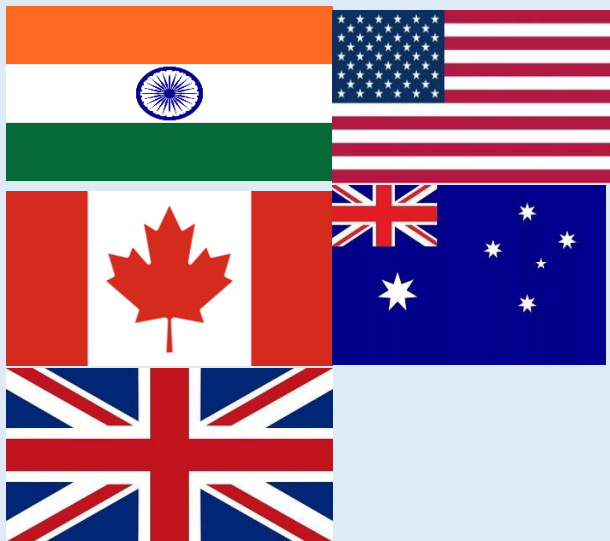




**Handbook
for preparing
for English Language Olympiads
in grades 9-11 (Regional
Studies)**

Добро пожаловать, юный исследователь!

Перед тобой — не просто учебник, а твой личный проводник в мир олимпиадных вершин. На этих страницах собраны ключи к самым сложным и увлекательным задачам. Мы верим, что каждое прочитанное правило, каждая разобранная теория станут кирпичиками в фундаменте твоего успеха.

Пусть этот справочник будет для тебя источником ясности и уверенности. Вникай, анализируй, вдохновляйся — и ты непременно достигнешь заветных высот. Удачи в этом интеллектуальном путешествии!

Чтобы знания обрели силу, их нужно применить на практике.

После каждой темы тебя ждут специальные коды для доступа к увлекательным тренировочным заданиям. Они помогут закрепить материал и отточить мастерство. Вперёд — к новым победам

Topics:

USA:

- Foundation and symbols

The foundation of the country:

- The American Revolution
- The abolition of slavery.

Rights:

- The Civil Rights Movement (Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks) and its connection to Black Lives

Matter Crises and conclusions:

- The Great Depression and the New Deal
- The September 11 attacks and their consequences
- The Cold War and the Soviet Union

UK:

- Foundation and symbols
- Norman Conquest
- Industrial Revolution
- Victorian Era

- World War II
- Disintegration of the British Empire

Canada:

- Foundation and symbols
- Colonization Formation of the country 20th century
- Education of the country
- 20th century
- Quebec Separatism in Canada

Australia:

- Foundation and symbols
- The Gold RUSH

India:

- Foundation and symbols
- The Struggle for Indian Independence
- The colonial period



State Symbols of the United States

1. Flag ("Star-Spangled")

50 stars = 50 states

13 stripes = 13 original colonies.

Colors: Red - valor, white - purity, blue - justice.

2. Great Seal (on the \$1 bill)

Eagle with an olive branch (peace) and arrows (war).

Motto: «E Pluribus Unum»* («From Many, One»).

3. Anthem

«The Star-Spangled Banner» («The Star-Spangled Banner»).

Written during the War of 1812.

4. Other National Symbols

Bird: Bald Eagle (symbol of freedom and strength).

Motto on the Coat of Arms: «In God We Trust» («We Trust in God»).

The foundation of the country:

The American Revolution was a war that led to the independence of the United States from England.

Why it started:



England, which owned the colonies in America, forced them to pay a lot of taxes without asking for their opinion. The colonists said, "If we don't have a say in the laws, we don't

have to pay taxes!" They were also forced to buy only English goods.

What happened:

- In 1775, the first battles began.
- In 1776, the colonists declared: "We are no longer an English colony, we are a free country!" This was written in the Declaration of Independence.
- The war was difficult, but France (England's enemy) helped. Together, they achieved a significant victory at Yorktown in 1781.



- In 1783, England surrendered and recognized the independence of the United States.

The outcome was as follows:

- A new nation, the United States, emerged.
- It became a republic (rather than a kingdom), with leaders chosen through elections.
- They wrote the Constitution, the main law that gave people rights and freedoms.

The main characters:

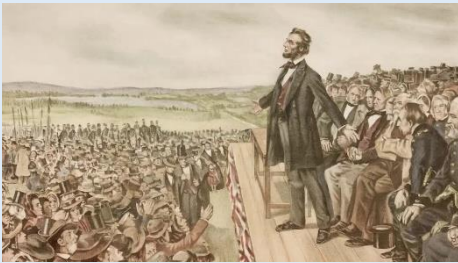
- George Washington, who commanded the army and became the first president.
- Thomas Jefferson

The American Revolution

The American Revolution was a war that led to the independence of the United States from England.

Why it started:

England, which owned the colonies in America, forced them to pay a lot of taxes without asking for their opinion. The colonists said, "If we don't have a say in the laws, we don't have to pay taxes!" They were also forced to buy only English goods.



What happened:

- In 1775, the first battles began.
- In 1776, the colonists declared: "We are no longer an English colony, we are a free country!" This was written in the Declaration of Independence.
- The war was difficult, but France (England's enemy) helped. Together, they achieved a significant victory at Yorktown in 1781.

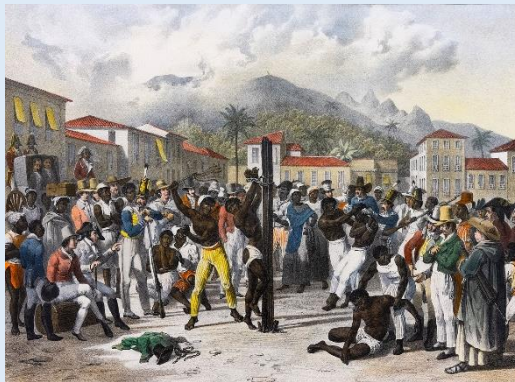
- In 1783, England surrendered and recognized the independence of the United States.

The outcome was as follows:

- A new nation, the United States, emerged.
- It became a republic (rather than a kingdom), with leaders chosen through elections.
- They wrote the Constitution, the main law that gave people rights and freedoms.

The main characters:

- George Washington, who commanded the army and became the first president.



(the Jim Crow laws), and discrimination, which were fought against for another century, until the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

Rights.

Civil Rights Movement (1950s-60s)
 Fought against official segregation (separation of whites and Blacks) in the American South. Key symbols:
 • Rosa Parks – refusing to give up her seat on the bus (1955),

began the boycott.

- Martin Luther King – leader, philosophy of nonviolence.

Result: Laws of 1964-1965 outlawed segregation and guaranteed voting rights.

Black Lives Matter (BLM, since 2013)

Fights systemic racism, especially police violence against Black people. Arose after the deaths of Trayvon Martin and George Floyd.

Connection:

BLM – a continuation of the same struggle, but in a new context.

- Then (under King): Fighting racism in laws ("Blacks are not allowed to sit with whites").

- Now (BLM): Fighting racism in practice and culture ("Black lives are not valued, they are killed by the police").

If King's movement cut through the door to legal equality, BLM says: "We are still not allowed through that door in practice, and we are being killed at the door."

Great Depression (1929-1930s)

The worst economic catastrophe in US history. It began with the stock market crash of October 1929 ("Black Tuesday"). It was followed by:

- Bank failures - people lost their entire savings.

- Mass layoffs - unemployment reached 25%.

- Poverty and hunger - ubiquitous "Hooverilles" (homeless settlements), bread lines.

- Dust bowls in the Midwest, which ruined farmers.

The main reason: Deep-seated problems in the economy (overproduction, speculation, weak banking regulation), which collapsed like a house of cards.

Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal (since 1933)

President Roosevelt's program to save the country. Motto: "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." The main idea was active government intervention in the economy.

Main measures:

1. Bank bailouts – "bank holidays," deposit guarantees.
2. Government contracts and work for the unemployed – the government hired people to build roads, bridges, and dams (for example, the Works Progress Administration).
3. Farmer assistance – farmers were paid to reduce production and raise prices.
4. Social reforms – the introduction of

old-age pensions, unemployment benefits, the creation of trade unions.

The New Deal's outcome:

It didn't completely defeat the Depression (World War II and its resulting economic crises did that), but:

- It saved the economy from total collapse.
- It gave people jobs and hope.
- It created the welfare state—the foundation of modern social security in the United States.
- It radically strengthened the role of the federal government in the life of the country.

Simply put: Roosevelt forced the government to actively help people and regulate business in order to save the country from collapse. This changed the social contract in America.

September 11th

September 11th, 2001

The suicide attack was committed by the terrorist organization Al-Qaeda (Osama bin Laden). Hijackers hijacked 4 passenger planes:

- 2 crashed into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York (the towers collapsed).
- 1 — to the Pentagon building.
- 1 (the 4th plane) crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after passengers fought with terrorists.

About 3,000 people died. This is the deadliest terrorist attack in world history.

Immediate consequences

1. The "War on Terror" is the United States' global strategy for combating terrorist groups.
2. The invasion of Afghanistan (2001) — to destroy Al-Qaeda and overthrow the Taliban movement that sheltered them.

3. The invasion of Iraq (2003) — under the false pretext of having weapons of mass destruction.



Saddam Hussein was overthrown.

4. The creation of the Ministry of Internal

Security is a large—scale reform of government structures.

5. The Patriotic Act is a law that dramatically expanded the powers of the special services to monitor the country.

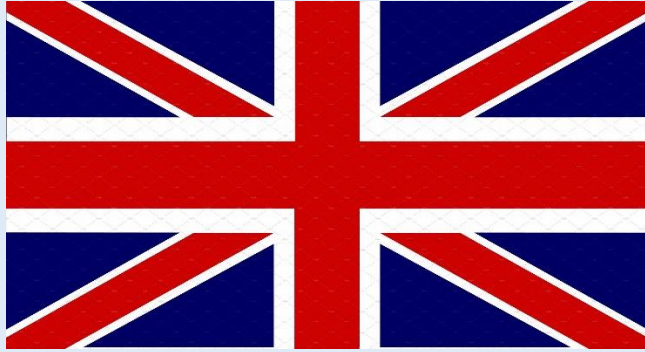
The theory is mastered. Ready for the challenge?

Check your readiness on a special simulator! Scan the QR code and solve a selection of tasks from the Olympiad archive. This is your best way to consolidate the material and get in great shape before the decisive start.

Forward to new heights! Good luck!



UK



Key Symbols:

1. Flag: Union Jack — combines the crosses of three saints:

Cross of St. George (red) — England.

Cross of St. Andrew (white diagonal) — Scotland.

Cross of St. Patrick (red diagonal) — Ireland.

2. Coat of Arms (Royal Coat of Arms): Shield featuring the arms of England (3 lions), Scotland (lion), and Ireland (harp).
Motto: "Dieu et mon droit" ("God and my right").
3. National Anthem: "God Save the King/Queen" — the oldest in the world.
4. National Personifications:

Britannia (a helmeted woman with a trident) — symbol of the state.

The Bulldog — symbol of national tenacity and stubbornness.

John Bull (a portly gentleman in a top hat) — an outdated symbol of the common Englishman.

5. Crown and Scepter — symbols of the monarchy, an institution above politics.

In Brief: The foundation of the UK lies in historical unions and the parliamentary system. Its symbols (flag, coat of arms, anthem) visually represent the union of different peoples under the Crown.

The Norman Conquest

The Norman Conquest, 1066. Briefly, the most important thing:

1. Event: William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, invaded England, defeated the army of King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings (October 14, 1066) and became King William I of England.

2. Reason: William contested the throne from Harold, claiming that the previous king, Edward the Confessor, had appointed him heir.

3. Key consequences (required to know):

- Elite change: Anglo-Saxon nobility replaced by Norman and French. England turned out to be closely connected with continental Europe.

- New system of government: A strong centralized feudal system has been introduced with the supreme right of the king over the whole land.



- Domesday Book (1086): Europe's first universal land census, conducted to account for resources and strengthen royal authority.

- Language and culture: The English language has been enriched with many French words. Norman French became the official language of the elite. Stone castles (e.g., the Tower of London) and Norman architecture (Romanesque style, cathedrals) appeared.

- Weakening ties with Scandinavia, strengthening ties with France, which later led to the Hundred Years' War.

Conclusion for regional studies: This is a fundamental turning point in the history of England, which determined its political, social and cultural development for centuries to come.

The Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution in the UK - key facts for the Olympics

1. The essence and chronology:

- The transition from manual labor and the agrarian economy to machine, factory production.
- Period: late 18th – mid 19th centuries ($\approx$ 1760-1840). Great Britain became the "workshop of the world".

2. Prerequisites (why in Britain):

- Political: Stability after the "Glorious Revolution" (1688), protection of private property.
- Economic: Capital from colonies and the slave trade, a developed banking system.
- Social: The agrarian Revolution → the liberation of workers.
- Natural: Abundance of coal and iron ore.

3. Key inventions and industries:

- Textiles: James Hargreaves – Spinning Jenny, Richard Arkwright – water frame. A loom (power loom).

- Energy: James Watt – the advanced steam engine - the "heart" of the revolution.

Metallurgy:
 Abraham
 Darby – the use
 of coke for
 smelting pig
 iron.

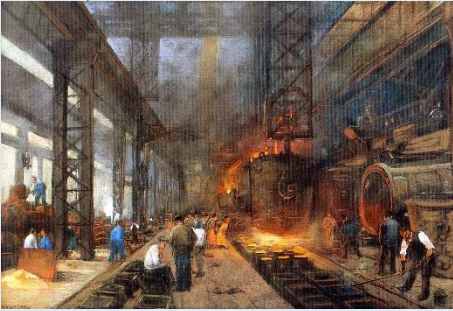


- Transportation: George Stephenson – steam locomotive "Rocket", construction of canals and railways.

4. Social consequences (important for the essay!):

- Urbanization: Mass migration to cities (Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds). The growth of industrial cities- "megacities".
- New classes: The formation of the industrial bourgeoisie (manufacturers) and the working class (proletariat).
- Difficult conditions: Long working hours, low wages, exploitation of women and children, unsanitary conditions in slums.
- The beginning of the labor movement: Luddites (Luddites – destroyers of machines), later – the creation of trade unions (trade

unions) and the Chartist movement (for universal suffrage).



5. Cultural and historical significance:

- The rise of the British Empire.
- A fundamental change in lifestyle, family and society.
- The beginning of environmental problems (air and water pollution).
- Great Britain became the first industrial nation, setting the vector of development for the whole world.

The Victorian era

Briefly: The reign of Queen Victoria from 1837 to 1901. The era of the maximum power of the British Empire, industrial progress, conservative values and deep social contradictions.



1. The main features:

Stability and progress: The flourishing of industry, science (Charles Darwin

— the theory of evolution) and technology (railways, telegraphy, photography).

- The moral code: The cult of the family, strict religiosity, hypocrisy, ideals of diligence and decency.
- "Mistress of the Seas": The apogee of the British Empire ("the empire over which the sun never sets"), colonial expansion in Africa and Asia.
- Contrast societies: The polarization between the wealth of the bourgeoisie and the appalling poverty of the workers (slums, child labor).

2. Key social phenomena and reforms:

- Chartism: A mass labor movement for universal suffrage (1830s-40s).
- Reforms: Gradual expansion of rights:
 - o Electoral reform of 1832 (increase in the number of voters).
 - o Laws on factories (restriction of child labor and working hours).

The educational reform of 1870 (the beginning of compulsory primary education).

- Feminism: The beginning of the struggle for women's rights (suffragists, the right to property).

3. Outcome and legacy:

- Great Britain has become a leading global power.
- The foundations of modern civil society and government regulation have been formed.

Literature became the "teacher of life" (Charles Dickens, the Bronte Sisters) — reflected social problems.

The era created stereotypes about British restraint, prudery, and the ideals of gentlemanliness.

Great Britain in World War II (1939-1945)

1. Role: One of the main leaders of the Anti-Hitler Coalition (with the USSR and the USA). She fought from the first to the last day of the war in Europe.



2. Turning points and battles:

1940 — The "Miracle of Dunkirk": The evacuation of 338,000 soldiers from France, which preserved the cadre of the army.

- July-October 1940 — The Battle of Britain: The Decisive Air Battle. The

Royal Air Force (RAF) defeated the Luftwaffe, disrupting

Operation Sea Lion to land Germany. Churchill's speech: "Never have so many been beholden to so few."

- September 1940 — May 1941 — "Blitz": Systematic bombing of cities. London, Coventry, Liverpool were badly affected. The "Spirit of the Blitz" has become a symbol of civic fortitude.

- 1939-1945 — The Battle of the Atlantic: The longest battle. Protecting the convoys from German submarines was a matter of the island's survival.

- June 6, 1944 — Normandy Operation (D-Day): British forces (21st Army Group under the command of General Bernard Montgomery) were responsible for the eastern flank of the landings.

3. Domestic policy:

- Prime Minister Winston Churchill led a coalition government in 1940. His



radio broadcasts boosted the nation's morale.

- Total War: All the resources for the front. The women worked in factories and in the air defense services (the so-called "Landgirls"). Strict rationing of products (cards) was introduced, which lasted until 1954.

4. Results and geopolitical consequences:

Pyrrhic victory: The country won a military victory, but actually went bankrupt, becoming a debtor to the United States.

- Loss of superpower status: Geopolitical leadership has passed to two new superpowers — the United States and the USSR.
- The beginning of the collapse of the British Empire: The post-war crisis and the growth of national liberation movements led to rapid decolonization (India gained independence in 1947).

The theory is mastered. Ready for the challenge?

Check your readiness on a special simulator! Scan the QR code and solve a selection of tasks from the Olympiad archive. This is your best way to consolidate the material and get in great shape before the decisive start.

Forward to new heights! Good luck!



Canada



Key Symbols:

Flag (The Maple Leaf): Red-white-red with an 11-point red maple leaf in the centre. Adopted in 1965.

1. Coat of Arms: Includes symbols of founding nations (UK, France) and three red maple leaves. Motto: "*A Mari Usque Ad Mare*" ("From Sea to Sea").
2. National Anthem: "O Canada" (official since 1980). Famous line: "Our home and native land!"
3. Other Major Symbols:
 - The Beaver: Historic symbol of the fur trade, representing industry.
 - The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP): The "Mounties" in red serge — iconic national symbol.
 - The Maple Tree & Leaf: Core natural emblem, symbolizing the land.
 - National Colours: Red and White (official since 1921).

In short: Canada's symbols showcase nature (maple leaf, beaver), history (coat of arms), and national identity (flag, anthem, Mounties).

Colonization of Canada

Colonization of Canada — key aspects for the Olympics

1. Two waves of colonization

- French (1534-1763): Based on the fur trade and alliances with indigenous peoples. The center is New France along the St. Lawrence River.
- British (after 1763): Based on agriculture, permanent settlements and assimilation policy.



2. Key figures and events

- Jacques Cartier (1534): France's first territorial claims.

Samuel de Champlain

(1608): Founding of Quebec, the first permanent settlement.

- The Seven Years' War (1756-1763): The conflict between France and Britain in North America ("French and Indian War"). The defeat of France led to the transfer of Canada to Britain by the Peace of Paris in 1763.
- The American Revolutionary War (1775-1783): A massive influx of loyalists (about 40,000) who fled the American Revolution. They settled the territories of Ontario and Nova Scotia, strengthening British influence.

3. Constitutional acts are the basis of bilingualism

The Quebec Act of 1774:

- o Recognized French civil law and the freedom of the Catholic faith.
- o Expanded the territory of Quebec to the Great Lakes.
- o Significance: Prevented the French Canadians from joining the American Revolution and laid the foundation for biculturalism.

• Constitutional Act 1791:

- o Divided the province of Quebec into Upper Canada (English-speaking, now Ontario) and Lower Canada (French-speaking, now Quebec).

• British North America Act 1867 (British North America Act):

United the provinces into the Dominion of Canada (July 1, 1867 — date of confederation).

- o Established a federal system with the division of powers between the central government and the provinces.

4. Relations with indigenous peoples

- French period: Mainly trade and military alliances with the Algonquins and Hurons. Conflicts with the Iroquois Confederacy, which supported the British.

- The British period: The transition to a policy of treaties and reservations, displacement from the lands. The system of Indian boarding schools (1870-1990s) for



forced assimilation is one of the most tragic consequences of colonization.

5. Bottom line and modern legacy

- Language: Official bilingualism (English and French) since 1969.
- Culture: Quebec's unique status as a French-speaking province in an English-speaking country.
- Politics: Ongoing dialogue on the rights of French Canadians (separatist movements in Quebec) and the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Symbol: Colonization explains why Canada is not a mono—national state, but a mosaic of cultures with complex historical memories.

For the Olympics: It is important to show the cause-and-effect relationships: how the wars in Europe (the Seven Years' War) influenced the fate of Canada, how British policy (the Quebec

Act) shaped its uniqueness, and how the effects of colonization are still being felt.

Education of the country

The formation of the State of Canada — briefly

The bottom line: The peaceful, phased unification of the British colonies into an independent federal state within the framework of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Key dates and milestones:

1. July 1, 1867 — Confederation (Dominion of Canada):

- o Adoption of the British North America Act (BNA Act).

- o The first 4 provinces: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick.

- o Status: Dominion — self-government under the supreme authority of the British Crown.

2. Territorial expansion (1867-1949):

Annexation of other colonies (Manitoba, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island).

- o Construction of the Trans-Canada Railway to unite the country.

- o Newfoundland was the last to join (1949).

3. The path to full sovereignty:

- o 1931 — Statute of Westminster: Canada gained full legislative independence from Britain.

- o 1982 — Patriation of the Constitution: The main Constitutional Act was transferred from London to Canada. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms has been adopted. The process of legal independence has been completed.

Features of Canadian statehood:

- Form of government: Constitutional monarchy (the head of state is the British monarch, represented by the Governor—General).
- Government structure: Federation (strong provinces).
- Official bilingualism (English/French).
- Multiculturalism is the official policy.

Bottom line: Canada was formed evolutionarily, without revolutions, becoming a model of peaceful transition from colony to independence.

20th century

Canada in the 20th century — key milestones

The bottom line: The transition from the British dominion to a fully independent, multicultural state.

1. Wars and independence:

- Participation in world wars: Voluntary, with heavy losses. It has strengthened national identity and authority.



- 1931: Statute of Westminster — legislative independence from Britain.

- 1982: The Patriation of the Constitution (Pierre

Trudeau). The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms has been adopted. Independence is complete.

2. Internal changes:

- The "Quiet Revolution" in Quebec (1960s): Modernization, secularization, and the rise of separatism. Referendums on independence (1980, 1995

- 1969: The Law on Official Bilingualism

- 1971: The world's first official policy of multiculturalism. Changing immigration laws, increasing diversity.

3. Foreign Policy:

- The active role of a peacemaker (under the UN flag).

- Membership in NATO, G7.

- Difficult economic and cultural proximity with the United States (the 1989 Free Trade Agreement, later NAFTA).

Bottom line: By the end of the century, Canada is a peaceful, federal, tolerant state with a global reputation.

Quebec Separatism in Canada

The bottom line: The movement for the independence of the French-speaking province of Quebec from Canada in order to preserve the unique French-Canadian identity.



The main reasons:

1. Language and culture: The desire to protect the French language and culture from assimilation in the English-speaking environment.

2. History: The memory of the conquest of New France by Britain (1763) and the long-term position of French Canadians as "second-class" citizens.

Key events:

- The "Quiet Revolution" (Révolution tranquille, 1960s): Social reforms in Quebec, secularization, and the growth of national identity. The emergence of the pro-independence Parti Québécois.
- October 1970 crisis: The extreme manifestation is the kidnapping of a British diplomat and the assassination of the

Minister of Quebec by the terrorist Front for the Liberation of Quebec (FLQ). Troops have been deployed.

- Independence referendums:

- o 1980: The first referendum. 59.6% are against independence.

- o 1995: Second referendum. The result is extremely close: 50.58% against, 49.42% for independence. The referendum split the country.

Bottom line and modernity:

- The 1995 referendum did not resolve the issue definitively, but it reduced the heat.

- The Federal Government responded by recognizing Quebec as a "distinct society" and tightened the rules for secession from Canada.

Today, separatism is an important, but not the dominant political force. Language laws

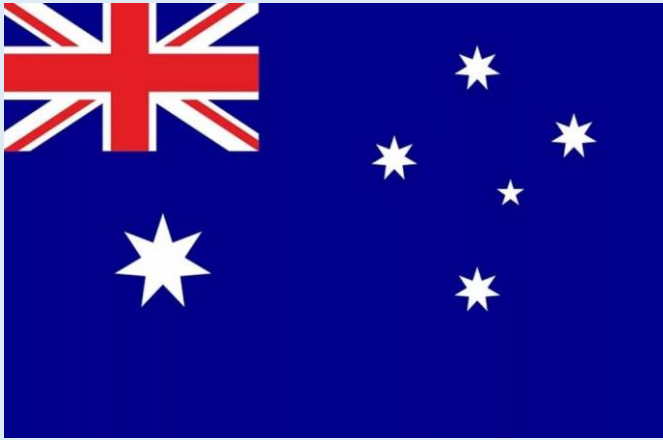
The theory is mastered. Ready for the challenge?

Check your readiness on a special simulator! Scan the QR code and solve a selection of tasks from the Olympiad archive. This is your best way to consolidate the material and get in great shape before the decisive start.

Forward to new heights! Good luck!



Australia



Key Symbols of Australia

1. Flag: Blue field with the Union Jack (historical link to Britain), the Commonwealth Star (7 points = 6 states + territories), and the Southern Cross constellation (geographical location).
2. Coat of Arms: Shield with state emblems, supported by the Red Kangaroo and the Emu (native to Australia, cannot walk backward → symbol of progress). Background – golden wattle (national flower). Motto: "*Australia*".
3. National Anthem: "Advance Australia Fair" – official since 1984.
4. Other Key Symbols:

Golden Wattle – national floral emblem.

Sydney Opera House – iconic architectural symbol.

Boomerang, didgeridoo, kangaroo, koala – recognizable cultural and natural emblems.

Green and Gold – national colors (inspired by wattle and landscapes).

1. Background and reasons:

- The loss of the American colonies after the American Revolutionary War (1783): Britain needs a new territory to exile criminals.

- The discovery of the East Coast by Captain James Cook in 1770. He declared it a possession of Britain, naming New South Wales.

2. Founding of the first colony:

- The First Fleet: 11 ships under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip arrived in Botany Bay, and then moved to Port Jackson, the future Sydney.

January 26, 1788: The official raising of the British flag and the establishment of a penal colony.

- The first settlers: About 750-780 prisoners (mostly for minor crimes) and about 250 soldiers and officers.

3. Consequences for the indigenous population:

Disaster for the aborigines: Colonization led to displacement from the land, diseases (smallpox), violence and a sharp decline in the population. A long period of marginalization has begun.

- The doctrine of "terra nullius" ("no man's land"): Britain declared the land a no man's land, ignoring the rights and existence of the aboriginal peoples. This doctrine was in effect until the 1990s.

4. Significance to the history of Australia:

- The beginning of permanent European settlement of the continent.
- The foundations of the Australian nation were laid, the culture of which was formed from convicts, soldiers and free migrants with the idea of a "fair chance".
- The beginning of a long and tragic conflict between the colonialists and the aborigines, the consequences of which are still being felt (the problem of "stolen generations", recognition of rights).

It is important for the Olympics to understand the dual meaning of January 26th

The Gold RUSH

The Gold Rush in Australia (1850s)

The bottom line: The discovery of gold (1851) caused mass immigration and accelerated the development of colonies.

The main consequences:

1. Demographic explosion: The population has grown 3 times in 10 years.
2. Economic boom: Urban development, infrastructure, and prosperity growth.

3. Multiculturalism and conflict: The influx of prospectors from all over the world, especially from China. The rise of racism and



restrictive laws.

The key event is the Eureka Rebellion (1854, Ballarat):

- The reason: The protest of

prospectors against high licensing fees and the arbitrariness of the authorities.

- The result: The uprising was suppressed, but the authorities made concessions (cancellation of fees, the right to land). The rebels were acquitted.
- Meaning: It is considered the birth of Australian democracy. It symbolizes the struggle for the rights and values of "fair go" (fair chance) and anti-authoritarianism.

General significance: Transformed Australia from penal settlements into prosperous colonies, laid the foundations of a national character, and accelerated the path to federation (1901).

Creation of the Australian Union (Federation) The

essence: The peaceful unification of the six British colonies into a single state — the Commonwealth of Australia.

1. Reasons:

- Economy: We need a single market, common railways, and the abolition of domestic duties.
- Defense: Joint defense against external threats.
- National identity: The rise of shared self-awareness after the gold rush.

2. Key dates:

- 1900: The British Parliament passed the Act establishing the Australian Union.

January 1, 1901: The official proclamation of the Union of Australia. This day is the Day of the Nation.

3. Basic principles of the new State:

- Form of government: Constitutional monarchy (the head of State is the British monarch, represented by the Governor—General).
- Government structure: A federation with a division of powers between the central government and the states.
- Capital: The first temporary capital is Melbourne, since 1927 — Canberra.
- The first policy: The "White Australia Policy" is a racist immigration law (one of the first decisions of the new parliament).

The theory is mastered. Ready for the challenge?

Check your readiness on a special simulator! Scan the QR code and solve a selection of tasks from the Olympiad archive. This is your best way to consolidate the material and get in great shape before the decisive start.

Forward to new heights! Good luck!



India



Foundation and National Symbols

Modern India was founded on 15 August 1947, gaining independence from British colonial rule, and was formally constituted as a sovereign republic on 26 January 1950 with the adoption of its Constitution. This foundational period was shaped by key leaders including Mahatma Gandhi, the moral force of the independence movement; Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister; and B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the constitution. The nation defines itself as a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic.

The country's identity is powerfully expressed through its national symbols. The national flag, the Tiranga, features three horizontal stripes: saffron for courage and sacrifice, white for peace and truth (featuring the navy blue Ashoka Chakra, a wheel

of law, at its centre), and green for faith, fertility, and prosperity. The state emblem is an adaptation of the ancient Lion Capital of Ashoka from Sarnath, featuring four lions standing back-to-back, symbolising power, courage, and confidence, with the motto "Satyameva Jayate" ("Truth Alone Triumphs") inscribed beneath. The national anthem is "Jana Gana Mana," composed by the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

Further symbols represent the nation's natural wealth and cultural ethos: the majestic Bengal Tiger as the national animal, the elegant Indian Peafowl (peacock) as the national bird, and the sacred Lotus, which rises pristine from muddy waters, as the national flower. Together, these symbols and foundational principles encapsulate the spirit of a nation built on an ancient civilisation, unparalleled cultural diversity, and a modern democratic ideal.

The Struggle for Indian Independence

The essence: The mass movement against British colonial rule, which ended with the partition and creation of two states: India and Pakistan (1947).

1. Reasons:

- Economic exploitation, racial discrimination, denial of self-government.
- The growth of national identity.

2. Key leaders and Methods:

Mahatma Gandhi: Ideologue of nonviolent resistance (satyagraha). Actions: Salt Campaign (1930), boycott of British goods.

The Struggle for Indian Independence

Jawaharlal Nehru: Leader of the Indian National Congress (INC), the first Prime Minister of independent India.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah: The leader of the Muslim League, demanded a separate state for Muslims (Pakistan) according to the theory of "two nations".

3. Main events:

1919: Shooting in Amritsar — the brutality of the British radicalized the movement.

- 1942: The "Get out of India!" movement, demanding immediate independence.
- 1947: Indian Independence Act.
 - o August 15: Independence of the Indian Union.
 - o August 14: The creation of Pakistan.

o Section: Was accompanied by large-scale violence, massacre and displacement of millions of people.

Result:

- The end of British rule, the beginning of the collapse of the British Empire.
- The tragic sectarian divide that laid the foundation for the long conflict between India and Pakistan. Gandhi's nonviolent tactics have become a global model for civic movements



The colonial period

1. Establishment of control (East India Company)

- 1757 — Battle of Plessis: The company led by Robert Clive defeats the Nawab of Bengal. The beginning of political and economic domination.

The company rules on behalf of the Mughals, collecting taxes and controlling the army. Methods: "Divide and rule", contracts with princes.

2. Economic exploitation ("Siphoning off wealth")

- Goal: To turn India into a source of raw materials (cotton, indigo, opium) and a market for British manufactured goods.

- The destruction of the local economy: Crafts and manufactures (especially textiles) have been ruined, and the cultivation of raw materials for export has been imposed.

- Famine: Politics aggravated famine (The Great Bengal Famine of 1770, 1943).

3. Administration and social policy

- Racial segregation and discrimination of Indians in the civil service.

- Anglicization: The introduction of the English language and education (for the training of lower officials), Western laws.

- Railways, telegraphs, and a unified post office were built in British interests, but later helped unite the country.

4. The Sepoy Rebellion (1857) and its consequences

- Reasons: The introduction of new cartridges (with cow and pork fat) that offended the religious feelings of Hindus and Muslims; general discontent.

- Move: The Sepoys (Indian soldiers) and some of the princes rebelled. Brutally suppressed.

- The main consequence (1858): The liquidation of the East India Company. India came under the direct control of the British Crown — the beginning of the era of the British Raj. Queen Victoria became Empress of India (1877).

5. Legacy and results

- Negative: Economic ruin, preservation of feudal remnants, strengthening of religious and caste divisions.

- Positive (unintended): The creation of a single state, a common language (English), modern infrastructure, and the emergence of the Indian national idea in opposition to the colonialists.

The colonial period directly led to the struggle for independence.

For the Olympics: It is important to show the duality of heritage and the role of the East India Company as a "state within a state". The 1857 Uprising is a key milestone.

The theory is mastered. Ready for the challenge?

Check your readiness on a special simulator! Scan the QR code and solve a selection of tasks from the Olympiad archive. This is your best way to consolidate the material and get in great shape before the decisive start.

Forward to new heights! Good luck!



Путешествие по страницам этого справочника подошло к концу, но ваше погружение в мир англоязычных культур только начинается. Мы надеемся, что этот материал стал для вас не только источником знаний для успешной сдачи экзаменов и олимпиад, но и вдохновением для дальнейшего, более глубокого

изучения. Помните, что страноведение — это ключ к пониманию не только языка, но и людей, которые на нем говорят.

Желаем вам уверенности, ярких открытий и, конечно, блестящих результатов на всех испытаниях! Пусть ваши знания будут глубокими, а ответы — точными. Удачи!