

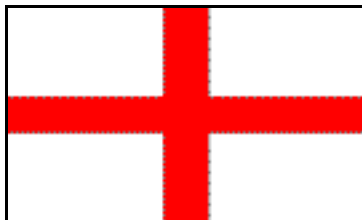
The Australian Flag consists of the Union Flag (Commonly referred to as the Union Jack) in the upper left corner, the seven-pointed Federation Star in the lower left corner, and the Southern Cross in the right portion of the flag. On the National Flag the stars are displayed on a dark blue background.



The Union Jack on the Australian Flag signifies that Australia is a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

countries.

The Union Jack itself consists of the traditional flags of England, Scotland and Ireland. The combination of these flags in the Union Jack symbolises the United Kingdom which combines these three



These flags are the St. George's Cross for England (a white background with a red cross), the St. Andrew's Cross for Scotland (a blue background with a diagonal white cross) and the St. Patrick's Cross for Ireland (a white background with a diagonal red cross).

The remainder of the Australian Flag has a dark blue background. In the lower left portion of the flag is the seven-pointed Federation Star. The points represent the six states of Australia, plus the seventh point representing the territories of the Commonwealth of Australia.



On the right side of the flag is the Southern Cross. This constellation is always visible in the night sky from Australia, and was a valuable aid to navigation for the early explorers of this country.