

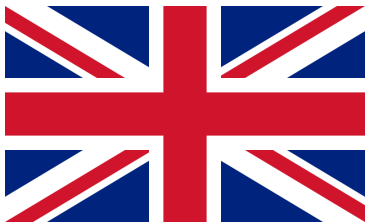
# THE FLAG OF AUSTRALIA



The flag of Australia is also known as the Commonwealth Blue Ensign. It actually consists of three different parts ~ the British Union Jack, the Southern Cross star constellation, and a large 7-pointed star called the Commonwealth Star.

While the flag was first flown in 1901, it was not officially adopted as the Flag of Australia until 1953.

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Union Jack



Southern Cross Constellation



Commonwealth Star

The British Union Jack is in the upper left corner of the Australian flag. It represents Australia's ties to the country of Great Britain.

The Southern Cross constellation is one of the most visible constellations in the Southern Hemisphere. The number of points on the flag's stars have varied over the years, but the four larger stars now all have seven points and the smaller one has five points.

The Commonwealth Star, also known as the Star of Federation, is a seven pointed star. Six of the points represent the six federating colonies. The seventh point was added in 1908 to symbolize the Territory of Papua.