probably the most famous story about him.
- Saint George arrived in a country called Libya and heard about a dragon that was terrorising the people. The dragon was killing young girls and the king was worried because his daughter was next. Saint George wanted to save the princess and fought the dragon, killing it and ending the danger.

Who Was the Real Saint George?

- The real Saint George was actually a soldier. It is thought he was born in the year AD 270 in Cappadocia, which is now Eastern Turkey. He and his family were Christian and lived their lives following Christian values. When he was 17, he joined the Roman army. He was thought to be a very brave soldier.
- At that time, the emperor began to persecute Christian people and Saint George pleaded with the emperor to stop. People thought that Saint George was extremely brave because even though he was tortured, he refused to deny his faith.



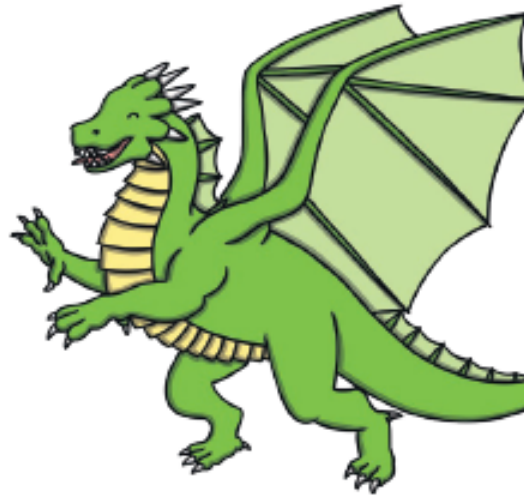
St George's Day

• Sadly, he was beheaded near Lydda in Palestine on 23rd April in AD303. The 23rd April was named St George's Day and became a national feast day in 1415.

Interesting Facts

Saint Edmund the Martyr was the original patron saint of England. He was replaced by Saint George in the 14th century.

Saint George is also the patron saint of scouts, soldiers, archers and farmers. George.



Celebrating St George's Day

Many people wear a red rose to recognise St George's Day. The red rose is the national flower of England.

In some parts of the country, there are festivals, where people dress up and stage 'dragon-slaying' events!

Many people do not celebrate St George's Day. There are a lot of people in England trying to get the day recognised as a national holiday.

Questions

1. When is St George's Day celebrated in England?

2. What is a patron saint?

3. Who was the original patron saint of England?

4. Why is 23rd April named as St George's Day?

5. What do you think the word 'persecute' means?

6. Name two other patron saints' days that are celebrated as a national holidays in other countries

7. Why do people think that Saint George was a brave man?

8. Have you ever celebrated St George's Day? If so, what did you do?

Answers

1. When is St George's Day celebrated in England?

St George's Day is celebrated on the 23rd April.

2. What is a patron saint?

A patron saint is chosen to represent and protect a variety of different things

3. Who was the original patron saint of England?

Edmund the Martyr was originally the patron saint of England.

4. Why is 23rd April named as St George's Day?

23rd April was named as St George's Day because this was the day on which Saint George was beheaded.

5. What do you think the word 'persecute' means?

The word persecute means to treat someone badly because of their beliefs.

6. Name two other patron saints' days that are celebrated as a national holidays in other countries

Saint Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and they are both national holidays in their countries.

7. Why do people think that Saint George was a brave man?

Various possible answers, which may include that legend said he slayed a dragon, he fought for the Roman army, he wouldn't turn his back on his beliefs even though he was tortured.

8. Have you ever celebrated St George's Day? If so, what did you do?

Pupil's own answers.