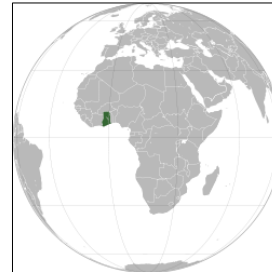


# Flag of Ghana - A Brief History



Where In The World



### Trivia

The current flag is the same one originally used in 1957.

### Technical Specification

<b>Adopted:</b>	1966
<b>Proportion:</b>	2:3
<b>Design:</b>	A red-gold-green horizontal tricolour with a black five-pointed star at the centre.

<b>Colours:</b>	<b>PMS</b>	Green:	335	Red:	032	Yellow:	109
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### Brief History

The First flag to be flown in the area was the Flag of the Ashanti Empire. A yellow-black-green horizontal tricolour. The area of Ghana under the Ashanti Empire would be renamed the Gold Coast.

The Portuguese also founded a colony on the Gold Coast in 1482 that lasted until it was ceded to the Dutch in 1637. The Flag used at this time was the Portuguese flag.



The Ashanti Empire



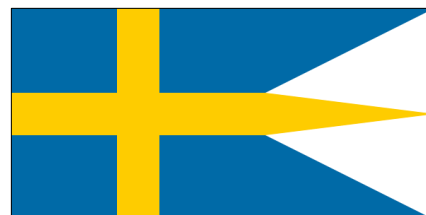
The Flag of Portugal Used in the Portuguese Gold Coast (1482 – 1637)

The Dutch set up a colony in 1598 that was administered by the Dutch West India Company. The Flag of the Dutch West India Company was a red-white-blue horizontal tricolour. Eventually The British took over the Dutch Gold Coast in 1872.

In 1650 the Swedish founded a colony in the Gold Coast that lasted roughly till 1663 when Denmark took control of the area. The Flag of Sweden would have been seen in the Swedish Gold Coast at this point in time.



The Flag of the Dutch West India Company (1592 – 1872)



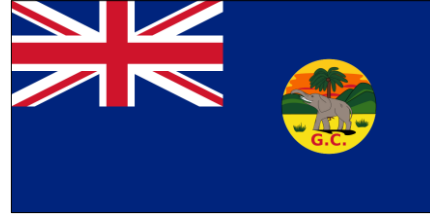
The State Flag of Sweden used in the Swedish Gold Coast (1650 - 1658 & 1660 - 1663)

The Germans also had a colony in the Gold Coast between 1682 and 1821. The Volta region was also part of the German protectorate of Togoland between 1884 and 1914. The Flag was a black-white-red tricolour with the Coat of Arms of the German Colonies at the centre.

There was also a Danish Gold Coast in 1658 that was eventually sold to Britain in 1850. The British colony of the Gold Coast was a blue ensign with the emblem of the Gold Coast in the centre right of the flag.



**The Flag of Togoland  
(1884 -1914)**



**The Blue Ensign of the British Colony of the Gold Coast  
(1827 – 1957)**

When the Gold Coast was granted independence from Britain in 1957 the name was changed to Ghana and the flag became a red-gold-green tricolour with a black five-pointed star. Two more black stars were added to the flag when the area joined with Guinea, and eventually Mali, to create the Union of African States in 1959.



**The Flag of Ghana  
(1957 -1959)**



**The Flag of the Union of African States  
(1959 – 1963)**

When Ghana split from the union in 1963 the national flag was changed back to a single black star and a white striper rather than the gold. This was changed again back to the original flag of Ghana in 1966. The colours of the flag represent the tradition Pan-African colours, the red symbolises bloodshed for independence, the gold for the mineral wealth and green for the natural wealth. The black star is the symbol of African emancipation. The national flag is also the flag of the President.

There is also a civil flag of Ghana that is a plain red field with a black-bordered flag of Ghana in the top left hand corner.



**The Flag of Ghana  
(1963 – 1966)**



**The Flag of Ghana  
(1966 to Present Day)**



**The Civil Ensign of Ghana**

**The Coat of Arms of Ghana**

The Coat of Arms of Ghana was adopted in 1957. It features a blue shield split into four by a green cross. Top left is a sword and staff that symbolises authority, top right is the Osu Castle symbolising government, and bottom left a cacao tree symbolising agriculture and bottom right a gold mine.

There is a gold tawny eagle with medal at either side of the shield. A black five pointed star symbolising freedom on top and a banner stating ‘FREEDOM AND JUSTICE’ underneath.



**The Ensigns of Ghana**

Here are some examples of the other ensigns of Ghana. The ensign of the Ghana Air Force is a light blue field with the national flag in the top left hand corner and a red-gold-green roundel in the centre right. The civil version of this flag replaces the roundel with a five-pointed black star.

The naval ensign is a St George's cross with a national flag in the top left hand corner.



**The Flag of the Ghana Air Force**



**The Civil Air Ensign of Ghana**



**The Naval Ensign of Ghana**