# Virginia International Tattoo

Wednesday-Friday, April 29-May 1, 2020
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Scope Arena, Norfolk

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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 too” message to the innkeepers to turn off the ale taps, or stop serving ale.

This signal was eventually trimmed to “tap too” 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 hundreds of 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 will commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of World War II. The tattoo's participants will honor veterans and their families with an astounding display of patriotism, international cooperation, and inspirational music.

2020 Virginia International Tattoo Cast

**AUSTRALIA**
Queensland Police Pipes and Drums

**CANADA**
2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Pipes & Drums
Royal Canadian Air Force Pipes and Drums

**LATVIA**
Central Military Band of the Latvian National Armed Forces

**SWITZERLAND**
Top Secret Drum Corps

**UNITED KINGDOM**
The Band of Her Majesty’s Royal Marines, Commando Training Centre

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
Granby High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps
Old Dominion University Concert Choir
Spirit of ’76 Pipe Band
Tidewater Pipes and Drums
U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team
U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps
U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Band
U.S. Marine Corps FAST Company
U.S. Fleet Forces Band
U.S. Marine Corps Band Quantico
Virginia Beach Public Schools Tattoo Festival Choir
Virginia Children’s Chorus
Virginia International Tattoo Highland Dance Team
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.
This year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of World War II. The Virginia International Tattoo and its participants honor the sacrifice and valor of those who fought in and labored to win the Second World War. These men and women who contributed to the war effort, often called the “Greatest Generation,” changed the course of history not only for the United States but for the world.

What do you know about this important conflict?

**WHAT WAS WORLD WAR II?**
World War II was a global conflict involving many of the world’s nations. It began in 1939 and pitted two sides against each other: the Allies versus the Axis. The major Allied Powers were Britain, France, the USSR, China, and the United States. The major Axis Powers were Germany, Italy, and Japan. The war was fought on several continents and ended in 1945. World War II was the deadliest conflict in human history, killing an estimated 70 to 85 million people (compared to World War I’s approximately 17 million), most of whom were civilians in the USSR and China. Millions more were injured or lost their homes or property. Beyond traditional military combat, World War II included the Holocaust genocide, premeditated death from starvation and disease, and the only use of nuclear weapons in war. Many nations were neutral, or did not officially choose a side, during World War II, like Switzerland and, in the earliest days of the war, Latvia.

**WHERE WAS IT FOUGHT?**
Though World War II started in Europe, it spread throughout the world. Most of the fighting happened in Europe, Southeast Asia, and on islands in the Pacific Ocean.

**HOW DID THE WAR START?**
Before World War II began, Germany was ruled by Adolf Hitler. Together with the Nazi Party, Hitler wanted Germany to control Europe. To gain more land and power, on September 1, 1939, German troops invaded Poland. When Hitler refused to halt the invasion, Britain and France declared war on Germany, launching World War II. During the course of the war, German forces advanced through Europe. By the summer of 1941, they had invaded France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Greece, Yugoslavia (modern-day Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina), and the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or the Soviet Union, which included modern-day Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, and other socialist states).

**WHY DID THE U.S. GET INVOLVED IN WORLD WAR II?**
The United States didn’t join the war until 1941, when Japan attacked the naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, which was an American territory and important military outpost at the time. While Germany was fighting for power in Europe, Japan also had ambitions for power, aiming for control of Southeast Asia and islands in the Pacific.
Prior to World War II, under Emperor Hirohito, Japan had attacked China, bringing the two nations into years of conflict. Reacting to the United States’ demand for Japan to leave China and the Pacific islands, as well as to harsh U.S. economic sanctions, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The surprise bombing on December 7 was famously described by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as “a date which will live in infamy.” On December 8, 1941, the U.S. declared war on Japan. On December 11, Nazi Germany, Japan’s Axis ally, declared war on the United States, forcing the U.S. to enter a two-front war—in Europe and in the Pacific.

HOW WAS THE WAR FOUGHT?
During World War II, Germany quickly conquered much of Europe using a new battleground tactic called the “Blitzkreig,” or “lightning war.” Blitzkreig meant massing planes, tanks, and artillery to break through enemy defenses along a narrow front, then using air power to keep the enemy from closing the breach. Encircled by German troops, the enemy was forced to surrender. Germany was unable to take Britain, however, because the English Channel protected Britain from ground attack.

In June 1941, Germany invaded the Soviet Union, following with a second offensive in 1942. Joining with Britain and the United States, which had entered the war in December 1941, the USSR was ultimately able to turn the tide of battle against Germany. By April 1945, Soviet forces invaded Berlin, Germany, which followed the pivotal 1944 Allied operation known as D-Day.

WHAT WAS D-DAY?
On June 6, 1944, approximately 156,000 Allied soldiers—largely American, British, and Canadian—invaded German-occupied France at Normandy by air and by sea. The troops landed under heavy artillery fire, and the shore was loaded with landmines, barbed wire, stakes, and other obstacles. The largest seaborne invasion in history—using 7,000 vessels supported by 12,000 aircraft—Operation Overlord, also known as D-Day, initiated the eventual liberation of France and laid the groundwork for the Allied victory in Europe.

HOW DID THE WAR AFFECT PEOPLE IN EUROPE AND THE USSR?
Millions of Germans were imprisoned and/or killed because they weren’t considered a “perfect” German. Hitler wanted to create what he thought was a superior race of perfect people, and for the Nazi Party, this meant that certain groups—such as Jews and those with physical and mental disabilities—had to be eliminated. To get rid of a perceived “racial enemy” outside of Germany, these groups were also persecuted in those countries the German forces had invaded.

The group most heavily targeted by the Nazis were the Jews. Racist in his beliefs, Hitler blamed Jewish people for Germany’s losing World War I and claimed they were dangerous to German society. Around six million Jewish
people were killed during World War II in one of history’s most horrific events—the genocide (an extermination of an entire racial, political, or cultural group) known as the Holocaust.

HOW DID THE WAR AFFECT PEOPLE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC?
In the first months after Pearl Harbor, Japan had great military success. But in June 1942, the Battle of Midway proved to be a turning point when Allied forces were able to make headway in the Pacific for the first time. From 1942 through 1944, Australian forces made up a significant portion of Allied strength in the Pacific. After Germany surrendered in May 1945 but Japan refused to do so, the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Approximately 120,000 Japanese civilians perished as a result. Japan formally surrendered in September 1945.

HOW MANY AMERICANS SERVED IN WORLD WAR II?
Between the years 1939 and 1945, more than 12 million Americans served in the military. Roughly 38 percent of U.S. servicemen and 100 percent of U.S. servicewomen were volunteers; 62 percent of U.S. servicemen were draftees.

WHAT IS THE LEGACY OF WORLD WAR II?
Even after the fighting was finished, the war had lasting consequences. Communism would spread from the Soviet Union into Eastern Europe and eventually China. And global might would shift from Europe to two superpowers: the United States and the USSR. The rivalry between the two giants ushered in the Cold War, a decades-long struggle as each sought to keep the other from gaining too much power in the world.

WHAT IS THE GREATEST GENERATION?
Also known as the World War II generation, the group of people called the Greatest Generation are those who fought in the Second World War, or who contributed to the war effort at home by working at munitions factories, shipyards, or in other war-related fields. The term comes from the title of a 1998 book by journalist Tom Brokaw, who profiled Americans of this generation. He wrote that these men and women bravely and selflessly fulfilled their wartime duty, then returned home to reshape the war-shattered world as “they stayed true to their values of personal responsibility, duty, honor, and faith.”

LEARN MORE AT:
National WWII Museum and Memorial www.nationalww2museum.org
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum www.ushmm.org
Virginia WWI and WWII Commemoration Commission https://www.virginiawwiandwwii.org
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.

Photos: Captian James Cook, Coral Reef - Toby Hudson, Kangaroo - Fir0002/Flagstaffotos.
SPOTLIGHT ON AUSTRALIA

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.

LEARN MORE AT:

Photos: Platypus, outback, koala bear.
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.

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.
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:**

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—an action never recognized by the United States and other countries.

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 two 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/early 1990s is known as the Singing Revolution, because of the Baltic countries’ defiant singing of their own folk songs—heretofore restricted by the ruling USSR—to protest Soviet rule. 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, folk craftspersons, and amateur theater 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 percent 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 jeans.

• Latvians are fungi fanatics! Latvians hand-harvest mountains of mushrooms—more than 60,000 tons a year of the 300 species of edible fungi found in the country’s forests.

LEARN MORE AT:
Latvian Institute www.latvia.eu
Latvia Travel www.latvia.travel

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 Emmenthal 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
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
VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

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; MII.18; MIAD.18; MG.17; MCB.7; MCI.7; MCAD.7; HG.8; HIB.19; HII.18; HIAD.20; HIAR.20; HGI.17; HGI.17; HCB.7; HCI.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; USII.7; WHI.1, 6; WHII.1; 11; WG.1, 2, 5, 7, 13

Science: 1.5, 7; 2.5, 7; 3.6, 8; 4.4; 5.7; 6.5, ES.11
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.

WorldClass® 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
Virginia Arts Festival
440 Bank Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

A Midsummer Night's Dream
November 2019

Charlotte Blake Alston
February 2020

ALICE (in wonderland)
April 2020

Collage Dance Collective
April 2020

Virginia International Tattoo
April 2020

The Kingdom Choir
May 2020