

ПРОЕКТНАЯ РАБОТА ПО ТЕМЕ

«КРАСНЫЙ ЦВЕТ В ЖИЗНИ АНГЛИЧАН»

THE COLOUR RED IN ENGLISH LIFE



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The theme of my project work is “The colour red in English life”.

Тема моей проектной работы «Красный цвет в жизни Англичан».

The aim of the project work is to analyze the meaning of the colour red to English people.

Цель проектной работы: выяснить значение красного цвета в жизни Англичан.

To gain the aim I solved the **following tasks**:

1. to analyze the meaning of the colour to Englishmen according to psychology;
2. to find official, semi - official and non - official English red symbols;
3. to learn about English red symbols, their history and meaning;
4. to find red in daily life of English people;
5. to analyze the most common English idioms containing the concept “red”.

Задачи исследования:

1. Проанализировать значение «красного» для Англичан согласно психологии;
2. Найти официальные, полу- и неофициальные красные английские символы;
3. Изучить красные символы, их историю и значение;
4. Найти предметы красного цвета в повседневной жизни Англичан;
5. Изучить самые популярные английские идиомы со словом «красный».

The hypothesis: suppose the colour red is very important to Englishmen and their culture.

The object of the research is the colour red.

The subject is the meaning of «red» in English culture.

I used the following methods: theoretical analysis, comparative analysis and generalization.

Introduction

The meaning of colours can vary depending on country and culture. Each colour has its own meaning in different countries and cultures. I did the survey of 6th form students of our lyceum and found out that 95% of them think that colours have different meanings in different countries and cultures. I study English. I like this language and I am interested in English culture. I found out that 63% of students don't know what “red” means to Englishmen. I also ascertained that 47% of students think that “red” has similar meaning in Russian and English culture, 34% - different meanings and 19% don't know. There are lots of colours, but the red one has special and important meaning to Englishmen. That's why I the theme of my project work is “The colour red in English life”.

The results of the work can be useful both for teachers and for students studying English and trying to understand English culture.



What is red in England?

The meaning of the colour red according to psychology.

For Englishmen the colour red is a warm and positive as for the most Europeans. The colour associated with the most physical needs and the will to survive. It exudes a strong and powerful masculine energy. It excites the emotions and motivates to take action. The colour signifies a pioneering spirit and leadership qualities, promoting ambition and determination. Red is also strong-willed and can give confidence to those who are shy or lacking in will power. Being the colour of physical movement, the red colour awakens physical life force. It intimates passions in people, such as love on the positive side or revenge and anger on the negative. Englishmen are often used red to express love.

Besides, the red colour can stimulate the appetite, often being used in restaurants for this purpose. It also increases craving for food and other stimuli. Being surrounded by too many red things a person can become irritated, agitated and ultimately angry. Too little quantity of the colour can lead to becoming cautious, manipulative and fearful.

So, for Englishmen positive keywords of red include: action, energy and speed, attention-getting, assertive and confident, energizing, stimulating, exciting, powerful, passionate, stimulating and driven, courageous and strong, spontaneous and determined. As for negative keywords of red, they include: aggressive and domineering, over-bearing, tiring, angry and quick-tempered, ruthless, fearful and intolerant, rebellious and obstinate, resentful, violent and brutal.

But the colour red takes a special place in English life. There are some official, semi-official and non-official red symbols in England. I found out that 41 % of students don't know any red historical symbols of England, 59 % know some of them

The official red English symbols

The official red English symbols you can see almost on the all official elements of that state. The Union Flag, commonly known as the Union Jack, is the flag of the United Kingdom, as well as a flag with an official or semi-official status in some Commonwealth realms.

The origins of the flag date back to 1603, when James VI of Scotland inherited the English and Irish thrones (as James I), thereby uniting the crowns of England, Scotland and Ireland in a personal union (which remained separate states). On 12 April 1606, a new flag to represent this regal union between England and Scotland was specified in a royal decree, according to which the flag of England



(a red cross on a white background, known as St George's Cross), and the flag of Scotland (a

white saltire on a blue background, known as St Andrew's Cross), would be joined together, forming the flag of Great Britain and first union flag. The current design dates from the Union of Great Britain and Ireland in 1801. The flag combines aspects of three national flags: the red cross of Saint George, the red saltire of Saint Patrick's Flag, and the Flag of Scotland.

The national flag of England bears a red coloured cross on a white background. The cross stretches from right to left and top to bottom, its intersection in the center of the rectangle, and is known as St. George's Cross. The Cross is also a representation of the official arms of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, a knighthood system. The white background of the flag recalls the plain white clothes worn by the soldiers in their battles.

St. George's Cross has been one of the most prominent and oldest known ensigns of England. The cross has likely represented England since the Middle Ages and gained significance during the Crusades. St. George's Cross is symbolic of Saint George, the patron saint of England, adopted as such in the thirteenth century. Saint George is best known for his role in the legendary tale of a terrible dragon that controlled the countryside. Saint George, in order to protect the princess, fought the dragon after fortifying himself with the Sign of the Cross, and demanding the townspeople become baptized Christians. England's Essex village, Wormingford lays claims to the saint and his story, and St. George's Cross and the dragon have become local and national symbols. The flag was officially approved in the sixteenth century, and today, the flag of England forms a significant part of the UK flag's design.

Moreover, the red colour was chosen as one of the official colours for the Flags of British Army and Navy. The red flag in the British Navy exists since 17th century and symbolizes the "call to a battle".

The Royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom is the official coat of arms of the British monarch, currently Queen Elizabeth II. These arms are used by the Queen in her official capacity as monarch of the United Kingdom, and are officially known as her Arms of Dominion. And it contains the red colour as well as other official emblems and symbols.

The Royal Arms of England is a coat of arms symbolizing England and its monarchs. We can see three identical gold lions (also known as leopards) with blue tongues and claws, walking and facing the observer, arranged in a column on a red background. This coat, designed in the High Middle Ages, has been variously combined with those of France, Scotland, Ireland,



Nassau and Hanover, according to dynastic and other political changes affecting England, but has not itself been altered since the reign of Richard I.

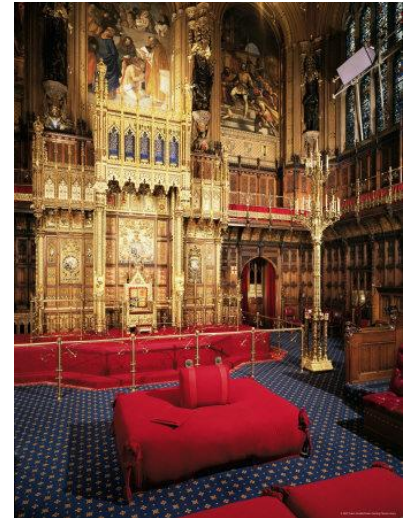
The red colour is a really royal one. The Queen likes this colour and she has a lot of red clothing. Different royal things are red too. The soldiers of the Royal Army wear the red uniform. The Queen's Guard are the names given to



contingents of infantry and cavalry soldiers charged with guarding the official royal residences in the United Kingdom. The Queen's Guard are responsible for guarding Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace in London. They usually consist of Foot Guards wearing full-dress uniform of red tunics and bearskins (hats).

The Woolsack is a large, wool-stuffed red cushion. Woolsack is the seat of the Lord Speaker in the House of Lords, the Upper House of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The tradition exists due to the fact that Great Britain became great thanks to trading wool. So the red woolsack symbolized wealthy of that country.

I also ascertained that 93% of students know some red things in England.



Semi - official and non - official English red symbols.

Great Britain is a unique place where many cultures exist for more than a thousand years, a place where traditions are cherished, are able to admire the new and objectively accept the original. There are several British characters, they are all different, but United by one feature... bright red colour. It is very foggy in Great Britain and you can see the red things very well. In the UK there are a lot of red things. The most part of them became the symbols of their country.



The red double-decker buses in London have become a national symbol of England and British Isles. The majority of buses in London are double-deckers. Right after the Second World War the first double-decker buses were the AEC Regent II and AEC Regent III models. A particularly iconic example was the Route Master bus, which had been a staple of the public transport network in London for nearly half a century.

Another recognizable red symbol of the UK is red telephone boxes. The first phone booth appeared in the United Kingdom in 1920. Giles Gilbert Scott developed the basic design of cast iron for all future red phone booths. The standard was made from concrete and identified K1. Even 20 years ago red telephone booths were on every corner of the streets in London. Despite their number has reduced, there are quite many places there you can still see the red telephone boxes, including in the overseas territories of the UK (Bermuda, Gibraltar). Red was



chosen for better detection.

Pillar boxes are red free-standing post boxes. They are found in the United Kingdom and in most former countries of the British Empire, members of the Commonwealth of Nations and British overseas territories, such as Australia, Cyprus, India, Gibraltar, Hong Kong and others. Pillar boxes were provided in territories administered by the United Kingdom, such as Mandatory Palestine, and territories with Agency postal services provided by the British Post Office such as Bahrain, Dubai, Kuwait and Morocco. The United Kingdom also exported pillar boxes to countries that ran their own postal services, such as Argentina, Portugal and Uruguay.



Mail is deposited in pillar boxes to be collected by the Royal Mail, An Post or the appropriate postal operator and forwarded to the addressee. The boxes have been in use since 1852, just twelve years after the introduction of the first adhesive postage stamps and uniform penny post.

Mail may also be deposited in lamp boxes or wall boxes that serve the same purpose as pillar boxes but are attached to a post or set into a wall. According to the Letter Box Study Group, there are more than 150 recognized designs and varieties of pillar boxes and wall boxes, not all of which have known surviving examples. Royal Mail estimates there are over 100,000 post boxes in the United Kingdom.

There is the famous Royal Greenwich Observatory in Great Britain. To help others synchronize their clocks to GMT, AR John Pond had a time ball installed atop the observatory in 1833. The ball is red. It still drops daily to mark the exact moment of 1 pm (13:00) year - round (GMT during winter and BST during summer).



The red rose is one the most recognizable symbols of England. It comes from the history of the country. This symbol goes back to the War of the Roses, which was the war within the country. In the 15th century two Houses were struggling for the English throne - the House of Lancaster and the House of York.

The red rose was the emblem of the House of Lancaster and the white rose was that of the House of York. Their rival ended when King Henry VII, the Lancastrian, married Princess Elizabeth of York. Since that time the red rose has become the national emblem of England.

The actual flower of England is sure to be the red rose. However, red poppies are worn in the week around Remembrance Day (11th of November). This is done to mark the anniversary of



the end of World War I, and in respect to soldiers who have died in subsequent wars. It is a reference to the poppies which grew in the battlefields of Belgium and France, where thousands of soldiers were killed (unlike World War II, fighting was very concentrated and thousands of soldiers died in the same battlefields). November, 11 two minutes of silence are held at 11am, the time when the Armistice was signed. On that day many people in GB including media persons and the members of the Royal Family wear red poppies on their clothes.

There is red not only on the official, semi - and non - official symbols but the colour surrounds a daily life of a typical Englishman. The red colour is the colour of different holidays which are traditionally important for English people. Matching with green, the red one is the colour of Christmas and New Year: a lot of decorations are red; Santa Clause's clothes are red, etc. Red is the traditional colour of St. Valentine's Day which is very popular with the English speaking people. Men give red roses to women, people wrap their presents into red paper, and almost all the cards contain the red colour.



Red Nose Day is an important day for Englishmen. It is the main way in which Comic Relief raises money. The first Red Nose Day (RND) was held on 5 February 1988, when it was launched as a National Day of Comedy, and since then they have been on the second or third Friday in March. RND 2011 was on 18 March. The concept was created by Wendy Crossman, the fundraising director of Comic Relief. Red Nose Day is often treated as a semi-holiday; for example, many schools have red-themed non-

uniform days (i.e. the pupils have to wear something red as part of their non-uniform attire). The day culminates in a live telethon event on BBC One, starting in the evening and going through into the early hours of the morning, but other money-raising events take place. As the name suggests, the day involves the wearing of plastic/foam red noses which are available, in exchange for a donation, from Sainsbury's and Oxfam shops.

On Friday 31 July 1925 the British government agreed to the demands of the Miners Federation of Great Britain to provide a subsidy to the mining industry to maintain miners' wages. The Daily Herald called this day Red Friday; a union defeat four years earlier



had been called "Black Friday". It is a holiday and an important date in the British history.

Football is known to be the most favourite sport in England. Englishmen are really crazy about football. They are proud of the fact that England is a Motherland of the game. So, many English football clubs contain the red colour in their emblems and forms, for example, Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester United Football Club. Moreover, the Manchester United club's nickname "The Red Devils".

“Red” in English language

Language is known to be the expression of mentality of a society. We can understand any society and culture through the language.

So, red finds its expression in the English language, for example, through the idiomatic expressions. It was interesting to know that only 37% of students know some English idioms with “red”.

The idiom “*the red carpet*” means special treatment that is given to an important person when they go somewhere. “Roll out the red carpet” is to give an important person a special welcome.

“*Red tape*” is about official rules that do not seem necessary and make things happen very slowly, bureaucratic paperwork. “Cut through the red tape” means to come basic point.

“*Catch someone red-handed*” to discover someone doing something illegal or wrong. “*Red-hot*” means extremely hot, very exciting or successful. “*Go beet(root) red*” or “*go as red as a beet(root)*” is to become very red in the face, usually because you are embarrassed.

Also, when one's ears are red from embarrassment Englishmen say “*ears are red*”, “*red in the face*” – when someone is embarrassed.

“*Be in the red*” is to owe money to a bank, to be in debt; “*out of the red*” means “out of debt”. “*Be like red rag to a bull*” is used if a statement or an action is like a red rag to a bull, it makes someone very angry. The idiom “*not a red cent*” means no money at all. “*A red eye*” means a flight that leaves late at night and arrives early the next morning.

The idiom “*a red herring*” is about something that takes people's attention away from the main subject being talked or written about.

About special days Englishmen say “*red-letter days*”. “*Be on full / red alert*” - if soldiers are on full alert, they know that a situation is dangerous and are prepared to act immediately if necessary. “*Red as a cherry*” and “*red as a poppy*” are equal to bright red.

The expression “*red as a rose*” means intensely red, “*red as a ruby*” - deep red, “*red as blood*” - deep red.

Englishmen say “*red mist*” if someone sees red or the red mist, they lose their temper and self-control completely. The expression “*to be shown the red card*” means “to be dismissed from job”, “*a red neck*” means an ignorant, insensitive person. “*Red ticket item*” means a special item. About people who are usually hot-tempered and high-spirited in England people say “*red-headed*”. So, there are a lot of idioms with the concept “red” in the English language.

Conclusion

In English culture red colour is really of great importance. Napoleon said once: “Red is the colour of England. I can't stand his kin”. The reason for this is the prevalence of red probably is that the red colour symbolizes the blood, fire, anger, war, revolution, force and courage.

You can see the red colour almost everywhere in Great Britain. All the official flags contain red. British soldiers wear uniforms of red. The red double – decked buses go in London, and you can take them when you are there. Mail boxes and telephone booths in England are red. A national emblem of England is red rose. There are “red” holidays such as St. Valentine’s Day, Red Nose Day, Red Friday and so on. There is red in sports too.

A lot of the idioms with the concept “red” are widely used for description of different phenomena and situations in human life in Great Britain. It shows how this concept is important for English speakers. So, all the tasks are solved and the aim is achieved.

I hope the research work has caused keen interest to the matter of the work.



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Enclosure №1 Questions for survey “THE COLOUR RED IN ENGLISH LIFE”

1) *Do colours have the same meanings in different countries and cultures?*

a) Yes b) No c) I don't know

2) *Do you know what does “red” mean to Englishmen?*

a) Yes b) No c) I don't know

3) *Do you know what is red in England?*

a) Yes, I know some things. b) No

4) *Does “red” have similar meaning in Russian and English culture?*

a) Yes b) No c) I don't know

5) *Do you know any red historical symbols of England?*

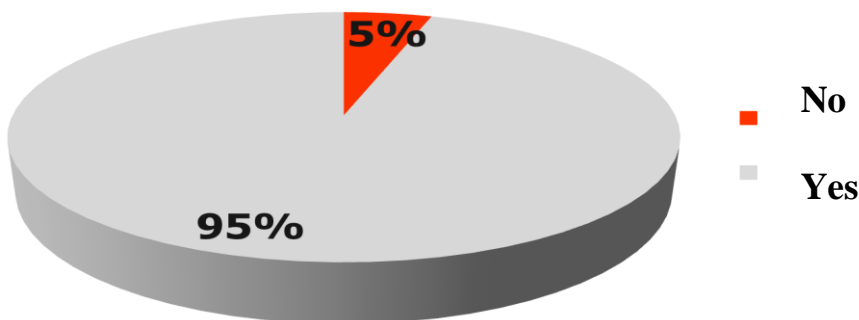
a) Yes, I know some. b) No

6) *Do you know any English idioms with the word “red”?*

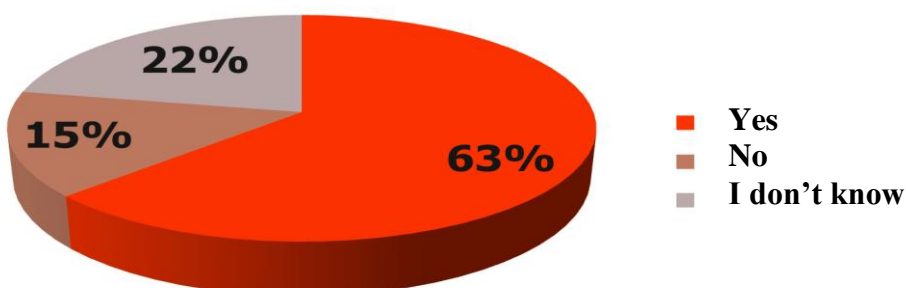
a) Yes, I know some. b) No

Enclosure №2 The results of the survey.

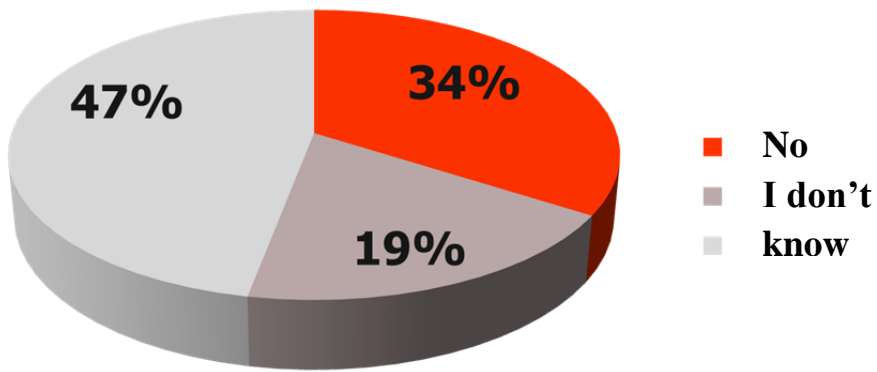
Do colours have the same meanings in different countries and cultures?



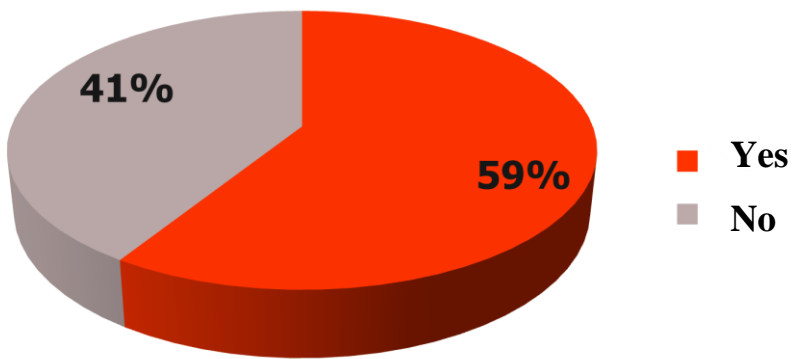
Do you know what does “red” mean to Englishmen?



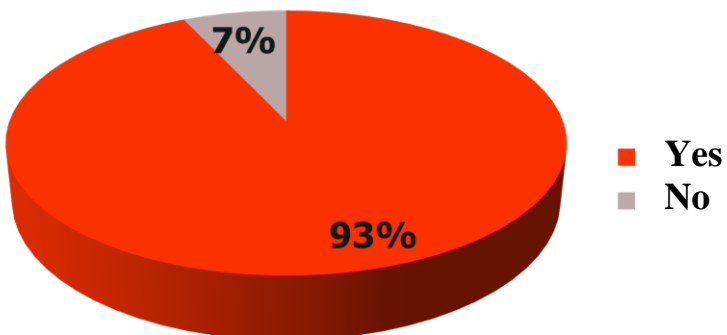
Does “red” have similar meaning in Russian and English culture?



Do you know any red historical symbols of England?



Do you know what is red in England?



Do you know any English idioms with the word “red”?

