



SÄNDNINGSDATUM: 2007-12-11

ENGELSKAI
PROGRAMMANUS

PROGRAMNR: 100483/tv10

Flag Stories – in English

Poland – Portugal – Russia – Slovakia

Script

Poland

This flag is from a European country which was the birthplace of the astronomer Copernicus, the musician Frederic Chopin and Pope John-Paul the 2nd.

It's Poland!

Poland dates way back to the year 1000 and its flag has always been white and red. The Polane tribe gave the country its name and its first Polish Kings like Mieszko the 1st or Boleslas the Valiant. Their emblem was a white bird, an eagle, on a red background.

Over the years, Poland was invaded by the Mongols and fought the Turks and the ferocious Cossacks. The only thing which never changed was the two colors of the Polish flag.

In 1919, Poland became independent. And the flag? They kept it white and red

Portugal

This flag is from a European Union country, famous for its navigators like Vasco da Gama and Magellan, the first to sail around the world.

It's Portugal.

The green you see represents the Portuguese Republic.

That happy red stands for the warm climate and the courage the Portuguese displayed at war.

Let's look at the symbols between the green and the red.

The golden circle stands for an instrument used to measure the movements of planets around the earth, in honor of the great Portuguese explorers.

The seven castles are the fortified cities built by Alfonso Henriques, the first Portuguese King.

The five blue symbols represent the Moorish kings he defeated.

The five points in each symbol are for Christ's wounds. The legend says he appeared before the King to help him fight.

It's quite a rich flag, just like the Portuguese Empire which reigned over a large part of the world.



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Russia

This flag comes from a huge country with large frozen expanses which was long governed by czars.

It is Russia! A nation so old, that it is sometimes called eternal.

The Russian flag is recent. It replaced the flag of the former USSR, which was a hammer and a sickle on a red background. The USSR came to an end in 1991 and all the countries it included became independent, starting with Russia.

The colors are a reminder of Saint George fighting the dragon; his white horse, his blue coat and the monster's red blood.

They are also said to represent the alliance of the Russian nations; white for Belarus, blue for Ukraine and red for Great Russia.

The white, blue and red also stand for the Virgin Mary, liberty, loyalty and courage.

The Russians need these qualities to get through their freezing winters! In Siberia, the temperature goes down to minus 40 degrees Celsius! Brrr...!

Slovakia

This flag comes from a European country and it's bordered by the beautiful blue Danube River. Now if I tell you the capital is Bratislava, can you guess?

Right you are! It is Slovakia.

The powerful Austro-Hungarian Empire dominated Slovakia for a long time before they united with the Czech people to make Czechoslovakia in 1918. In 1993, the Slovaks became independent and chose this flag.

The cross you see is called a "patriarchal cross".

What are those three bumps the cross is planted on? No, those are not waves! They represent the three principal mountains: Tatra, Matra and Fatra.

The cross and the mountains are in a red 'coat of arms', as we say in heraldry, which is the study of such emblems.