

# St. George

St. George's Day is celebrated in England on the 23rd April. We celebrate this day in honour of St. George, the patron saint of England. Canada, Croatia, Portugal, Cyprus, Greece, Georgia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Republic of Macedonia also celebrate St. George's Day.



## Who was Saint George?

In English legend, Saint George was a brave knight who rescued a beautiful lady by killing a dangerous fire-breathing dragon.

George was born in Turkey and his parents were Christian. He fought in the army of the Roman Emperor Diocletian and was one of his favourite soldiers. The Roman Emperor was a pagan and started to kill every Christian that he could find. George did not agree with this cruelty and protested against Rome's persecution of Christians. He tried to save the lives of the Christians by pleading with the Emperor. The Emperor ignored George's pleas. He was put in prison and was tortured in many terrible ways. He was finally beheaded in Palestine on 23 April, 303. 23rd April was named as Saint George's day in 1222.

St. George died for his faith and when people heard of his story, they started writing songs and poems about him.

## Questions

a) When is St. George's day celebrated in England?

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b) Apart from England, name **five** other countries that celebrate St. George's day?

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c) According to English legend, where was George born?

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d) Which Emperor did George fight for?

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e) Underline the correct answer. George's parents were...

**1.** Jewish

**2.** Catholic

**3.** Christian

**4.** Pagan

f) George was a chivalrous knight. What does 'chivalrous' mean? Use a dictionary to help you.

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g) Why was George put in prison?

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h) Where was George beheaded?

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i) Below is the flag of Saint George. Colour the cross red.

