VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO
Wednesday—Friday, April 24-26, 2019
10:30 AM—12:30 PM
Scope Arena, Norfolk

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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 playing drums, fifes, bagpipes, and other instruments marched in impressive formations. 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 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.
Every year the Virginia International Tattoo brings together a cast of a thousand performers from around the world in a spectacular exhibition of music, marching, and much more. Massed pipes and drums, drill teams, marching bands, dancers, and choirs perform together, creating the largest show of its kind in the United States. Renowned as the most patriotic of the world’s great tattoos, the Virginia International Tattoo this year recognizes the courage, commitment, bravery, and valor of women in the armed forces. The tattoo’s participants will honor active duty service members, veterans, and their families with an astounding display of patriotism, international cooperation, and inspirational music.

2019 VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO CAST

AUSTRALIA
OzScot Australia Highland Dancers

CANADA
Canadian Forces Base Trenton 8 Wing Pipes and Drums

FRANCE
French Army Signals Band
XV du Pacifique Rugby Team

JORDAN
Jordanian Armed Forces Combined Pipe Band

ROMANIA
30th Guard Brigade Drill Team

SWITZERLAND
Swiss Army Central Band

UNITED KINGDOM
Pipes and Drums of the Highlanders, 4th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums
Granby High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps
Hampton Roads Police Color Guards
Norfolk Public Schools All-City High School Chorus
Tidewater Pipes and Drums
U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band
U.S. Army Drill Team
U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Herald Trumpets
U.S. Marine Corps Band, Quantico
U.S. Marine Corps FAST Company
U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Band
Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus

MULTI-NATIONAL
Headquarters Supreme Allied Command Transformation
Multi-National Ceremonial Detail, NATO
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 UNIFORM**
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 Highlands region of 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.
From the Revolutionary War to current conflicts around the world, women have been a vital but often underappreciated part of United States military history. In their early support roles as cooks and nurses to the combat positions they fill today, women have served with bravery, dedication, and distinction, defying stereotypes while capably performing their military duties.

**AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

During the Revolutionary War, many women followed their husbands to battle, serving in military camps as laundresses, cooks, and nurses, but only with permission from the commanding officers. These support roles helped combat soldiers stay healthy on the front lines. One woman, Deborah Sampson, wanted to do more, so she disguised herself as a man and served for over a year in General George Washington’s army. Her gender was discovered when she was wounded in combat, but her commanding officer honorably discharged her and thanked her for her service, and she later received a military pension from the Continental Congress.

**CIVIL WAR**

The American Civil War moved women closer to the front lines with the emergence of Union and Confederate battlefield hospitals. Women helped run these facilities as administrators, nurses, and cooks.

During the conflict, Dr. Mary Walker became the first female surgeon in the U.S. Army when she volunteered to serve the Union forces. She worked courageously, even crossing enemy lines and helping civilians injured during battle. Captured by the Confederacy in 1864, she was a prisoner of war for several months. Walker is most famous for becoming the first (and thus far only) woman to win the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military award. Women also served as spies (including former slave and Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman), and some, disguised as men, served as soldiers.

**WORLD WAR I**

The importance of women in support positions in earlier wars convinced the army to officially open the military to women. Between 1917 and 1918, 33,000 women joined, and several hundred of them died while serving. After the conflict, women returned to their non-military lives. But because of women’s important contributions during World War I, military leaders began to debate whether women should be permitted a career path in the branches of service instead of only being allowed to serve in times of national crisis.

**WORLD WAR II**

During World War II, women were pressed into greater service, with more than 400,000 women at home and abroad volunteering to become mechanics, ambulance drivers, pilots, administrators, and nurses, and filling other non-combat positions. More than 60 women were captured and held as prisoners of war. Major Charity Adams commanded the first African American women’s unit on a tour of duty overseas, ending the war as a lieutenant colonel and the highest-ranking black woman in the Army; at that time, the armed forces were segregated.

The vital role women played in World War II, plus President Harry Truman’s drive for change in the military, led to the passage of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act in 1948. For the first time, women were recognized as full members of the American armed forces—during peacetime as well as war—and entitled to

*Photos L-R: Deborah Sampson, Dr. Mary Walker, Harriet Tubman, WWII military women posters.*
the same veterans' benefits as military men. Women who chose to serve could pursue a career in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or newly formed Air Force. That same year, Truman issued an executive order abolishing segregation in the military as well.

KOREAN AND VIETNAM WARS
During the Korean War, over 50,000 women served at home and abroad—500 Army nurses served in combat zones and many Navy nurses served on hospital ships. In the Vietnam conflict, over 7,000 women served, mostly as nurses in all five divisions of the military. During the Vietnam War, Commander Elizabeth Barrett became the first woman to hold an operational command in a combat zone.

POST-VIETNAM WAR
The late 1960s and 1970s saw dramatic social changes in the United States, many of them led by women. The women's rights movement sought equal rights and opportunities and greater personal freedom for women; women fought for equality in the workplace, carved out a place in politics, and unlocked further opportunities in higher education. The military also made changes in its treatment of women, specifically by allowing them to serve on non-combat ships and admitting them into the service academies for training as officers in leadership positions.

THE 1990S
During the Persian Gulf War, more than 41,000 women were deployed to the combat zone. Women served in new roles, with female pilots finally authorized to fly combat missions. By the end of the decade, women served on combat ships and flew warplanes from aircraft carriers as well, though in 1994 the Department of Defense ruled women could not engage in direct combat on the ground.

THE 2000S–THE PRESENT
Woman have continued to excel in the military in the twenty-first century. In 2000, Captain Kathleen McGrath became the first woman to command a U.S. Navy warship, in 2004 Colonel Linda McTague became the first woman to command a U.S. Air Force fighter squadron, and in 2008 General Ann Dunwoody became the first woman to achieve four-star officer rank. As women edged ever closer to full combat duty, in 2013 the ban on women in combat roles was lifted. Two women completed the rigorous Army Ranger School in 2015, leading to a Pentagon decree that all combat jobs must be open to women. This groundbreaking decision expanded roles for women in the military and opened opportunities for women to advance into the highest ranks.

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. It is the world’s smallest continent and largest island, 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 four hundred 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. Later immigrants called these nomadic hunters and gatherers “aborigines.” Descendants of these early people still live in Australia; some aborigines reside in modern cities and towns, 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. 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 nearly 22 million people call Australia home and 6 million 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 hatches from eggs.


Photos: Platypus, outback, koala bear.
Half of Canada is covered with forests. Forest wildlife includes bears, deer, wolves, moose, and beaver – the country’s official animal. Arctic creatures such as caribou, polar bears, and seals live in the frozen north. There are thousands of lakes in Canada, which, along with the country’s rivers, contain almost 20 percent of all fresh water on the planet. Niagara Falls, the most powerful waterfall in North America and a popular tourist attraction, is shared by both Canada and the United States.

The first non-native to reach Canada was Viking explorer Leif Eriksson around 1000 CE. British and French settlers arrived in the 1500s, but disagreements between fur traders and farmers resulted in a series of wars between 1689 and 1763. The British kept control of Canada after the last of these conflicts, the French and Indian War, but the French influence remains. Canada became an independent nation in 1931, though it still recognizes the Queen of Great Britain as its head of state.

Canada is made up of ten provinces and three territories. Canada’s population is diverse, including First Nations peoples and descendants of the British and French settlers, plus other European, African, and Asian immigrants. Though Canada is slightly larger than the United States, it has only 11 percent as many people. It is one of the least densely populated in the world.

The distinctive maple leaf on the Canadian flag is a time-honored symbol of the country’s heritage. Long before the first European settlers arrived, Canada’s native peoples discovered that maple sap, which they gathered every spring, could be used as food. The maple leaf became a Canadian symbol as early as 1700, appearing in military and government settings, on currency, even in song. The red maple leaf design became the official flag of Canada in 1965.

With a third of its land located within the Arctic Circle, it’s no wonder Canada’s often referred to as the Great White North! Those arctic regions stay frozen for up to nine months a year, so most Canadians live near the country’s border with the United States, where the climate is milder. And that border? At 5,525 miles, it’s the longest international boundary in the world.

Canada is a vast country—the second largest on the globe—with areas of rugged mountains, forested valleys, and rolling plains. Many native Canadians, also called First Nations people, live in the icy north. They hunt and fish amid the glaciers, just as their ancestors did when they arrived in North America from Asia thousands of years ago.
Another well-known symbol of Canadian culture is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Mounties are Canada's national police force. Established in 1873 to keep law and order in the country's untamed northwest, the Mounties rode horseback in their bright red dress uniforms. Today, the Mounties patrol in vehicles, showing off their horse riding skills only in public exhibitions.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- A body of water in the Canadian province of Manitoba is called Pekwachnamaykoskwaskwaypinwanik Lake. What a mouthful! The name is Cree for “where the wild trout are caught by fishing with hooks.”

- Drumheller Valley in the province of Alberta is home to many dinosaur fossils, earning its nickname the Dinosaur Capital of the World.

- The province of Quebec produces most of the world’s maple syrup. Pancakes, anyone?

**LEARN MORE AT:** National Geographic Kids, [www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/canada](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/canada)
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, the 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.


Photos: Quiche, city of Nice along the French Riviera, crosses at the American Cemetery in Normandy.
Since the dawn of civilization, Jordan’s central Middle Eastern location has served as a crossroads connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe. A well-traveled bridge between east and west, Jordan is a land of great beauty and stunning contrasts. From shifting desert sands to the shimmering waters of the Red Sea, from ancient wonders like the sandstone city of Petra to the vibrant capital of Amman, multifaceted Jordan offers visitors plenty to do and see. Despite the turmoil in other parts of the Middle East, Jordan is considered one of the safest countries in the region.

Archaeologists have found evidence of people living in what is modern-day Jordan as far back as 7250 BCE. Many ancient kingdoms would settle or conquer the land over the centuries, including the Hittites, Egyptians, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans.

One of the most notable Jordanian civilizations was the Nabataean Kingdom, which ruled between 400 BCE and 106 CE. The Nabataeans carved their capital city from the rose-colored rock at Petra, which became a major trade center for the region. In 2007, the “Rose City” of Petra was named one of the new Seven Wonders of the World, and many thousands of tourists flock to it every year.

The city of Jerash is one of the largest and best-preserved sites of Roman architecture in the world outside of Italy. The Roman streets, theaters, plazas, and arches have been remarkably preserved; they were buried under sand for centuries after an earthquake and wars devastated the city. The ruins were discovered in 1806; excavation began in 1925 and continues to this day.

Jordan was part of the Ottoman Empire from 1516 until the end of World War I, when it was awarded to the United Kingdom during post-war negotiations. The British created the Emirate of Transjordan, ruled by Prince Abdullah but under British rule. In 1946, Jordan was granted full independence from Britain and Abdullah became king.

After the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, Jordan joined its Arab neighbors to fight the new country. Jordan took over the West Bank and East Jerusalem. King Abdullah was assassinated in 1951; later his grandson, the late King Hussein, would rule until his death in 1999. After Israel won the Six Day Arab-Israeli War in 1961, it regained control of Jerusalem and the West Bank and Palestinian refugees fled into Jordan. In 1994 Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty, and in 1999 King Abdullah II assumed the throne. Jordan has since enjoyed relative peace, stability, and economic growth.

Jordan is a land of great natural beauty. Wadi Rum, also known as the Valley of the Moon, is a stark, scenic valley cut into the sandstone and granite of southern Jordan, east of the Red Sea. The native Bedouin people here have developed eco-adventure tourism into a profitable industry, welcoming rock climbers and hikers and offering Bedouin-tent camping as well as camel, horse, and jeep safaris through the red desert wilderness.

The Jordan River, better known as the River Jordan from which the country takes its name, runs along Jordan’s western border. The river is important in both Judaism and Christianity as the place where the Israelites crossed into the Promised Land and where Jesus was baptized.

The River Jordan feeds the Dead Sea, a large body of water that, as the name suggests, does not support any plant or animal life. This is because of an extremely high salt and mineral content—almost nine times the saltiness of the world’s oceans—caused by rapid evaporation. The salts and minerals are used in agriculture and industry, as well as in medical and therapeutic treatments. Swimming in the Dead Sea is nearly impossible, though, and sinking too. The water’s high density keeps the body afloat on the surface!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Hollywood loves Jordan. Several scenes from the blockbuster movie *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* were filmed in the rock-cut city of Petra. Most of *Lawrence of Arabia* was shot in Wadi Rum, as were the “Mars” scenes in *The Martian*.

- The Western numerical system was originally derived from Arabic numbers. Unlike Arabic words, though, which are read from right to left, Arabic numerals are read from left to right, the same as Western numerals.

- Jordan is a primarily Muslim country, although the freedom of all religions is protected. Muslim women’s clothing often covers their arms, legs, and hair. Western women are not subject to these customs, but conservative dress is smiled upon for both men and women who visit the older parts of the country. Shorts are rarely worn by either sex, even though temperatures can rise to over 100 degrees in the summer.

LEARN MORE AT: Jordan Tourism Board, www.visitjordan.com
A land of medieval castles, thick forests, and snow-crested mountains, but also of bustling city centers and ever-improving infrastructure, Romania is both rich in history and welcoming of the modern age.

Located on the western edge of the Black Sea, Romania is the largest country on eastern Europe’s Balkan Peninsula. To the north, the deeply wooded Carpathian Mountains rise above the central Transylvania region, while grassy plains make up much of southern Romania, where the Danube River flows (1,800 miles from its start in Germany’s Black Forest) at the southern border. Romania has many neighbors—it rubs shoulders with the countries of Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Ukraine, and Moldova.

If you guessed that Romania’s name might have something to do with those ancient conquerors the Romans, then you’re right—the Roman Empire once ruled the region, and the Romanian language is rooted in Latin, the language of the Romans. After the Romans, other peoples—Goths, Huns, Slavs—invaded, and in the eleventh century the Hungarians seized what is now Transylvania. In the 1400s, the people south of the Carpathian Mountains formed a state called Wallachia; those east of the Carpathians formed the state of Moldavia. Wallachia and Moldavia soon fell to the Ottoman Empire, then joined together in 1859 to create modern Romania, which declared its independence in 1877. Whew, no wonder there are so many castles and fortresses throughout Romania—to defend against invaders!

After World War I, in which Romania joined the Allied Powers, the country acquired new territories, including Transylvania. During World War II, the Soviet Union took control of Romania and set up a Communist regime there, in which the government, not individuals, owned the land, factories, and machinery. Communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu ruled harshly and cruelly during the 1970s and ‘80s, but was ultimately overthrown and executed in 1989. In 1991, Romanians voted for a new Constitution that reestablished the country as a republic with a multiparty political system, market economy, and individual rights of free speech, religion, and private ownership. Romania joined NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) in 2004 and became a member of the EU (European Union) in 2007.

Romania’s plentiful natural resources have helped the country rebound from its challenging past. The plains’ rich soil is perfect for farming—Romania was once known as “the bread basket of Europe”—and agriculture continues to be important, with corn, wheat, vegetable oil seeds, vegetables, apples, and wine grapes the main...
crops. Forestry and fisheries are also being developed, and the oil industry; iron, gold, and salt mining; banking; communications; and manufacturing contribute to the economy too.

Visitors to Romania will find much to see and do. In the mountains, outdoor activities like climbing, hiking, river rafting, and skiing are popular. Nature lovers enjoy the Danube Delta, where the river flows into the Black Sea, creating 2,200 square miles of protected wetlands that are home to nearly 3,500 animal species, including birds, wildcats, foxes, wolves, boar, and deer. The wide, sandy Black Sea beaches are a favorite in the summer months, as are the many small glacial lakes and caves of the Carpathian Mountains.

While about half of the Romanian population lives in its cities and towns, the rest reside in the countryside, many in traditional villages near historic castles, old fortresses, and quiet monasteries. Here, they tend their livestock and vegetable gardens just as their ancestors did for centuries before them, travel by horse-drawn wagon, and live in quaint homes painted in peaceful pastel colors.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- In 1976, when Romanian Nadia Comaneci was just fourteen years old, she became the first woman ever to receive a perfect score of 10 in an Olympic gymnastics event—amazing! Other notable Romanians include writer Elie Weisel, sculptor Constantin Brancusi, opera singer Angela Gheorghiu, composer George Enescu, and actor Sebastian Stan, who played Bucky Barnes/Winter Soldier in the Captain America and Avengers movies.

- Count Dracula, the famous vampire of Irish author Bram Stoker’s 1897 horror novel *Dracula*, was likely based on Vlad III Dracula, a prince from the Romanian state of Wallachia who’s often depicted as cruel and ruthless. Stoker’s vampire character lives in a castle in the Carpathian Mountains; it’s believed that Stoker based his fictional building on the very real Bran Castle, built in 1377 as a fortress at the eastern edge of Transylvania. More than six hundred years later, you can still visit the castle today!

- One of the most intriguing treasures of Romania are the painted monasteries of the country’s northeastern region. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the exterior walls of these churches were painted with elaborate murals of saints and prophets, angels and demons, and biblical scenes. These masterpieces weren’t mere works of art; they were a way to teach Romanian villagers the stories of the Bible. Today, fans of history, art, and architecture visit these uniquely painted structures.

**LEARN MORE AT:** Romania Tourism, www.romaniaturism.com
With towering mountain peaks, dense woodlands, and sparkling lakes, Switzerland’s landscapes are postcard-perfect. This small, mountainous European country is sandwiched between France and Italy, and also shares borders with Austria, Germany, and Liechtenstein.

The Swiss Alps, which make up over half of Switzerland, are soaring, snow-covered mountains. The 14,692-foot Matterhorn is the most famous peak, and one of the country’s tallest, at the border of Switzerland and Italy. It’s a nearly symmetrical pyramid shape with four sides, each facing a different compass point. Skiing and other winter sports bring thousands of tourists to the Swiss Alps every year.

Glaciers in the Swiss Alps have shrunk in the past few decades, scientists have observed, possibly due to global climate change. Rapid melting of the glaciers may cause flooding and rockslides, which could damage the many villages below. Glacial melt may also affect the alpine wildlife, which include once-endangered mountain goats called ibex, another goat-like animal known as the chamois, red deer, and the marmot, a burrowing relative of the squirrel.

Much of Switzerland’s cultural heritage is connected to the Alps in some way. Yodeling is a form of singing that suddenly changes in pitch. In the Swiss Alps, it developed as communication between people from peak to peak or to summon grazing cows. Similarly, the alphorn, a distinctive long wind instrument, was used by alpine shepherds to call cows into the barn for milking and to communicate with herdsmen on neighboring Alps and with people in the valley below. In the 1800s, the alphorn became popular for making music.

Alpine dairy farming has a long history. It’s believed that the pastures above the mountains’ tree line were farmed as far back as 4000 BCE. Cheese-making in the summer allowed people to preserve cows’ and goats’ milk and stockpile it for the long winter months. You may know a story of a girl who goes to live with her grandfather near an alpine farming village and makes friends with a young goatherd—the classic Heidi, by Swiss author Johanna Spyri, is among the best-known works of Swiss literature.

Between the Alps in the south and the Jura Mountains to the north is the plateau where most Swiss people live. Bern, Switzerland’s capital built around a crook of the Aare River, was founded in 1191 as a strategic military post, and the city has preserved much of its medieval heritage. Zurich is the country’s largest city, located on Lake Zurich, and is Switzerland’s financial, industrial, and cultural center. Banking is one of the country’s most important industries.

For centuries the area now known as Switzerland was occupied by Celtic tribes, the Romans, and Germanic groups. In 1291 three of the region’s cantons, or states, united to form Switzerland, which became an independent country in 1815. Today Switzerland is made up of twenty-six cantons and is led by an elected president.

Switzerland is a neutral country, which means that it doesn’t take part in armed conflict. The country has remained neutral in conflicts around the world, including both World Wars.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The giant dog breed called the Saint Bernard originally came from the Swiss Alps. These working dogs were used in search-and-rescue operations during avalanches and snowstorms. When a dog found a lost traveler, it would keep them warm until help arrived.

- Chocolate and cheese made in Switzerland are some of the world’s best. Great Swiss chocolate makers include Nestlé, Lindt, and Tobler. The country’s Emmental region is famous for its namesake, a yellow, mellow cheese riddled with holes. The holes are created by carbon dioxide bubbles released in the aging process. We know this deliciously holey stuff by another name: Swiss cheese!

- Switzerland is also known for its fine watchmakers; Swiss watch brands include the luxury Rolex, trendsetting Movado, and whimsical Swatch.

**LEARN MORE AT:** National Geographic Kids, [https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/switzerland/#switzerland-alphorns.jpg](https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/switzerland/#switzerland-alphorns.jpg)
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 of the greatest 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/united-kingdom](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/united-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)

*Photos: Changing of the guard - Bortescristian, Soccer - Rick Dikeman*
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Dance: DM.14, 15, 16; DI.12, 13, 18; DII.18

Music: K.9, 11; 1.10, 12; 2.7–9; 3.9, 10; 4.7–9; 5.8–10; EI.18; 6.7; 7.7; 8.7; MIB.19; MIL.18; MIAD.18; MG.17; MCB.7; MCI.7; MCAD.7; HG.8; HIB.19; HII.18; HIAD.20; HIAR.20; HGI.17; HGII.17; HCB.7; HCl.7; HCAD.7; HCAR.7

English: K.9, 1.10, 2.8, 3.6, 4.6, 5.6, 6.6, 7.6, 8.6, 9.5, 10.5, 11.5, 12.5

History and Social Science: 3.1, 6; USI.1, 6, 9; USII.1, 7, 8; WHI.1, 6; WHII.1, 10, 14; WG.1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 13

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