Letâ€™s hear it for flags!

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Chances are that you will have come across all sorts of flags before. The humble flag is a versatile item which is used to mark territory and denote membership of everything from a geographical division to the fan base of a professional football team.

Flags have been around almost as long as humans have. Ancient civilisations that existed thousands of years ago such as the Romans made use of fabrics which were adorned with patterns, colours, emblems and motifs. The intervening years have only cemented the position of flags as instruments of politics and governance

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Flags are inextricably linked with national or sub-national identity. Patriotism is something which is shown through an allegiance to a flag and many people are proud to carry the colours of their country. Flags are also used for smaller divisions than countries as well.

Provincial ethnic groups or areas sometimes feel more solidarity with local partitions. For instance in the UK the people of Wales and Scotland are proud of their roots and are not afraid to show it through their choice of flags. In the provinces of Spain cultural and political divisions are much more pronounced, with Basques tenaciously clinging to their own flags and identity.

In the UK county flags, which usually carry some sort of image related to the heritage of the county in question, depicting and animal or symbol of an industry which is associated with, have existed for centuries. However on special occasions such as the Queenâ€™s Diamond Jubilee Union Jack flags and bunting are used to create a party atmosphere.

Symbolism aside, few could deny that many flags are simply beautiful to behold. Many incorporate bold colours and distinct designs which are instantly recognisable. Indeed when you admire them from an artistic point of view flags are very interesting things. Add to that the fact they are steeped in history and have huge cultural significance and it is easy to see why they are so attention-grabbing.

If you are looking for flags then Flyingcolours.org boasts a great selection of high quality ones. You can also get bunting from the website.

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