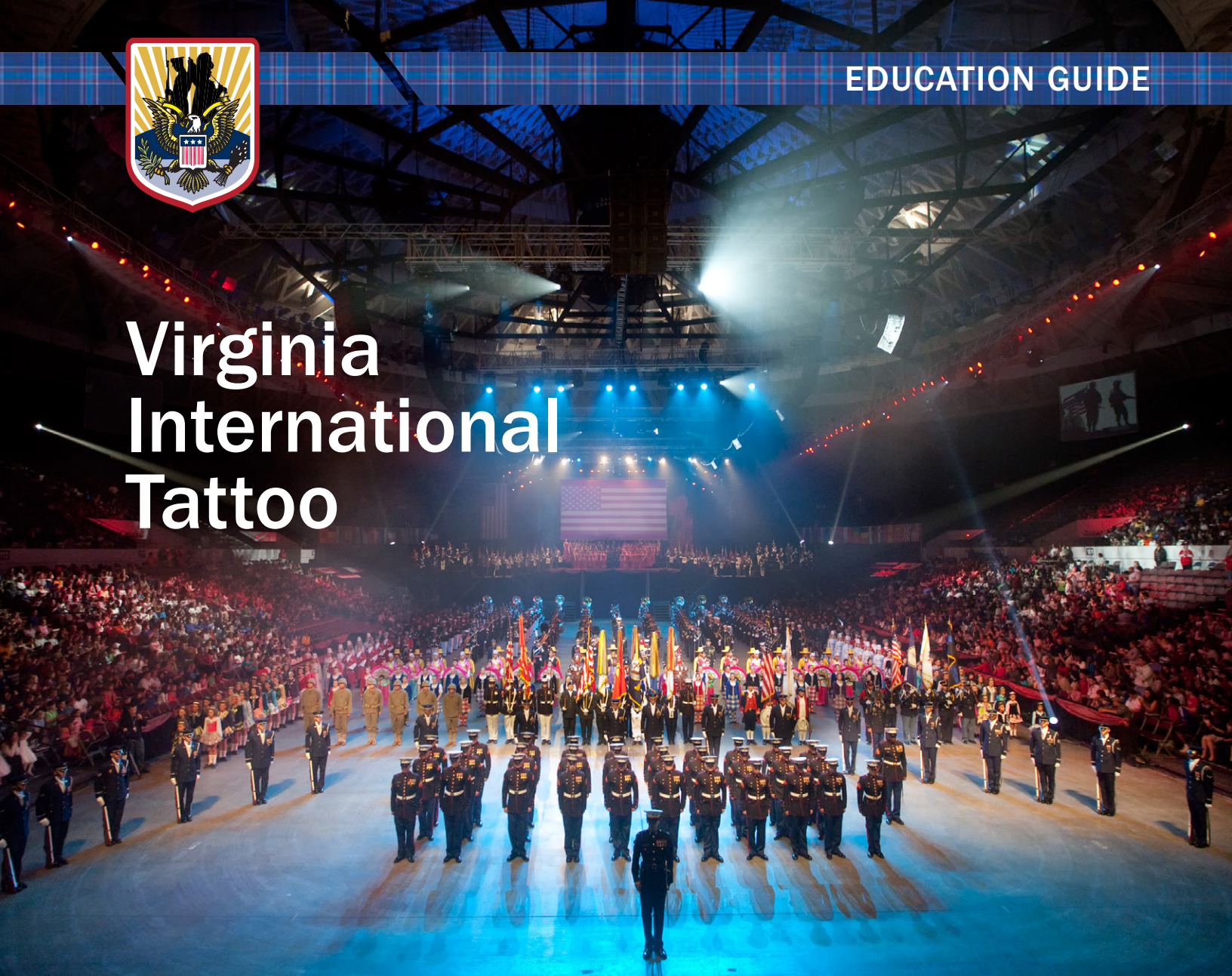




Virginia International Tattoo



VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL 2025

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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 fought with their Protestant Dutch, Swiss, and German allies 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, eating, drinking, and enjoying fellowship.

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 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 British soldiers 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.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Scotland, established in 1950, is one of the most popular of these exhibitions. Every year two hundred thousand people attend this 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-eighth 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 and NATO's North American headquarters, this year's Tattoo celebrates the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States Navy, Army, and Marine Corps.

2025 Virginia International Tattoo Cast

AUSTRALIA

OzScot Australia Highland Dancers
Pipes & Drums of the Royal Caledonian Society of South Australia

CANADA

Royal Canadian Air Force Pipes and Drums

JAPAN

Japan Air Self-Defense Force Central Band

NORWAY

His Majesty the King's Guard Band and Drill Team

UNITED KINGDOM

Major Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band of Northern Ireland

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Camden County Emerald Society Pipes and Drums
Granby High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps
Hampton Roads Police Honor Guards
Mesa Caledonian Pipe Band
Norfolk Fire-Rescue Honor Guard
Old Dominion University Concert Choir
Tidewater Pipes and Drums
U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Band
U.S. Marine Corps Band, Quantico
U.S. Marine Corps FAST Company
U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard Drill Team
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. 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 their enemies.

Marching

In most countries, marching is part of basic military training. Obeying drill commands (the orders for marching, saluting, and standing at attention) requires discipline. To march in formation as a single unit, each individual in the group must keep in mind their 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 traditions. In the United Kingdom, for instance, soldiers from the Scottish Highlands wore tartan—what we in the United States call plaid. Various clans from the Highlands (a mountainous area in northwest Scotland) have their own unique tartans woven in specific colors and patterns.

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. Modern Highland dancing developed out of earlier Scottish social dances like the reel, as well as martial dances with swords and other weapons that demonstrated the dancer's courage and agility. Highland dance students practice many hours each week and train for many years. The laced leather shoes Highland dancers wear are called ghillies.



The U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.
Fort Meade, MD. Staff photo by Jen Rynda.



Did You Know?

Following in the Scottish tradition, the Virginia International Tattoo has its own tartan. The tartan is called the Virginia International Tattoo Hixon Tartan in honor of longtime Virginia Arts Festival Board Member Jim Hixon. It was designed by Alistair Dunn of the Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band and woven in Scotland.

The tartan's dominant "Festival Blue" color represents the Virginia Arts Festival and pays tribute to those who bring the arts to life. The red, white, and blue threads woven throughout symbolize the tattoo's patriotic themes and performances, while the blue hues symbolize the Virginia flag and the seal of the city of Norfolk. The gray stripes guarding the red, white, and blue represent the massive ships and mighty jets of our nation's military, many located here in our area.

A CELEBRATION 250 YEARS IN THE MAKING!

Every Tattoo honors our military, but this year is special because it is the 250th birthday of the United States Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, which each date all the way back to 1775—one year before the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Taking a closer look at the origins of the US Army, Navy, and Marines lets us see some of the nitty-gritty logistics and challenges of the American Revolution. Let's go on a journey back to the eighteenth century...

Weird Words: Another way to say 250th anniversary is semiquincentennial. Whew, that's a mouthful! Like many other words in English, semiquincentennial comes from Latin roots. "Semi-" means "half" (like in "semicircle"), "quin-" means "five" (for example, a "quintet" is a group of five musicians who perform together), and "cent-" means "hundred" (as in "century" for one hundred years). The ending "-ennial" means it has to do with years, like in the word "perennial" (recurring every year). So altogether, you get half-of-five-hundred-years: 250!

The Road to 1775: The Second Continental Congress Tensions were building in the British North American colonies. Trying to boost the British Empire's finances and control, British Parliament sent troops to America and passed a series of laws raising taxes and limiting colonial self-rule. When colonists protested in Boston, Parliament punished them by shutting down trade in Boston's port, getting rid of Massachusetts' elected council, and requiring all thirteen colonies to house British soldiers. In response, American colonists created the Continental Congress, an assembly which brought together representatives from different colonies in the future United States. For the first time, the colonies would decide together how they would resolve their shared problems.

At the first meetings of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia throughout the autumn of 1774, the colonies' representatives decided that if Britain did not repeal the oppressive new laws, the colonies would refuse to buy British goods or sell their own goods to Britain. They still hoped for a peaceful solution. But by the time the Continental Congress met again in 1775, America was

at war. British soldiers had tried to squash rebellion in advance by seizing Massachusetts colonists' military supplies, and the colonists got wind of their plan. No one knows who fired the first shots, but the colonists and the British soldiers were soon fighting outright in a pitched battle—and the colonists won. In Philadelphia, the Second Continental Congress had to decide how the colonies would respond to this new situation. They created the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps to defend the colonists' freedoms.

The Army

On June 14th, 1775, the Second Continental Congress voted to create a Continental Army:

"Resolved, That six companies of expert riflemen, be immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland, and two in Virginia; ...that each company, as soon as completed, shall march and join the army near Boston..."

The very next day, George Washington was appointed the new Continental Army's commander-in-chief. Over seven years of war, he would lead the colonies' armed forces to win the new nation's independence.



Above: 1770s Pennsylvania Rifle. Right: American military drum. From the Museum of the American Revolution.



The Navy

On October 13th, 1775, the Continental Congress decided:

"That a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns... be fitted, with all possible dispatch, for a cruize of three months, and that the commander be instructed to cruize eastward, for intercepting such transports as may be laden with warlike stores and other supplies for our enemies, and for such other purposes as the Congress shall direct... [and] that another vessel be fitted out for the same purposes..."

If you read this old-fashioned language closely, you'll see that the US Navy started out as only two ships strong! However, it quickly expanded as the Congress bought more ships and adapted merchant ships for fighting at sea. A Naval Committee including future president John Adams—a lifelong supporter of the US Navy—was established to oversee its administration.

Sea power played a key role in the War of Independence. British sailing ships carried weapons, supplies, and reinforcements—more soldiers—to their armies. When the colonists' ships were able to intercept them, it made a huge difference.



Above: Continental Navy ship *Alliance*. Below: Navy bar shot, chain shot, and cannonball.

The Marines

On November 10th, 1775, the Continental Congress created the US Marine Corps:

"Resolved, That two Battalions of marines be raised... that particular care be taken, that no persons be appointed to office, or enlisted into said Battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea when required..."

The new Marines would work closely with the new Navy as the ships' ground troops. Legend has it that Captain Samuel Nicholas first started recruiting Marines in Tun Tavern on Water Street in Philadelphia. In the War of Independence, Marines gained a reputation as great marksmen. In 1776, they led the United States' first landing operation (where ships bring soldiers to shore) in the Bahamas, seizing stockpiles of British weapons.

Every year, the US Army, Navy, and Marines hold a Birthday Ball to celebrate the day each was first established in 1775 to aid in the War of Independence—there's even birthday cake!



Above: Tun Tavern. Below: The US Army's birthday cake in 2024.

After Independence

You might be surprised to learn that the Army, Navy, and Marines were mostly disbanded after the War of Independence! Although we take these institutions in our military for granted today, they went through many changes as our new government developed—and not everyone agreed about what form they would take!

Once Britain acknowledged US independence in 1783, there wasn't an immediate need for military power. The Navy and their Marines were dismissed since the US was now at peace. In the Army, most of the soldiers were sent home except for a small number who remained on duty to protect weapons and military supplies.

There were a few obstacles to the development of the Army, Navy, and Marines after independence—namely, cost and public opinion. Americans admired the sacrifices soldiers and sailors had made to win our independence, but they weren't so sure about the role of the military in peacetime. It was one of many debates about how to best organize a democratic government. Our current government structure was worked out laboriously over the postwar years through many arguments and compromises.

US citizens at the time were not all convinced it was a good idea to have a professional army that would serve in peacetime as well as wartime. Before independence, colonists had mostly relied on militias, regular citizens who trained for a few days each year and assembled when called upon for defense. This system seemed to express the power of the people in a democracy, versus Britain's professional army, which colonists associated with state oppression. Some thought maintaining a professional army—a “standing army”—in peacetime would give the government too much power. Others, like George Washington, argued a professional and highly-trained army was necessary to effectively defend the country. People published their views and replied to one another in short printed pamphlets, kind of like today's posts on the Internet.

After all this debate, in 1788 representatives from the states ratified the US Constitution, which allowed Congress to raise and maintain troops—that is, to



create an expanded professional army for the United States' defense. The US Army has been an established institution of our government ever since.

Meanwhile, the main issue with the Navy was the cost. (At the time, sailing ships outfitted with cannons were the height of military technology, and they came with a high price tag.) The new United States government could not afford to keep paying for a national navy after the War of Independence. Even once the federal government gained the power to raise more tax money, politicians argued about whether or not a navy was worth it. Not only were ships expensive, but investing in power at sea might provoke Britain's intimidating navy to retaliate. For a while, Americans didn't have a naval force.

Unfortunately, this left American seafarers vulnerable to attack. They were without naval protection as well as the protection of Britain's network of diplomatic connections. In 1794, the US government tentatively passed a bill recreating the Navy, in order to protect US ships and sailors who were being caught up in a tangle of conflicts involving Britain, France, and the Ottoman Empire's North African states of Algiers, Tripoli, and Tunis. A few years later, under President John Adams (a Navy fan since 1775, remember!), Congress established the Department of the Navy, which is still part of the US government today. Soon afterwards, in 1798, the Marine Corps was recreated to serve as the ships' ground troops. From then on, the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps were firmly established, taking on the familiar forms we recognize today.

One of the first new ships commissioned for the US Navy in 1794, the *Chesapeake*, was built right here in Norfolk, Virginia!

Taking the Tattoo Home

In 1775, the *Pennsylvania Mercury*, a Philadelphia newspaper, reported, “The aged, as well as the young, daily march out under the banners of liberty...” What does freedom mean to you? What causes do you care about?

Ellen Gustafson and Ben Keiser, founders of the nonprofit Vet the Vote, remind us *“the values of service and sacrifice are not confined to our armed forces. They are reflected in every act of good citizenship, whether it’s voting, volunteering or simply looking out for our neighbors.”* Let this year’s Tattoo inspire you to learn more about our country’s history and think about ways you, too, can serve your community!

Quote from Ellen Gustafson and Ben Keiser, “Celebrating 250 years of service in the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, and across the United States,” <https://www.stripes.com/opinion/2025-01-02/250-years-service-army-navy-marine-corps-anniversary-birthday-16352665.html>



Artistic depiction of the Declaration of Independence.

Learn more about the War of Independence and the early origins of the US Army, Navy, and Marines!

Resources for Students & Educators, Museum of the American Revolution, <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/learn-and-explore/for-students-and-educators>

Classroom Resources, American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, <https://www.jyfmuseums.org/learn/teacher-resources-programs/classroom-resources>

Beyond the Battlefield: A Virtual Field Trip, Museum of the American Revolution, <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/learn-and-explore/for-students-and-educators/beyond-the-battlefield-a-virtual-field-trip>

Explore Washington’s War Tents, Museum of the American Revolution, <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/washington-s-war-tents>

“The Coming of the American Revolution: 1764 to 1776,” Massachusetts Historical Society, <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/index.php>

“The American Revolution – A Documentary History,” https://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/amerrev.asp

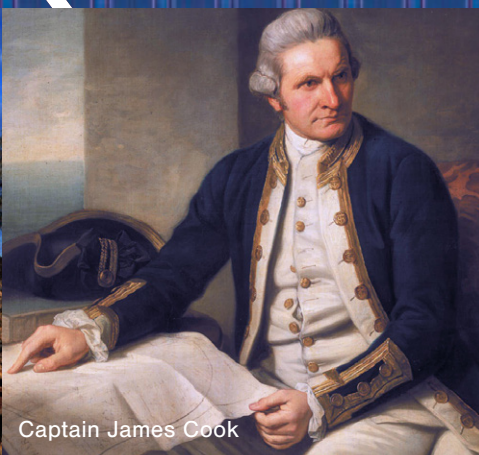
“American Revolution Facts,” American Battlefield Trust, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/american-revolution-facts>

Timeline of the United States Army, <https://www.army.mil/1775/timeline.html>

Timeline of the American Revolution, Museum of the American Revolution, <https://timeline.amrevmuseum.org/sections#section-war-and-independence>



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 that is 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 coral reef system in the world. More than 400 species of coral build colonies here, surrounded by 1,500 species of colorful tropical fish.

The first inhabitants of Australia migrated from Asia thousands of years ago. Descendants of these indigenous Australians—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples—still live in Australia and keep their cultures

and languages alive. Many live in Australia’s populous cities. Starting in the 1970s and 1980s, some Aboriginal Australians established small, remote settlements called “outstations” or “homelands” in order to live more independently and preserve a close relationship with the land. Indigenous painting—on bark, rock, and even in sand—music, and dance are important parts 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 British 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 one of the highest standards of living in the world. With its remarkable natural beauty, diverse population, and rich history and culture, it’s no wonder more than 26 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 we have in the northern hemisphere. 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 that season fall. Australians don't call their autumn season fall because most of their 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 rare mammal whose young hatch from eggs.



Learn more at: National Geographic Kids

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



Platypus



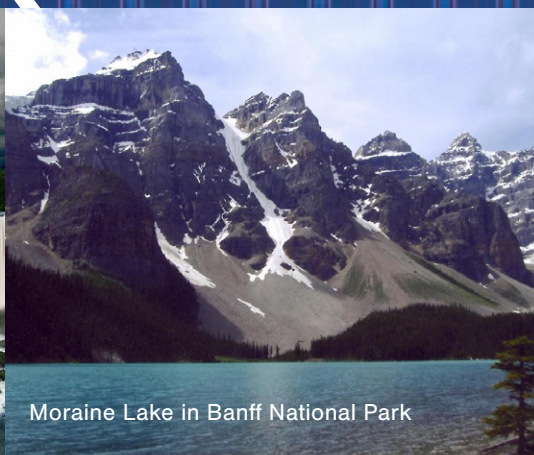
Kangaroos



Koala bears



Niagara Falls
Dmitri Markine



Moraine Lake in Banff National Park



Beaver
D. Gordon E. Robertson

SPOTLIGHT ON CANADA

CAPITAL: Ottawa

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: English and French



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, or 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 many thousands of years ago.

Half of Canada is covered with forests. Forest wildlife includes bear, deer, wolves, moose, and beavers, 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, glaciers, and underground aquifers, 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 French cultural influence remains. Canada became an independent nation in 1931, though it still recognizes the British monarch 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 immigrants from around the world. 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 countries 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 could be used as food. The maple leaf became a Canadian symbol in the nineteenth century, appearing in newspapers, on official emblems and currency, and even in song. The red maple leaf design became the official flag of Canada in 1965.

Another well-known Canadian symbol 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 northwest, the Mounties rode horseback in their bright red dress uniforms. Today, the Mounties patrol in vehicles and generally show off their horse-riding skills only for public exhibitions.

Did You Know?

- A body of water in the Canadian province of Manitoba is called Pekwachnamaykoskwaypinwanik Lake. Try sounding that out! 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 the nickname "Dinosaur Capital of the World."
- Canada's province of Quebec produces most of the world's maple syrup. Pancakes, anyone?



Learn more at: National Geographic Kids
www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/canada





Busy Tokyo
Benh LIEU SONG



Train with cherry blossoms
MaedaAkihiko



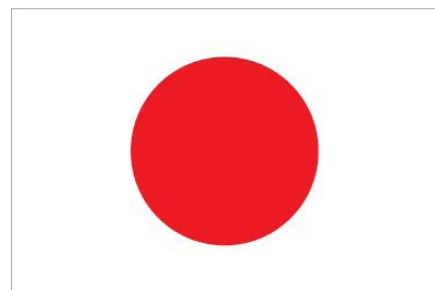
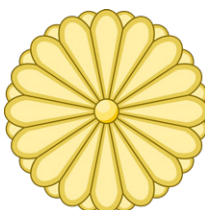
Mt. Fuji

SPOTLIGHT ON

JAPAN

CAPITAL: Tokyo

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Japanese



Japan is a country located off the eastern coast of Asia, made up of four main islands—Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu—and thousands of smaller islands, only some of them inhabited. Japan is bordered to the west by the Sea of Japan and to the east by the Pacific Ocean.

Geologically, Japan is located on multiple tectonic plates. The movement of these plates against each other created the mountainous islands and causes frequent earthquakes. Japan has hundreds of dormant and active volcanoes. You might recognize the iconic cone-shaped, snow-topped volcano Mount Fuji, the subject of many paintings, prints, and photographs. It's even an emoji in your keyboard!

Nature is very important in Japanese culture. In Japanese Shinto beliefs, features of nature like rocks, mountains, trees, or waterfalls have their own souls or spirits. Shinto shrines dot the natural landscape. Natural hot springs or onsens are very popular for bathing and relaxing. Cherry blossoms are an important Japanese national symbol, and in spring there is a special festival devoted to admiring them.

People first settled in Japan over 30,000 years ago. At that time, a bridge of land connected the islands to

Siberia, enabling people to walk across. Others likely arrived in boats from the Korean peninsula. The Jomon people were one of the first societies in the islands of Japan, fishing, hunting, and gathering food, as well as making art. (Jomon means “cord-marked” and refers to the distinctive style of their pottery.) The Ainu, an indigenous group in northern Japan, are genetically closely related to the ancient Jomon. The Yayoi people, who cultivated rice, traveled to Japan around 300 BCE and strongly influenced the Japanese ethnicity and culture we know today.

For several centuries, emperors held ultimate power in Japanese society. Their rule was challenged, though, by shoguns (high-ranking military commanders). Though emperors continued to sit on the throne, the shoguns actually controlled Japanese government from the twelfth century CE until the Meiji Restoration in 1868, when the ruling shogun was stripped of his power and the emperor returned to preeminence.

During the Meiji period, the Japanese state sought to implement technological advances and combine elements of Western European societies with Japanese culture. Japan had previously been forced to trade on unequal terms with Western European states, and Japanese leaders exerted themselves to affirm Japan's imperial

status, high culture, and competitiveness in terms of military power and industrialization. The Japanese empire expanded, and Japan ruled over Korea and Taiwan and occupied parts of China and Southeast Asia. This is still a difficult legacy for many in Japan and in Asia more broadly today.

Japanese bombing of US ships in Hawaii's Pearl Harbor led to the US entering World War II on the side of the Allies. The war with Japan continued for longer than the war against Nazi Germany. In August 1945, after Germany's surrender in May, the US Air Force dropped atomic bombs on two Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki—the only time nuclear weapons have ever been used in war.

Despite all the destruction of World War II, Japanese society proved very resilient. In the 1950s, Japan and the United States formed a military alliance which remains a close bond between the two countries. Japan's high-tech electronics industry rose to global prominence in the 1980s and 1990s. (Think of big names like Sony, Panasonic, and Nintendo!) Today, Japan has one of the largest economies in the world, just behind the United States and China. Japanese cities are bustling and Japanese culture is massively influential worldwide.

You might have tried Japanese foods like sushi or ramen—a couple of Japan's many cultural exports. But did you know that Japanese food is also admired by American nutritionists for its health benefits? Because of the islands' proximity to the ocean, fish is very important in Japanese cuisine. Some Japanese people still eat seafood more often than poultry or red meat. With plenty of vegetables and not much fat or dairy, a traditional Japanese diet is very good for you. This could explain why people in Japan tend to live long lives on average!

Did You Know?

- In Japan, it's actually polite to slurp up your noodle soup! Slurping the noodles shows how much you're enjoying your food.
- Have you ever tried karaoke with your friends? You have Japan to thank for this form of entertainment! The word karaoke comes from the Japanese words "kara" (empty) and "okesutora" (orchestra).
- Today, Japan is the only country that has an emperor as head of state—Emperor Naruhito. His family is the oldest royal line in the world, tracing back to the legendary first emperor of Japan. However, Japan's emperors no longer wield political power themselves. Japan's head of government is the Prime Minister.
- Kit Kat bars are considered lucky in Japan. "Kitto katsu" means "surely win" in Japanese, which sounds like the name of the candy. So students eat Kit Kats before exams in hopes the good luck will transfer!



Learn more at: National Geographic Kids

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





Midnight sun
Vberger



Fjord
Frédéric de Goldschmidt



Skiing
Sondrekv

SPOTLIGHT ON NORWAY

CAPITAL: Oslo

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Norwegian



A land of countless natural wonders, Norway is one of three northern European countries that make up the region called Scandinavia (Sweden and Denmark are the other two). The land is etched with many fjords (said “fyords”), long, narrow inlets of the sea between steep cliffs. Fjords were carved by glaciers during the Ice Age thousands of years ago, when this area was covered in massive sheets of ice.

Many glaciers, big and small, can still be found in Norway. These bodies of ice are in constant motion. They shrink and grow, shift shape and direction, and even change color. Parts of a glacier can move several hundred feet in just a few years. Norway also has many mountains, their steep slopes also carved by the movement of glaciers.

Norway is often called the Land of the Midnight Sun because during summer, the sun never sets. Seeing the sun at midnight is a natural phenomenon that occurs in the world's northernmost regions, above the Arctic Circle. This includes parts of Norway. The midnight sun occurs because the Earth's axis tilts toward the sun in summer.

People have lived in Norway since around 8000 BCE. When Germanic tribes settled in the area, farming mostly replaced hunting and gathering. Farm communities became small, independent states. From 700 to 1100

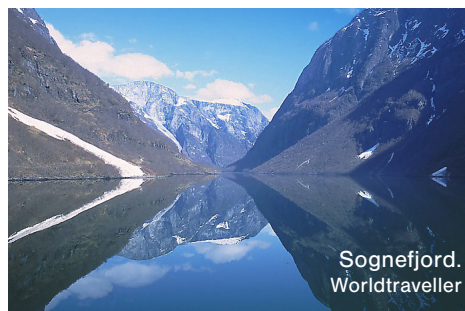
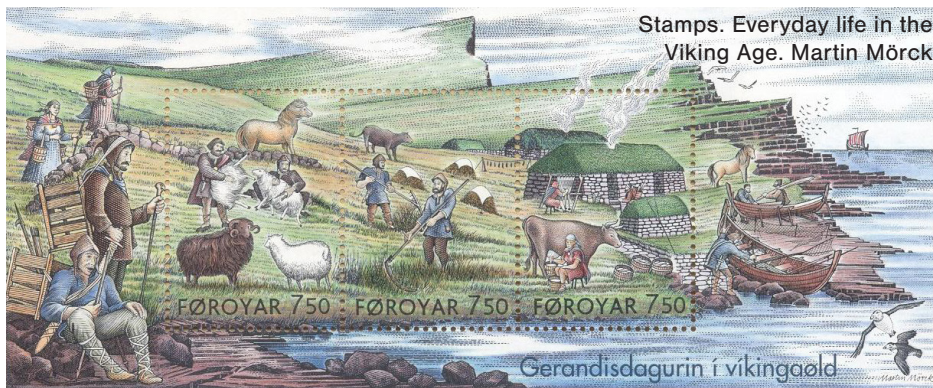
CE, the adventurous Vikings voyaged from Scandinavia to trade, explore, raid, and establish new outposts. The word “Viking” comes from Old Norse, the Scandinavian language of the time, and may have meant “one who travels from the fjords”. Some Vikings sailed to other countries, such as England, to fight and steal treasure. Others settled in new lands, like Scotland, as farmers, craftsmen, or traders. Often, people “went Viking” for just part of each year, spending the rest of their time farming or trading closer to home.

Around 870 CE, the legendary King Harald Fairhair is said to have united the independent states of Norway into one kingdom. With the Union of Kalmar in 1397, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden were united under Danish Queen Margrethe I, who had inherited the throne of Norway and Denmark as the heir to both ruling families and defeated Sweden in battle. Sweden left the union in 1523, but Denmark and Norway remained united until 1814. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, Sweden invaded and controlled Norway. In 1905, Norway finally became an independent country.

Famous Norwegians include explorer Roald Amundsen, the first documented person to ever reach the South Pole, composer Edvard Grieg, artist Edvard Munch, who painted the well-known canvas *The Scream*, and playwright Henrik Ibsen.

Did You Know?

- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo, Norway, every year. This important honor is given to individuals who've done exceptional work reducing the possibility of war and promoting peace between nations.
- Skiing has long been an important part of Norwegian life. Many children learn to ski when they are just two or three. The word "ski" comes from the Old Norse word skio, which means "stick of wood."
- The Sami, sometimes referred to as Lapps, are the indigenous, or native, people of northern Norway, Finland, and Sweden. Historically, they move their homes to different pastures with the seasons, herding reindeer which provided valuable meat and fur to sustain the Sami community. Today, many Sami live in permanent housing and practice a variety of livelihoods, though reindeer herding is still important.



Learn more at: National Geographic Kids

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



Stonehedge - 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 people first came to Britain in the Stone Age via a land bridge that once joined the island to Europe. When melting ice raised the sea level thousands of years ago, Britain became a separate island. Around 2500 BCE one of the UK's most famous landmarks was built: Stonehenge. This stone monument of giant columns and crosspieces was constructed even before the wheel had been invented. People likely used logs as rollers or sleds to transport the heavy stones. Scientists are still not sure exactly why the mysterious Stonehenge was created, but we know that the center stones perfectly frame the sunset on the winter solstice and the sunrise on the summer solstice. Without any modern technology, Stonehenge's builders observed the movements of the sun with incredible precision.

Around 500 BCE, the Celtic people arrived in Britain from Europe, followed by the Romans who began to conquer British territory in 43 CE. The Romans ruled for nearly four hundred years. They built forts, roads, and bath-houses, the ruins of which can still be seen today all over Britain. Many words in the English language come from the Latin language of the Romans. You may have studied some Latin root words in school.

Around 500 BCE, Germanic tribes called the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes came to Britain. The name "England" comes from the Angles; English people became known as Anglo-Saxons. In 1066 CE, William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy (a French-speaking region of northwestern Europe) invaded England and started a new royal line and Norman noble culture. Because of this, many English words have French origins. Throughout England's history, kings and queens have come from different family lines. In 1485, Henry Tudor became king, the first of five Tudors to claim the crown. You might have heard of his son, the infamous Henry VIII!

In the 1600s, Britain began to establish colonies in North America and the Caribbean. 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 that encompassed today's India and Pakistan along with many other territories. Most of Britain's colonies gained their independence after the two World Wars. Many people from former British colonies in the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia have 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. The changing of the guard ceremony at Buckingham Palace is a favorite tourist attraction. 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 another set of soldiers.

Many great names in literature come 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.

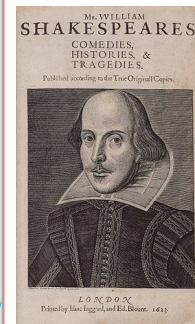
Learn more at:

National Geographic Kids

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/united-kingdom>

BBC Hands on History: Ancient Britain

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/history-and-stories/understanding-stonehenge>



RESOURCES

Virginia Standards of Learning

History and Social Science: Skills K-3, VS, USI, WG, VUS; K.3; 1.1, 3; 2.4; VS.5; USI.6; WG.1, 14; GOVT.5

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



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.

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