

A stylized world map with green landmasses and blue oceans, serving as a background for the title. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, showing North and South America on the left and Europe and Africa on the right.

# The Commonwealth

# What is the Commonwealth?

- There are 56 countries in the Commonwealth, in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific.
- The Head of the Commonwealth is His Majesty, King Charles III.
- About 30% of the World's population live in the Commonwealth.
- It includes some of the world's largest countries like India as well as some of the smallest, like Grenada. The Commonwealth also contains both wealthy and poor countries.



# The History of the Commonwealth?

By the end of the 19th Century, the British Empire ruled about a quarter of the Earth's population. These colonies were under direct rule of the British but many didn't want to be.

The first British colonies to gain independence were Canada and Australia. Even though they gained independence in the late nineteenth century, they still recognise the British monarchy today.

In 1931, the British Commonwealth of Nations was formed. Britain's former colonies chose whether or not they wanted to be part of it when they became independent. Most of the former colonies chose to join the Commonwealth.

The last British colony to gain independence was Belize in 1981.

The British Commonwealth of Nations has since become The Commonwealth of Nations.

There are now 56 member states within the Commonwealth. The official head of the Commonwealth is the British monarch.

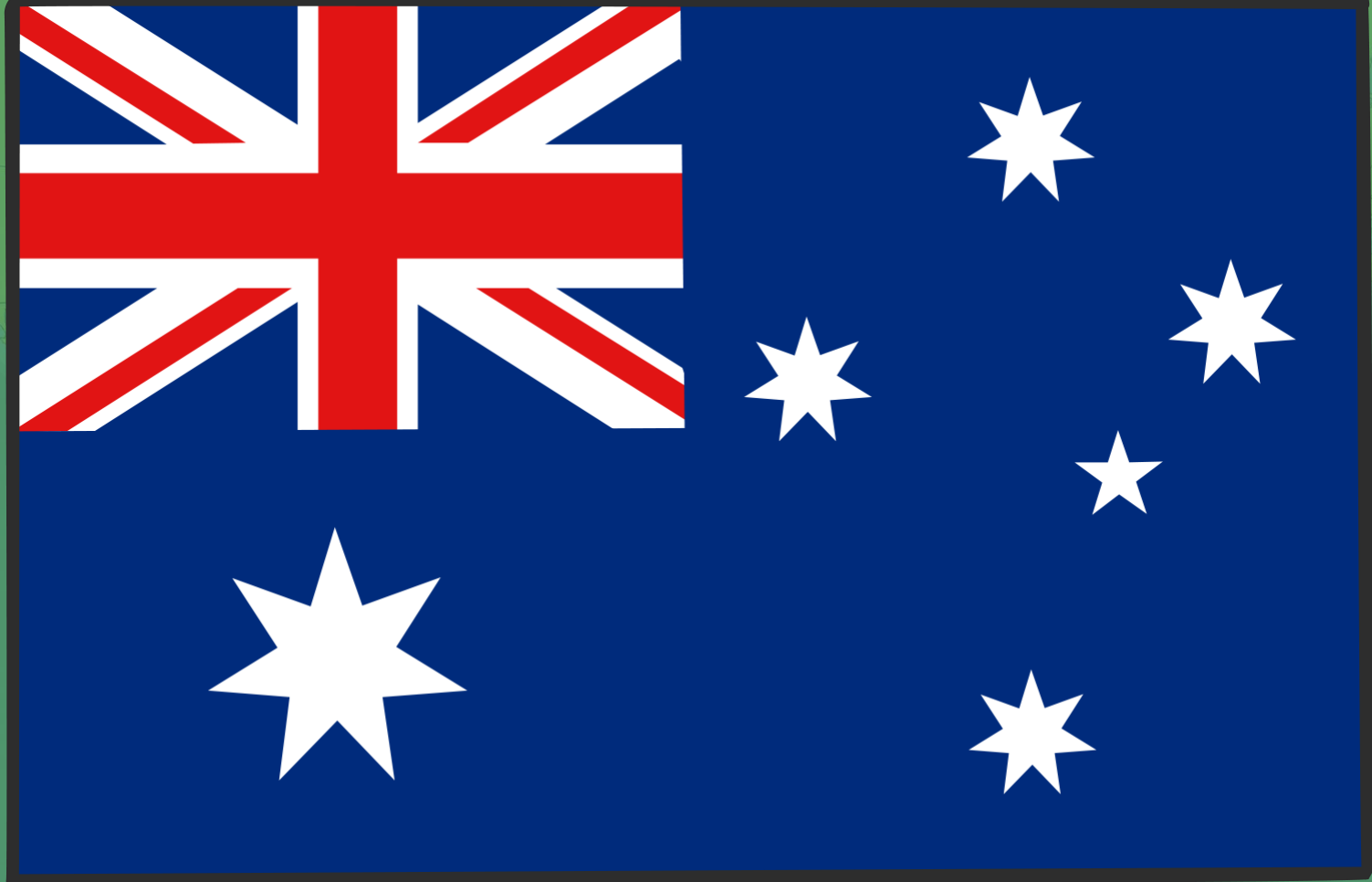
# Commonwealth Countries

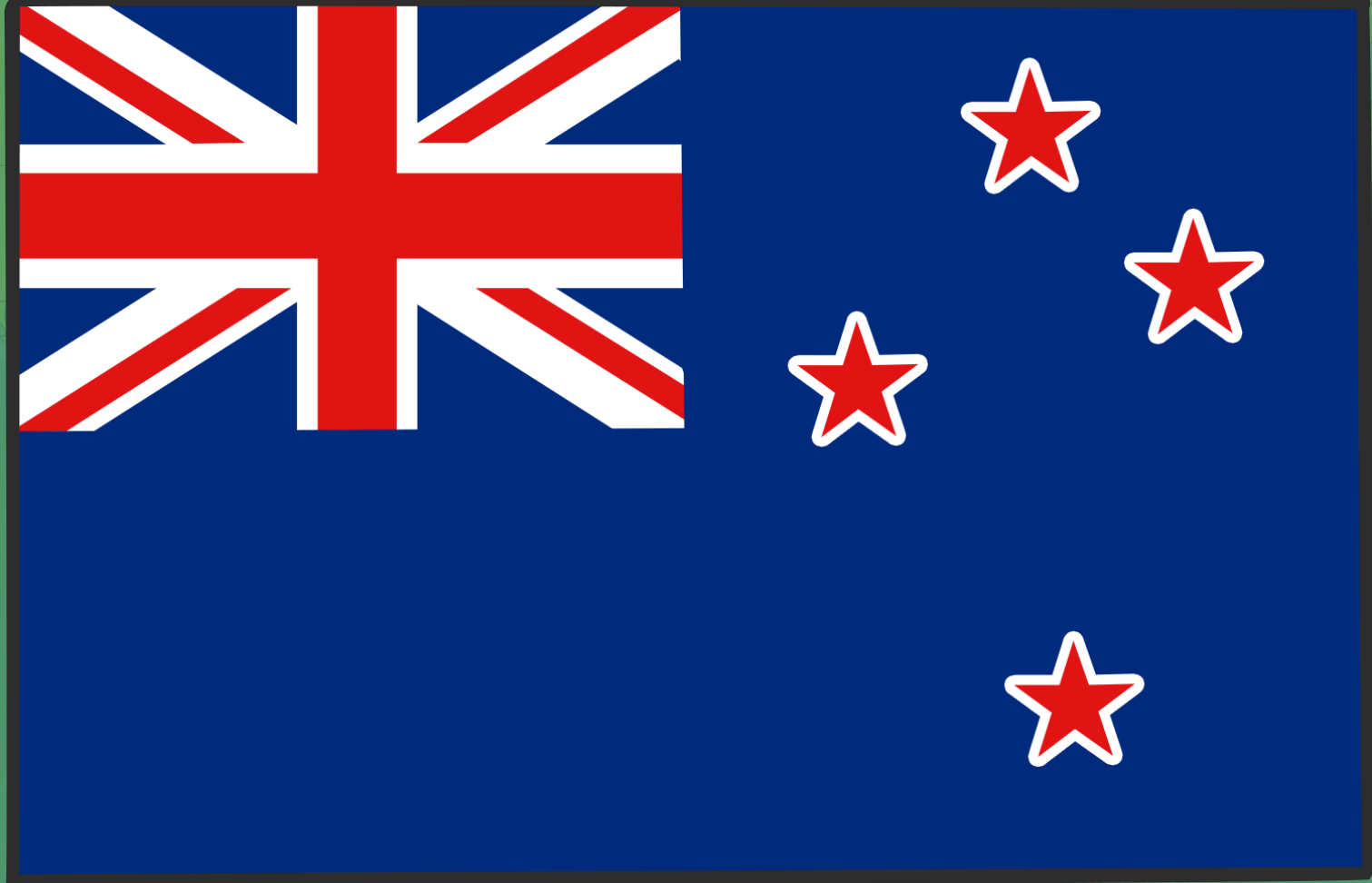


Do you recognise any of the flags?





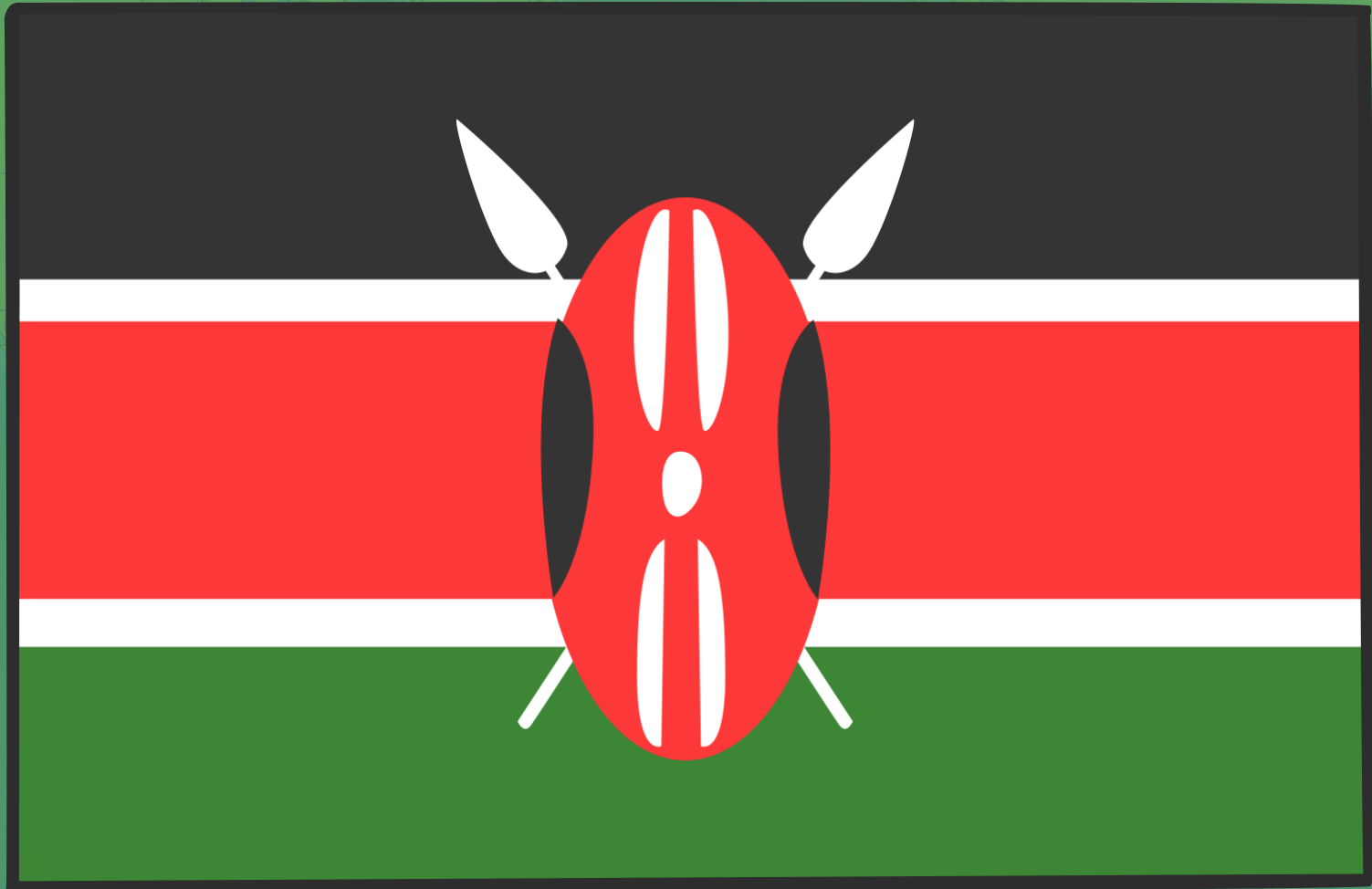












# Commonwealth Member Countries

## Africa

Botswana	Namibia
Cameroon	Nigeria
Gambia, The	Rwanda
Ghana	Seychelles
Gabon	Sierra Leone
Kenya	South Africa
Kingdom of Eswatini	United Republic of Tanzania
Lesotho	Togo
Malawi	Uganda
Mauritius	Zambia
Mozambique	

# Commonwealth Member Countries

Asia	Caribbean and Americas
Bangladesh	Antigua and Barbuda
Brunei Darussalam	Bahamas, The
India	Barbados
Malaysia	Belize
Maldives	Canada
Pakistan	Dominica
Singapore	Grenada
Sri Lanka	Guyana
	Jamaica
	Saint Lucia
	St Kitts and Nevis
	St Vincent and The Grenadines
	Trinidad and Tobago

# Commonwealth Member Countries

Europe	Pacific
Cyprus	Australia
Malta	Fiji
United Kingdom	Kiribati
	Nauru
	New Zealand
	Papua New Guinea
	Samoa
	Solomon Islands
	Tonga
	Tuvalu
	Vanuatu

# The Commonwealth Charter

All members subscribe to the Commonwealth's values and principles outlined in The Commonwealth Charter, covering the areas of:

1. Democracy
2. Human rights
3. International peace and security
4. Tolerance, respect and understanding
5. Freedom of Expression
6. Separation of Powers
7. Rule of Law
8. Good Governance
9. Sustainable Development
10. Protecting the Environment
11. Access to Health, Education, Food and Shelter
12. Gender Equality
13. Importance of Young People in the Commonwealth
14. Recognition of the Needs of Small States
15. Recognition of the Needs of Vulnerable States
16. The Role of Civil Society

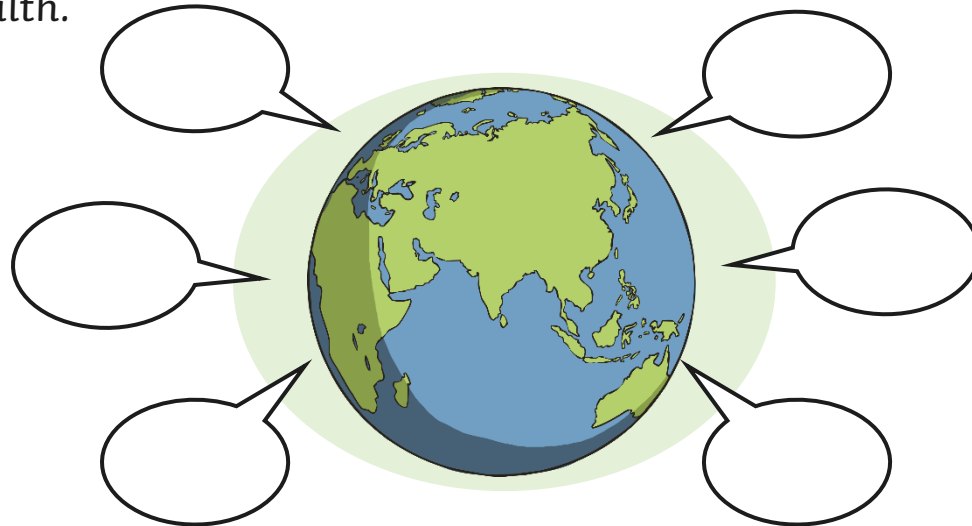


# Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)

Every two years, the leaders of each country meet to discuss issues affecting the Commonwealth and the wider world at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

Leaders of member countries shape Commonwealth policies and priorities.

All members have an equal say, regardless of size or economic stature. This ensures even the smallest member countries have a voice in shaping the Commonwealth.



# Commonwealth Sport

Many Commonwealth nations play similar sports that are considered "British" in character, such as: football, cricket, rugby, and netball.

The Commonwealth Games, a multi-sport event, is held every four years in a host Commonwealth member country.

Started in 1930 as the Empire Games, the games were deliberately designed to be "the Friendly Games", with the goal of promoting relations between Commonwealth countries and celebrating their shared sporting and cultural heritage.

Besides the Commonwealth Games, other sporting competitions are organised on a Commonwealth basis, through championship tournaments such as: the Commonwealth Taekwondo Championships, Commonwealth Fencing Championships, Commonwealth Judo Championships, Commonwealth Rowing Championships, Commonwealth Sailing Championships, Commonwealth Shooting Championships and Commonwealth Pool Lifesaving Championships.

