



Unit 5

Football Crests

Level: All

Preparation: Bring in some examples of football crests, badges or emblems. Check www.footballcrests.com before class.

In Class: Explain to your students that all national football teams have their own crest or badge. These represent aspects of the team's country.

For example, England's badge shows three lions, a symbol used on England football shirts since 1872. This is why the team is often called 'The three lions'.

The lion is the national animal and icon of England – it was used on the royal shield of Kings and Queens and as a nickname for famous kings and warriors such as Richard the Lionheart. The reason there are three is complicated: Henry I had the lion as his symbol and then he added another as his wife's father also had a lion as his symbol, and then Henry II's wife's symbol was also a lion so a third lion was added to the shield!

Students should look at the crests of the 16 teams in the Euro 2012 tournament.

Go to: <http://www.uefa.com> > 'teams' > click on the flags. Give the students these descriptions. Which team's emblem is it?

1. *This country's badge has got a cockerel.*
 2. *This country's badge has got a white eagle with a crown.*
 3. *This country's badge has got a lion.*
 4. *This country's badge has got a lion's head with a crown.*
 5. *This country's badge has got a black eagle.*
 6. *This country's badge has got an eagle with two heads.*
- [answers: 1. France; 2. Poland; 3. Czech Republic; 4. Netherlands; 5. Germany; 6. Russia]

Discuss It:

- *Which is your favourite football crest? Why?*
- *What animals are popular for crests? Why? Which animals don't you see?*
- *What is your country's crest? Find out why you have that crest/badge.*

Extension: Ask students to pick a country and design a new crest for their team, using the outline on page 141 of *English through Football*. Students must describe their new crest, and explain why they chose their design.