



All About England

by the Global Literacy focus group teachers
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English music

In our box 'all about England' we would have a **CDEC of music, "from monks to Motorhead"** to represent historical music tradition up to English rock and pop music. This would represent all English music and the youth music culture.



Canal boat



England is criss-crossed by canals and these are an important part of our industrial heritage. **A canal boat** is a beautiful sight. Some English people live in canal boats; and many English people will enjoy a canal boat holiday at sometime in their life.

Red post box

This is an iconic image of England – the **red post box** with the crown and initials of the reigning monarch. The English are often fond of iconic items like this and can be unhappy when they are modernised.



Flag of St George



A sense of identity for the other nations of Great Britain is very strong (Scotland and Wales) but we sometimes feel that we aren't allowed to celebrate Englishness. The **flag of St George** has been used by far right groups and can have overtones of racism, which is unfortunate because it makes the English feel as though the flag cannot be celebrated.

Roses – national flower

The national flower of England is **the rose**. The flower has been adopted as England's emblem since the time of the Wars of the Roses - civil wars (1455-1485) between the royal house of Lancaster (whose emblem was a red rose) and the royal house of York (whose emblem was a white rose).



Waiting in a queue



People from other countries often comment on how the English love to **wait in a queue**. Generally this is true – and pushing to the front of the queue is seen by most people as quite wrong!

Cricket



The game of **cricket** seems a very English sport, and this item represents all the sports that we love in England.

Generally, the English think of themselves as a great sporting nation and we watch a lot of sports on the television too.

Cup & saucer; teabag; teapot; milk

Our box would include a cup & saucer, a teabag & teapot, and a bottle of milk. This reflects some English people's love for tea (made in the pot NOT in the cup, and with milk). It represents our historical links with other countries - growing tea in India for our own consumption. We now promote Fairtrade for products such as tea, which is ironic because the farmer's rights were not well respected in our colonial past. Finally, it reflects rural England and our own farmers – cows in the fields and milk delivered to the doorstep.



Raincoat



People from other countries often notice that the English talk about the weather almost like a greeting: *“Good morning. Lovely weather”*.

The **raincoat** represents our geography – an island on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean – and we are so interested in the weather because it is unpredictable from day to day.

Raincoats are part of life and children love playing out in the rain.

Clock / watch

We felt that 'knowing the time' is a big part of our daily lives, and **clocks and watches** are very important to us. The working day is ruled by the clock and many of our activities are built around appointments, meeting times and deadlines. The most famous English clock is Big Ben, the clock on the Houses of Parliament. Television and radio news programmes play the sound of Big Ben striking several times every day.





A welcome mat

We think of ourselves as a very welcoming nation, so we have included **a welcome mat**, which is something that many houses will have on their doorstep. It represents our diversity and openness as a nation, as a country that has always welcomed refugees and immigrants, and also that the English people all have a mixed heritage – based on the Norman, Celtic, Viking, Saxon and other settlers over the centuries.



The Olympic Torch

The English people love sports and we also love to think of ourselves as successful at international competitions. The **Olympic Torch** represents how proud and excited many of our children feel about London hosting the Olympic Games in 2012 and that the journey of the Olympic Torch around the country is getting many young people from lots of different communities involved.

