

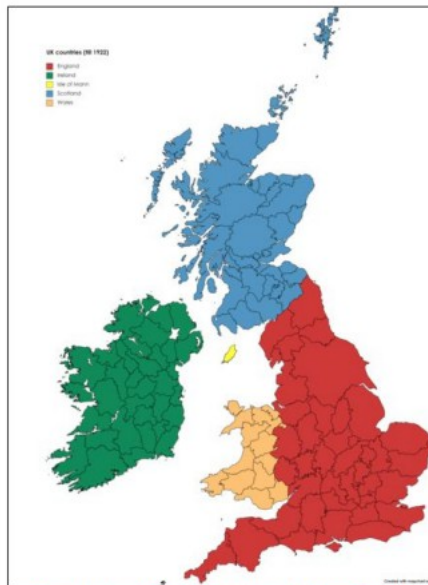


**FACT FILE**

**Let's know more about the Acts of Union 1800!**



From 1541, Ireland was recognised as a kingdom and was in personal union with England. Between the 17th and 18th centuries, the country saw several wars often born of the conflict between the Catholic majority and Protestant minority, and opposition to English and, later, British rule. Following the defeat of the Irish Rebellion of 1798, the creation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was arranged, coming into force under the Acts of Union 1800. This effectively terminated Irish autonomy and subsequently sparked an increase in Irish nationalism.



Map of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (1801-1922)



**Personal union of England and Ireland**

The Norman invasion of Ireland in the 12th century led to a partial conquest of the island and signalled the beginning of more than 800 years of English political and military involvement in Ireland. This meant that the monarch of England was the overlord of the **Lordship of Ireland**.

- In the succeeding years, a Gaelic resurgence over most of the country emerged.
- By the end of the 15th century, the English Crown did not pursue the conquest of the island until after the end of the **Wars of the Roses**.
- During this period, central English authority in Ireland had all but gone.
- With Henry VIII of England's desire to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, he broke with Rome and declared himself as head of the Church in England, a process that was completed in 1534.
- Two years later, the Irish Parliament in Dublin declared Henry VIII the head of the Church of Ireland and a royal commission ordered the shutting of Irish monasteries. This caused discontent among the Anglo-Irish and the Gaelic Irish alike.
- From 1536, the English King set about imposing a military solution in response to the resistance of the Irish people.
- Having put down this rebellion, he resolved to reconquer Ireland and bring it under Crown control so the island would not become a base for future rebellions or foreign invasions of England.



Map of Ireland in the 1300s



A portrait of Henry VIII of England

- In 1541, the status of Ireland was upgraded from a lordship to a full kingdom with the passage of the **Crown of Ireland Act 1542** by the Irish Parliament.
- The act established the personal union of England and Ireland, as well as Henry VIII and his heirs and successors as kings of Ireland.
- The act aimed to restore the central English authority that had been lost in the previous centuries.
- The creation of the Kingdom of Ireland was to transform the character of the relationship that existed between Ireland and England.



**1** **DEFINITION.** Look for the meaning of the following terms and use your own words to define each. (X marks)

TERMS	DEFINITION
<i>Lordship of Ireland</i>	
<i>Irish Confederate Wars</i>	
<i>Williamite War in Ireland</i>	
<i>Great Britain</i>	
<i>Irish Rebellion of 1798</i>	