

English Traditions

Fancy, Gary, Thomas, Yuan¹

Ningbo Xiaoshi High School

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¹<https://xrdrsp.github.io>, xrdrsp@gmail.com

Abstract

England is a country that is part of the United Kingdom. It covers about two-thirds of the island of Great Britain and has a population of about 56 million people.

England has a rich and diverse heritage that has influenced many aspects of its culture. From its literature and music to its sports and cuisine, England has a lot to offer to both locals and visitors. Some of the most notable English culture and traditions is displayed here for you to encounter.

Fancy, Gary, Thomas and Yuan (in alphabetical order) are our group members. Yuan is the presenter.

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Tea (with Biscuits, Obviously!)

Tea is more than just a drink in England; it is a **social ritual** that can be enjoyed at any time of the day. According to introduction given by search engines, whether it is a morning brew, an afternoon tea with bread and jam, or a relaxing cup before bed, tea is an essential part of English life. Many people also like to have biscuits with their tea, such as digestives, custard creams or hobnobs.



Fig. 2.1 English Tea and Biscuits 1 (source: <https://static.independent.co.uk/s3fs-public/thumbnails/image/2018/04/18/15/tea-biscuits.jpg>)

History of English Tea

The tea was first brought to Britain in the early 17th century by **the East India Company**.



Fig. 2.2 English Tea and Biscuits 2 (source:

<https://www.parkgrandpaddingtoncourt.co.uk/blog/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Tea.jpg>)

Disclaimer: Sources of images would no longer be displayed here in the following frames; please contact xdrsp for more information

Fish and Chips

Fish and chips is a traditional English dish that consists of fried **fish** fillets and thick-cut **fries**. Fish and chips is a popular takeaway food that can be found in many restaurants and pubs across England.

There are different types of fish that can be used for fish and chips, but the most common ones are **cod**, haddock and pollock. These are thick white fish that have a **mild** flavor and a **flaky** texture.



Fig. 2.3 Two cods

History of Fish and Chips

Fish and chips became popular in England in the late 19th century, when railways made fresh fish more widely available and cheap. The dish was influenced by the **Jewish** tradition of frying fish. Fish and chips shops became a common sight in urban areas, especially among the working class who enjoyed the filling and affordable meal.



Fig. 2.4 A symbol of Judaism

Fish and Chips



Fig. 2.5 Fish and Chips

Music

Music in England has evolved from ancient times to the modern era, influenced by various cultures and genres from other countries. One of the most famous bands from England is The Beatles, who were formed in Liverpool in 1960. They are widely regarded as one of the most influential and successful bands in history, with songs like “Hey Jude” , “Let It Be” , “Yesterday” , “Here Comes The Sun” , etc., according to the Internet.

Do you like The Beatles?

What is your favorite song by them?

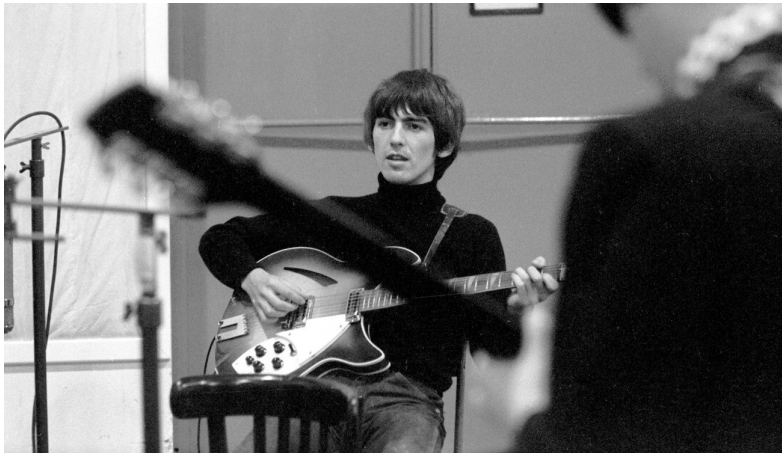


Fig. 3.1 George Harrison from the Beatles

Sir Edward Elgar

In the field of Serious or Classical music, Sir Edward Elgar was a famous **composer** who lived from 1857 to 1934. He wrote many orchestral works such as the Violin Concerto, the Cello Concerto, and symphonies. He also wrote choral works, chamber music, songs etc.

He was knighted in 1904 for his contribution to British music and culture.

Example

Here is a link to a Bilibili video of performance of his Serenade for Strings in E minor, Op.20, which *Roger* recommended to Yuan formerly: <https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV15B4y1P7Lk>



Fig. 3.2 A little bit of the draft of Sir Elgar's 3rd Symphony, Op. 88

Miscellaneous

A series of classical music concerts are held annually in London, e. g. performances by London Symphony Orchestra and London Philharmonic Orchestra.

William Shakespeare, who all of us are familiar to, was a English poet, playwright, and actor who lived from 1564 to 1616. He is widely regarded as the greatest writer in English language and one of the most influential figures in world literature. His works have been translated into many languages and performed all over the world.

Miscellaneous

Morris dancing is a traditional English dance that is still performed today. Dancers wear traditional costumes and bells are attached to their legs as they perform steps to lively music. Another form of traditional English dance is the country dance, which was popular in the 17th and 18th centuries and is still performed at social events and weddings today.



Fig. 3.3 Morris Dance

English Festivals

English festivals are various events that celebrate the culture, history, and traditions of England. They can be religious, musical, artistic, or historical.

Glastonbury Festival

This is one of the most famous music festivals in the world, featuring a variety of genres and artists. It is held every June on a farm near Glastonbury town.



Fig. 4.1 Glastonbury Festival 2019

Jorvik Viking Festival

This is a festival that commemorates the Viking heritage of York.
It takes place in February.



Fig. 4.2 Jorvik Viking Festival 2022

The traditions of England are diverse and rich, reflecting the country's unique history and culture. Whether it's listening to music, enjoying tea and biscuits or fish and chips, or dancing Morris, England offers a wealth of traditions that are deeply ingrained in its society and continue to be celebrated today.

Thank you!

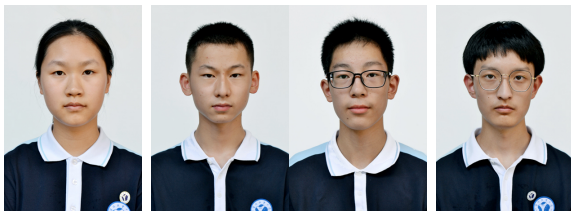


Fig. 5.1