Commonwealth Day Resource Pack

Commonwealth Day is an annual celebration of the Commonwealth Nations. In Britain, Commonwealth Day is normally celebrated on the second Monday of March.

For some countries of the Commonwealth, Commonwealth Day is a public holiday but in Britain it is not a public holiday. In Britain, Commonwealth Day is celebrated at Westminster Abbey attended by the Head of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth II. During the ceremony the Queen will address the Commonwealth Nations, this event is then broadcasted around the world. Up until 1958 Commonwealth Day was formally known as 'Empire Day'.

How to use the resource pack:

<u>**Communities/ Families**</u>

You can either download the flags individually or all in a pack. You can work in groups on by yourself to research the country named at the top. Once you have researched the colours of the flag you can colour them in using crayons, paints or other arts and craft material. These packs are aged for children 6 years and over.

Below the flag is a fun fact of the country. Using the fun fact you can research more on the country. If you are a community leader, you can split the group and one member can research the country and the other can decorate the flag. Or it can be decorated together.

Once you have finished you can talk amongst the group about the research you have found on the country.

Don't forget to tag in @bimcic once you have completed decorating the flags as a mention will appear on Believe in Me CIC social media page. You can either upload an image of yourself holding your decorated flag with a fact of the country or just the flag alone.

<u>**Schools**</u>

For teachers you can download all the flags as a pack or use individually. Get the students to discuss what they know about Commonwealth Day. Teachers can get students to select a country flag from the pack or randomly select flags. Students should then research the country discovering more fun facts and colour in the flags. To decorate the flags, students should research the colours and decorate them.
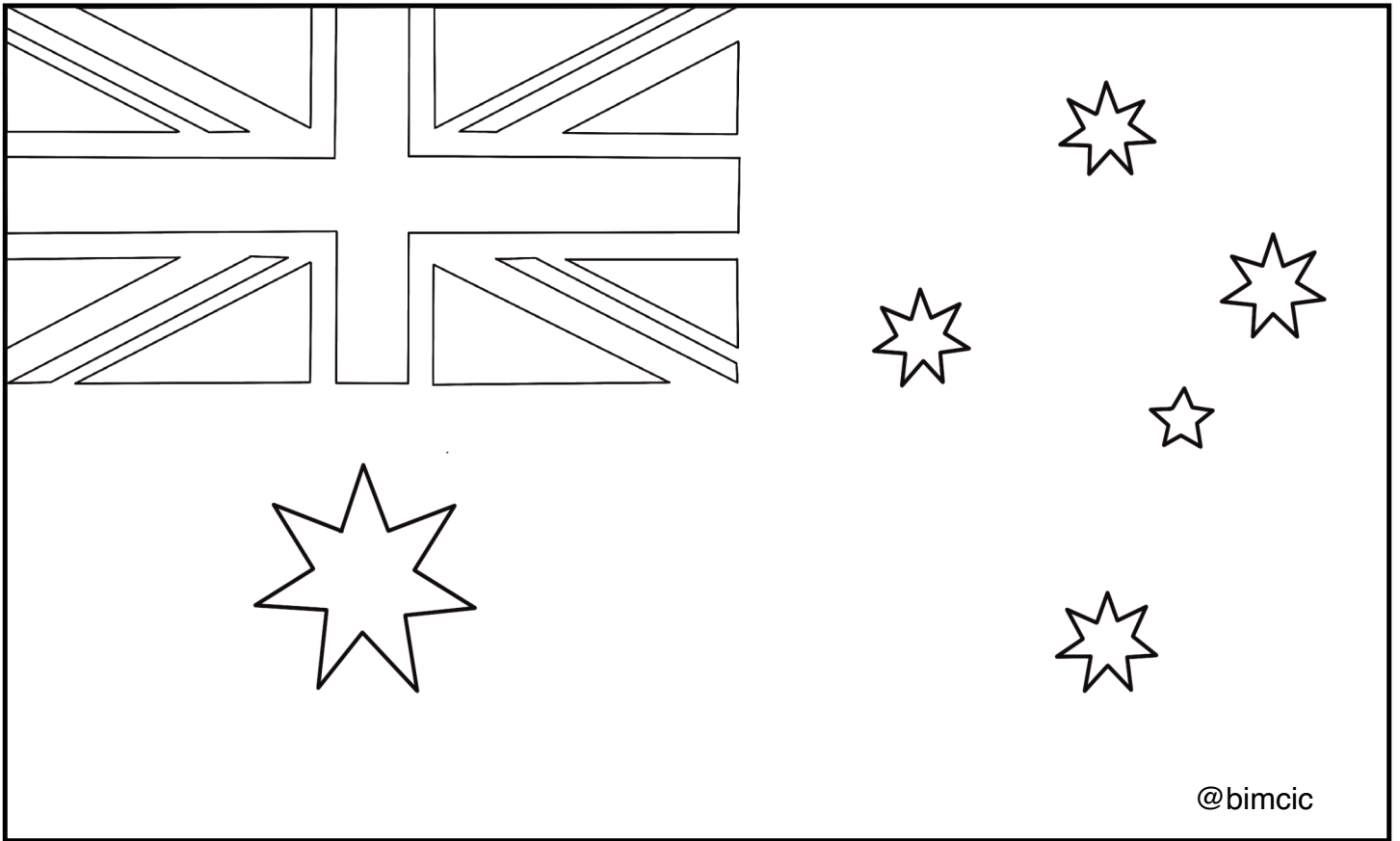
The fun fact of the country should help create conversations of that country and how Commonwealth contribution was important during the wars.

Don't forget to tag @bimcic once you have completed decorating the flags as a mention will appear on Believe in Me CIC social media page You can either upload an image of yourself holding your decorated flag with a fact of the country or just the flag alone. If you are a school, please state the school name.

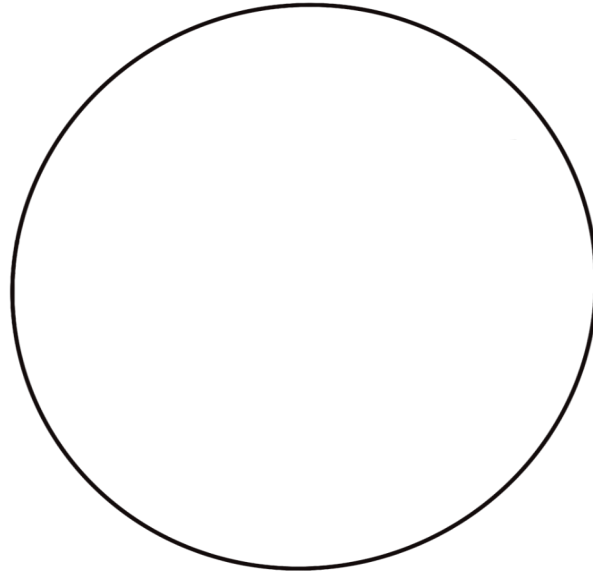For more information then please email kiran@bimcic.com or visit our website www.bimcic.com

Australia

Did you know...

On 10 October 1939, an aircraft and crew of No. 10 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), based in England for re-equipment, became the first Australian and the first Commonwealth air-force unit to go into action when it undertook a mission to Tunisia
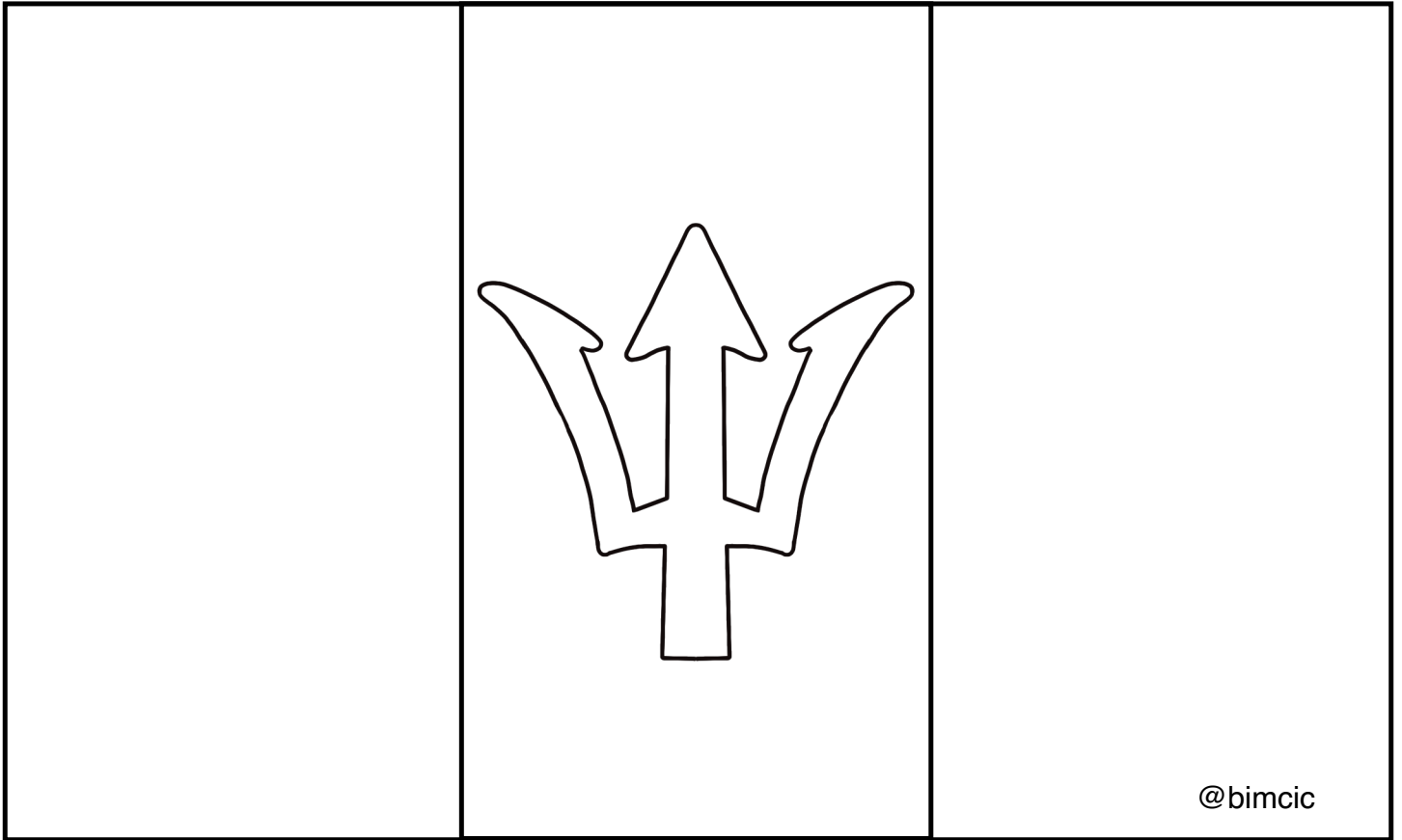
Bangladesh

Did you know...

Bangladesh was part of India during the Second World War. The Bengal famine of 1943 was a famine in the Bengal province of British India (now Bangladesh and eastern India) during the war. An estimated 2.1–3 million, out of a population of 60.3 million, died of starvation, malaria, and other diseases aggravated by malnutrition, population displacement, unsanitary conditions and lack of health care.

Barbados

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Did you know...

The First Prime Minister of Barbados, Errol Walton Barrow QC.
enlisted in the RAF during the Second World War and became a
navigator, before returning home to Barbados and starting his
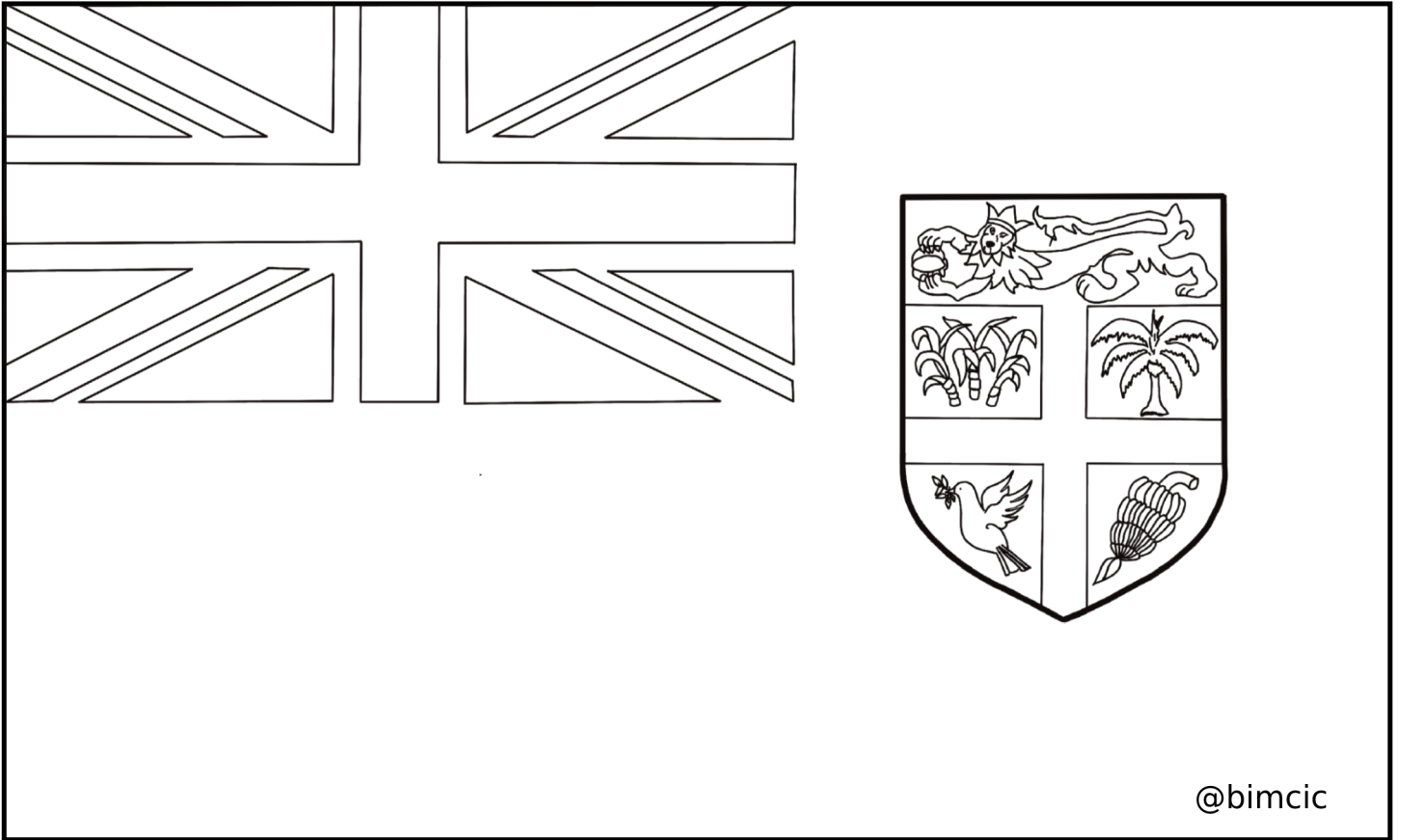political career.

Canada

Did you know...

During the D Day Allied invasion of France the Canadian Forces were assigned their own section of beach to attack up, codenamed Juno Beach.
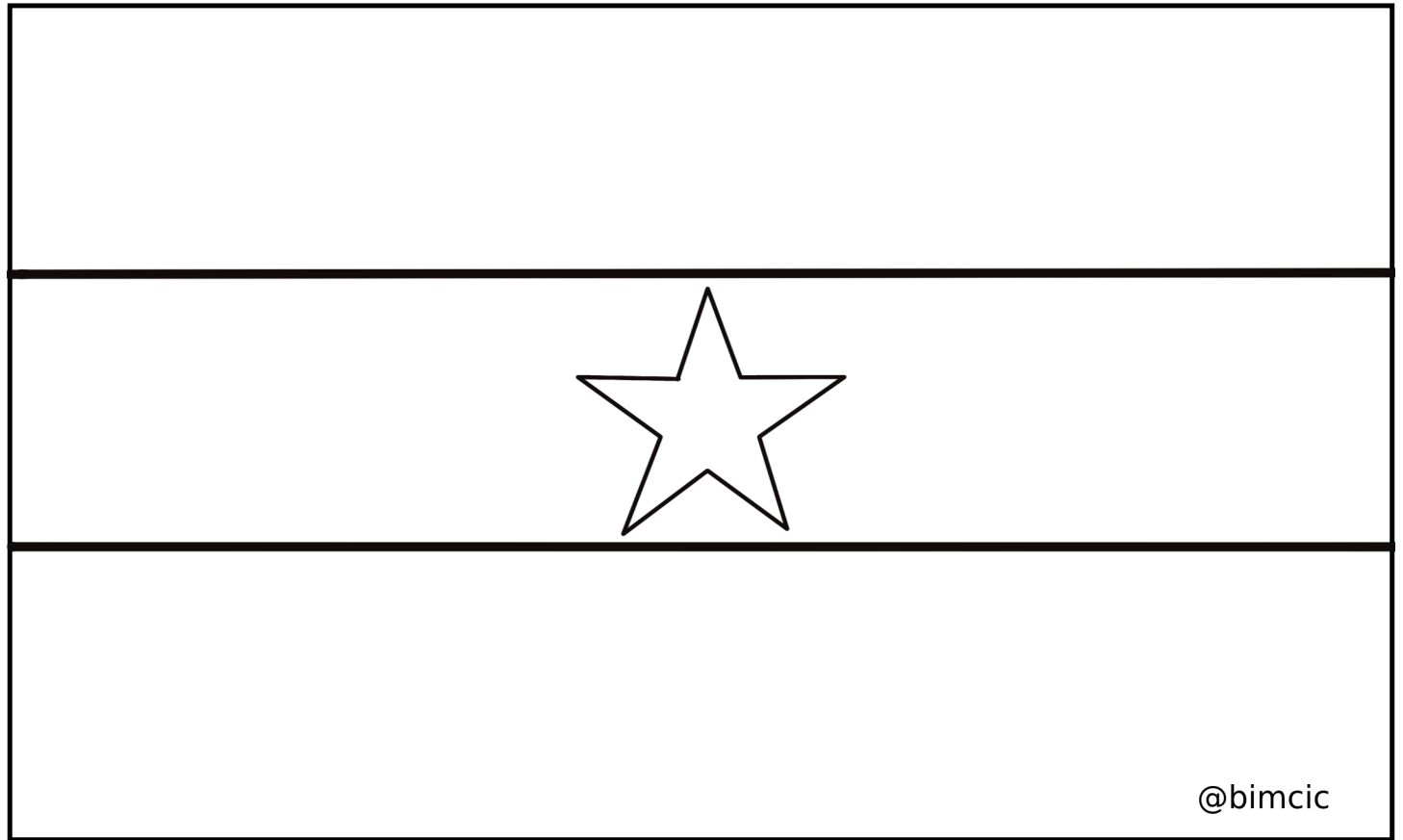
@bimcic

Fiji

Did you know...

The Fijian Infantry Regiment was formed during the Second World War, in which thousands of Fijians served in, serving alongside Australian forces in the Pacific to keep the Japanese from the Fijian Islands.
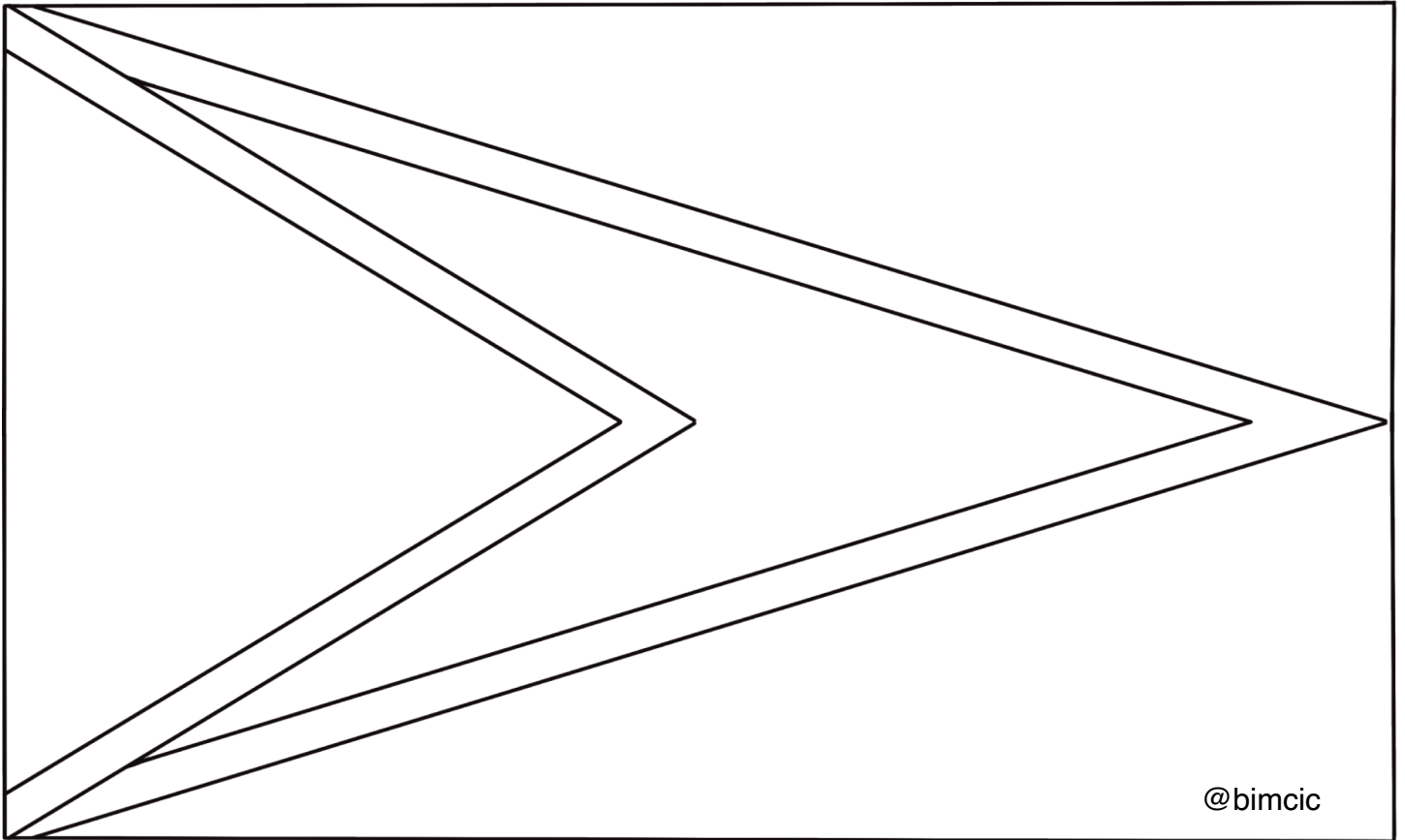
Ghana

Did you know...

Ghana was known as the Gold Coast at the time of the Second World War, during which it provided men and women for the military services and was an important supply of resources for war production.

Guyana

@bimcic

Did you know...

Volunteers from the island served in Caribbean Forces and the British regular forces. Some Guyanese students in Britain also volunteered for military service. Among them was E. R. Braithwaite, who later wrote the classic To Sir, With Love; he served as crew member in the Royal Air Force.
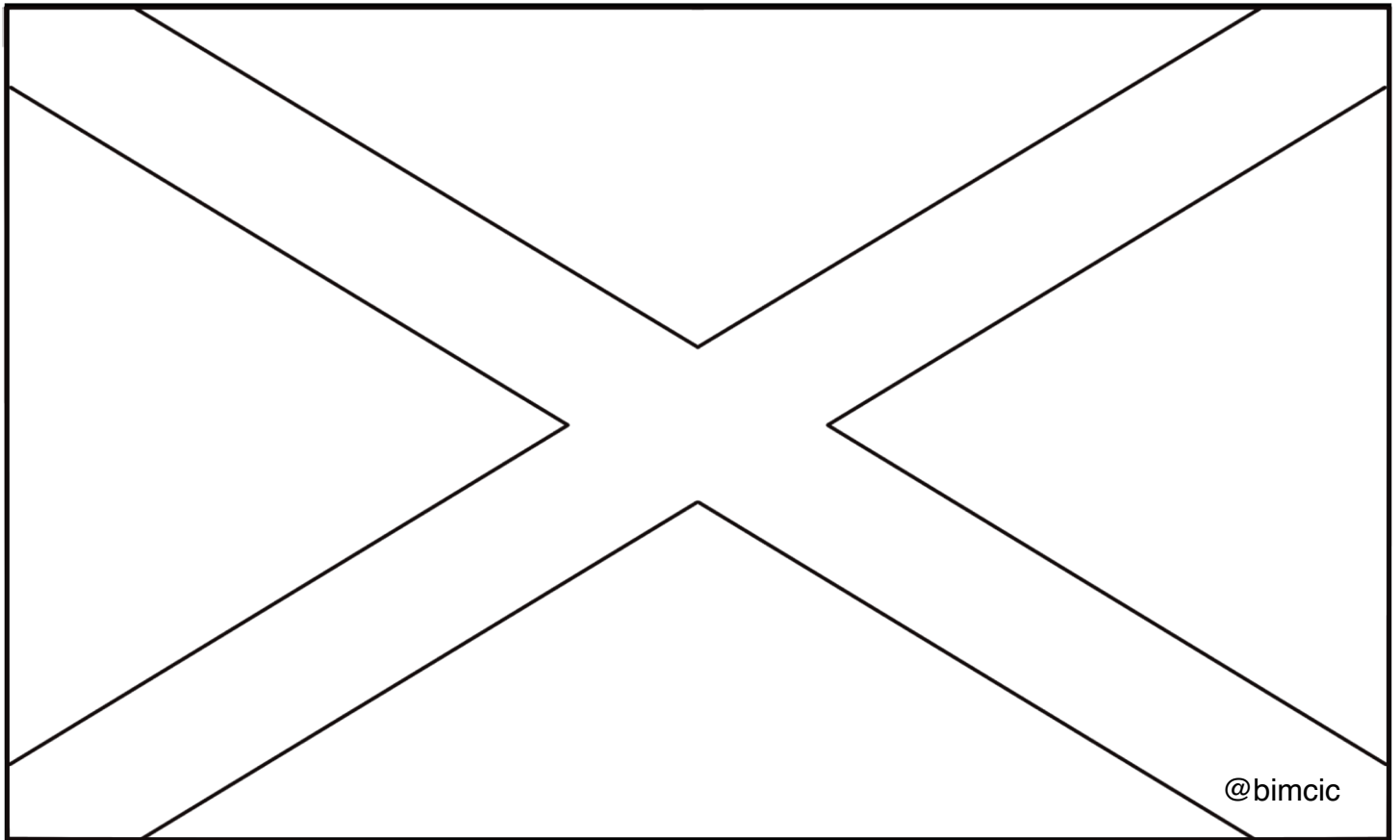
India

Did you know...

In 1939 the British Indian Army numbered 205,000 men. It took in volunteers and by 1945 was the largest all-volunteer force in history, rising to over 2.5 million men.
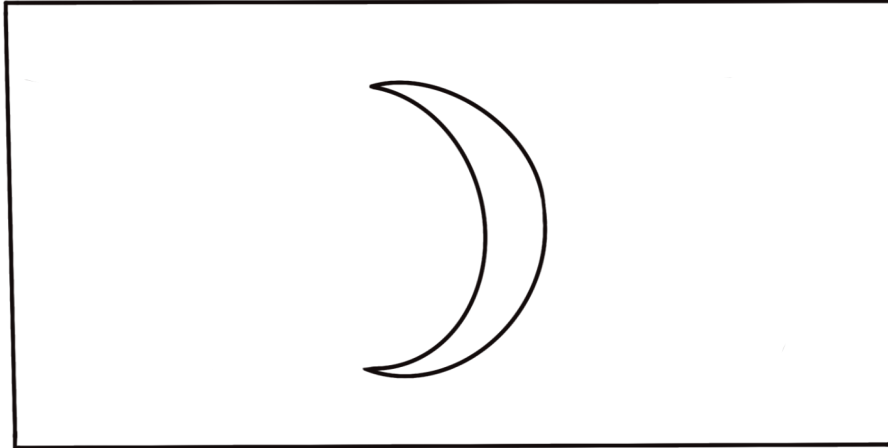
Jamaica

@bimcic

Did you know...

Men from Jamaica served in the Caribbean regiment and the West Indies regiments as well as regular British regiments. Women from the Island also volunteered serving in the WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) and the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service).

Maldives

Did you know...

During World War II, in 1942 the RAF had its bases in the islands of Addu Atoll, Maldives.
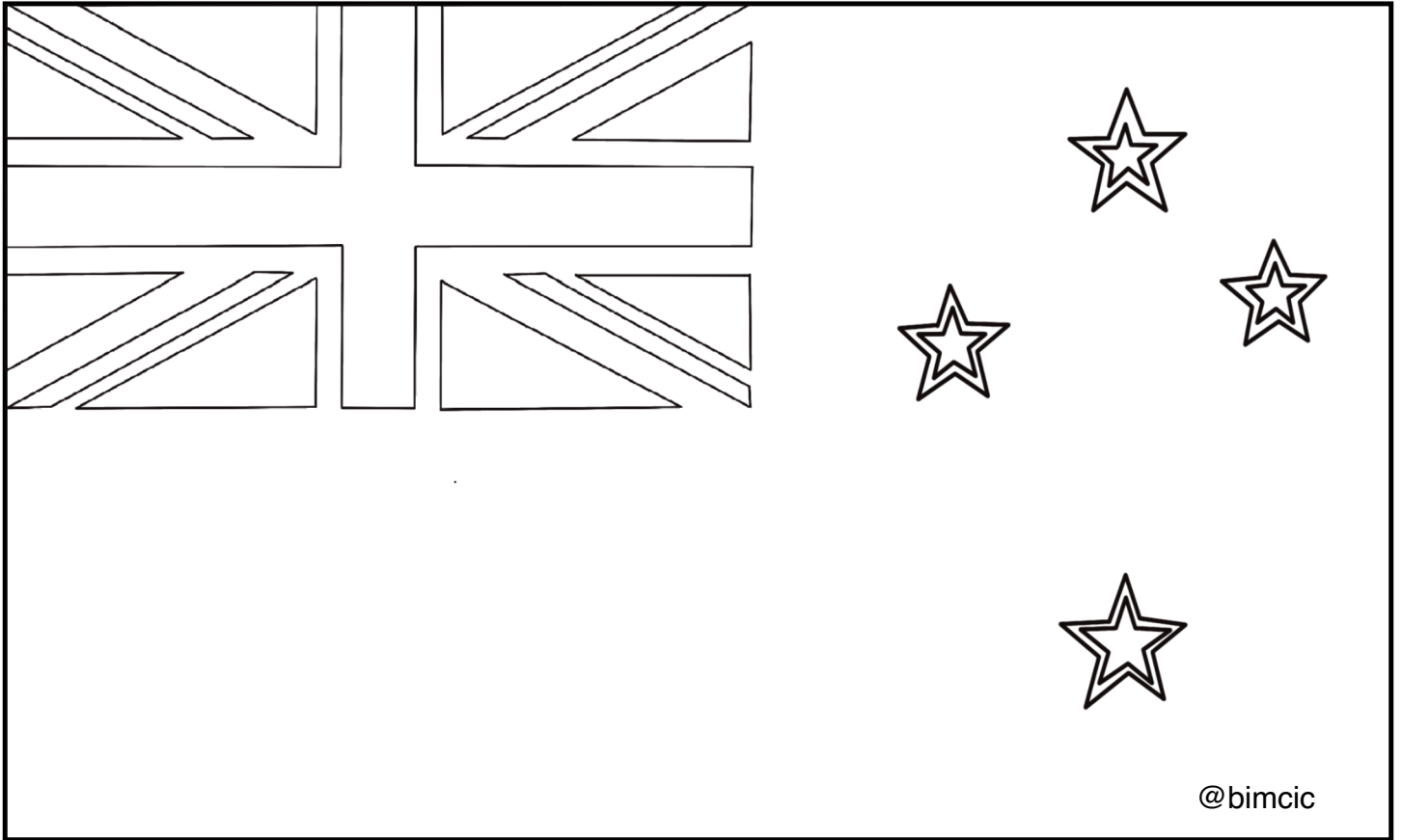
Malta

FOR GALLANTRY

Did you know...

In 1940 German and Italian Forces attacked the Island of Malta, then a British Colony, then from 1940 to 1942 they held the Island under siege. After the war King George VI awarded the entire island of Malta and its residents the George Cross for bravery – the Cross is now a central part of the Malta flag.
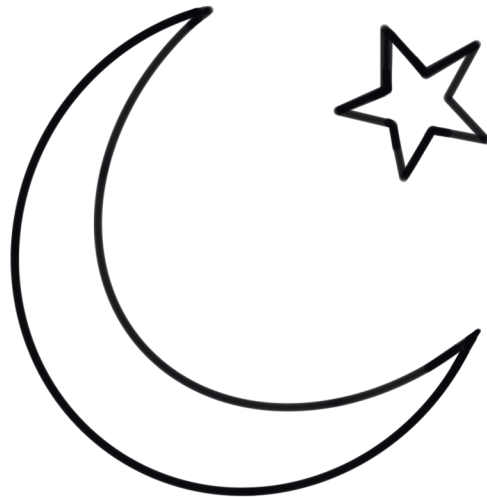
New Zealand

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Did you know...

After the Second World War it was calculated that New Zealand's
ratio of killed per million of population (at 6684) was the highest
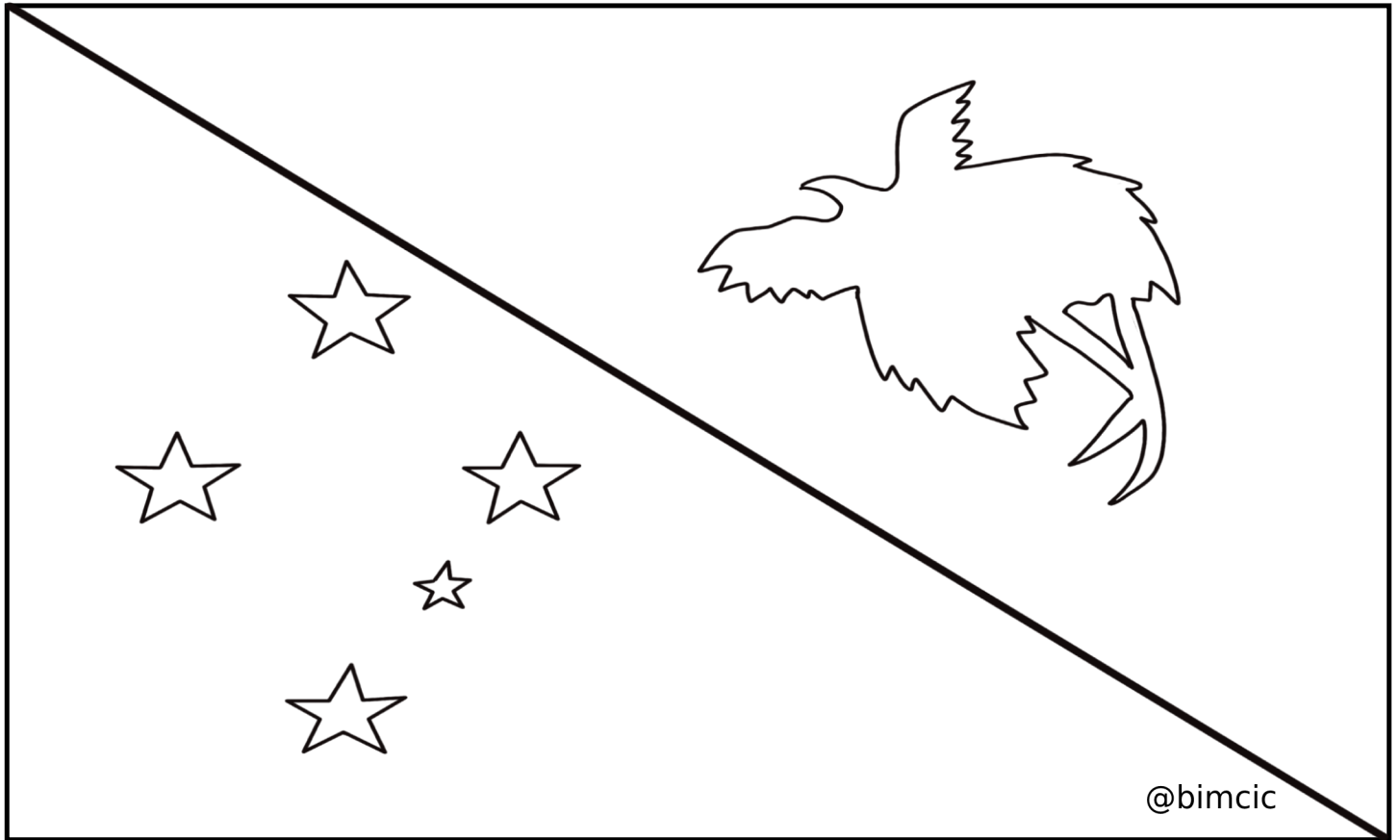in the Commonwealth (with Britain at 5123 and Australia, 3232).

Pakistan

Did you know...

Pakistan was part of India during the Second World War. There is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in Karachi that has the graves of 642 Allied military buried there.
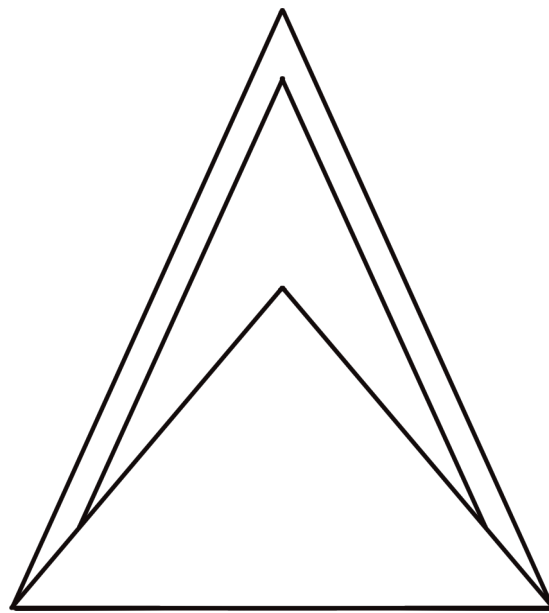
Papua New Guinea

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Did you know...

Papua New Guinea is the Eastern half of the Island of New Guinea. During the Second World War it was invaded by the Japanese. Allied Troops fought some of the hardest battles of the Pacific trying to remove the Japanese.
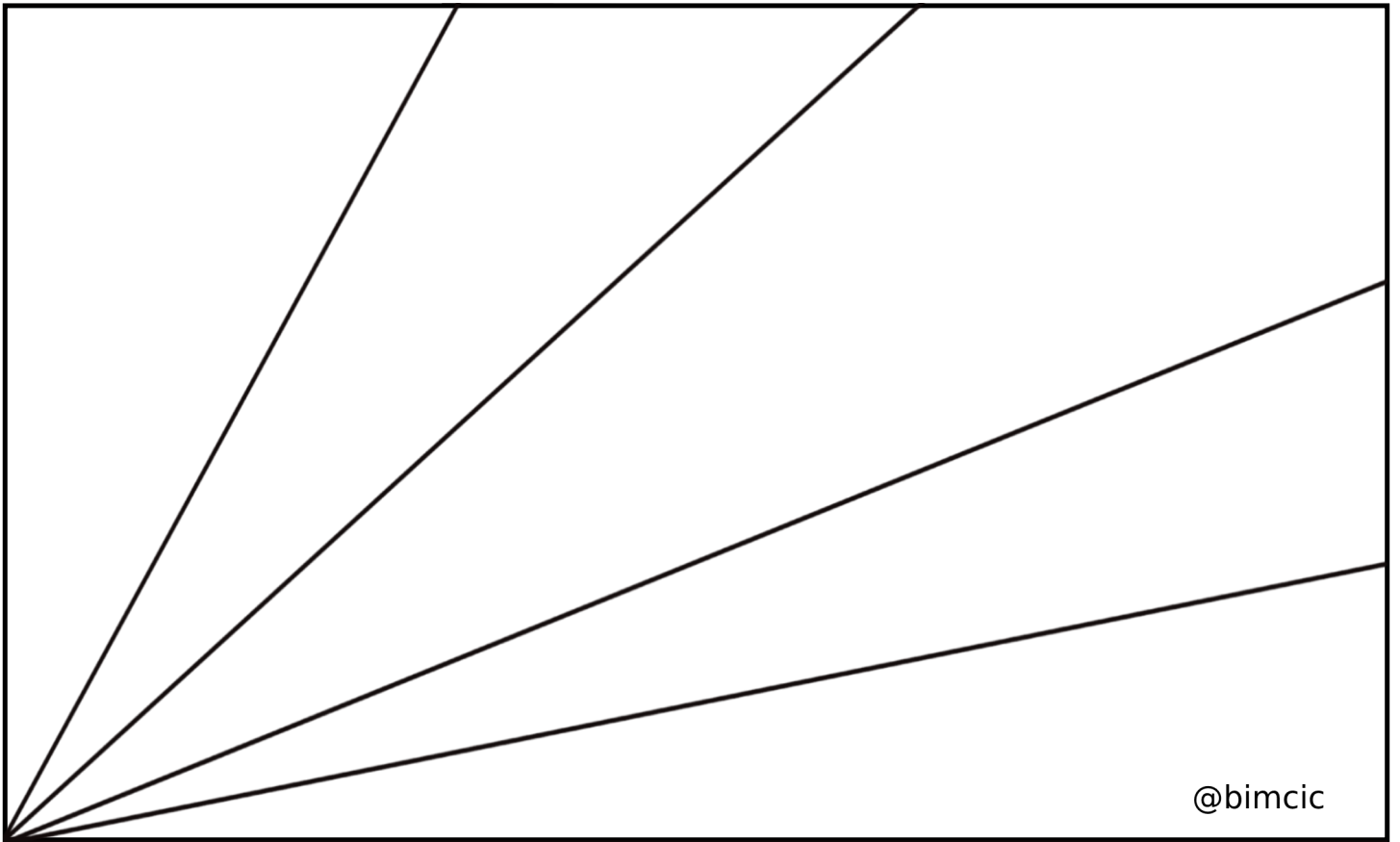
Saint Lucia

Did you know...

In March 1942 a German U Boat attacked and sank two British ships in the harbour at Castries, the capital of Saint Lucia.

Seychelles

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Did you know...

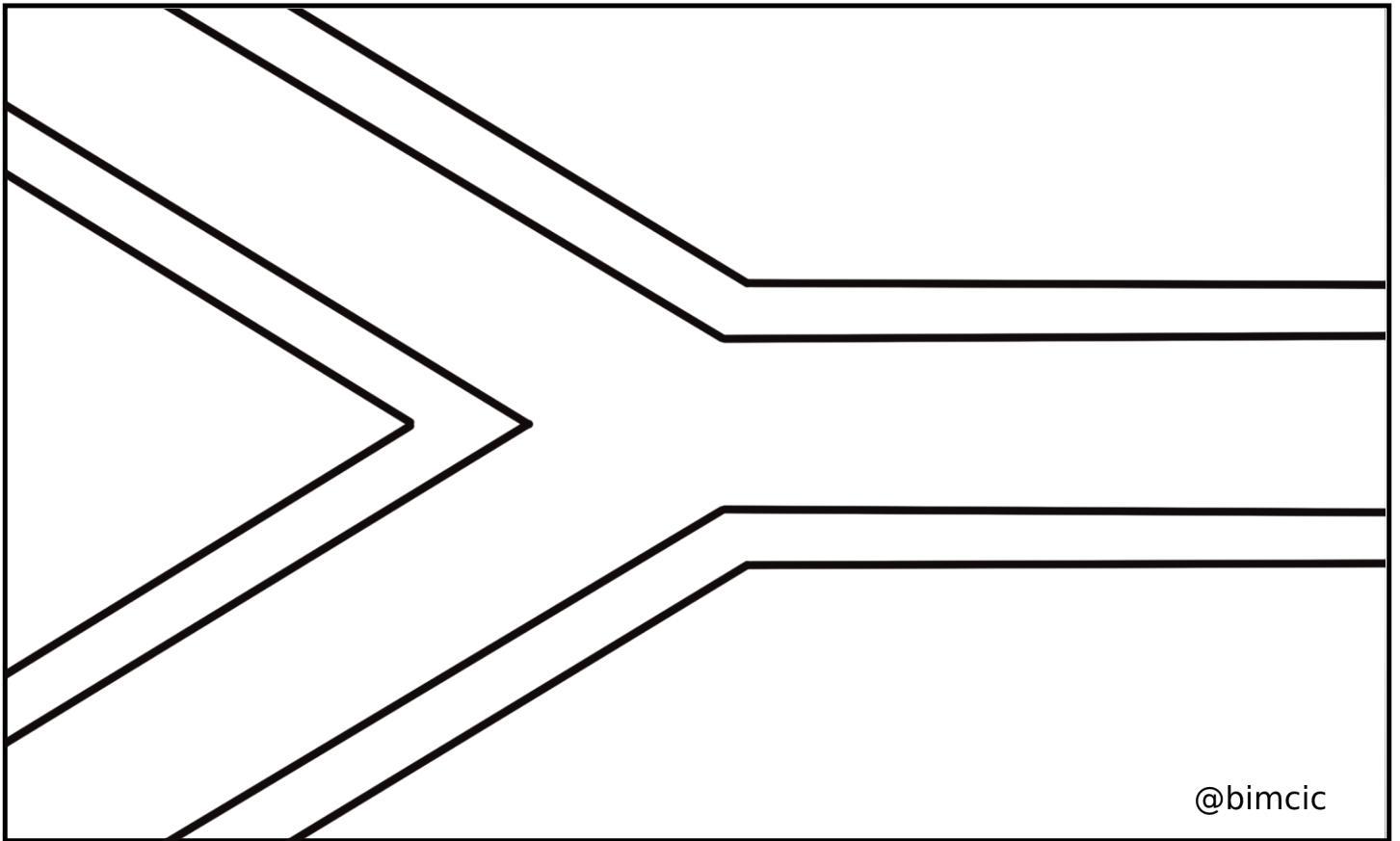2,000 Seychellois men served in the Pioneer Companies in Egypt, Palestine and Italy during the Second World War.

Sierra Leone

Did you know...

The colony played a critical role in supporting the Allies throughout the conflict, with Freetown, the capital, acting as an important convoy station.
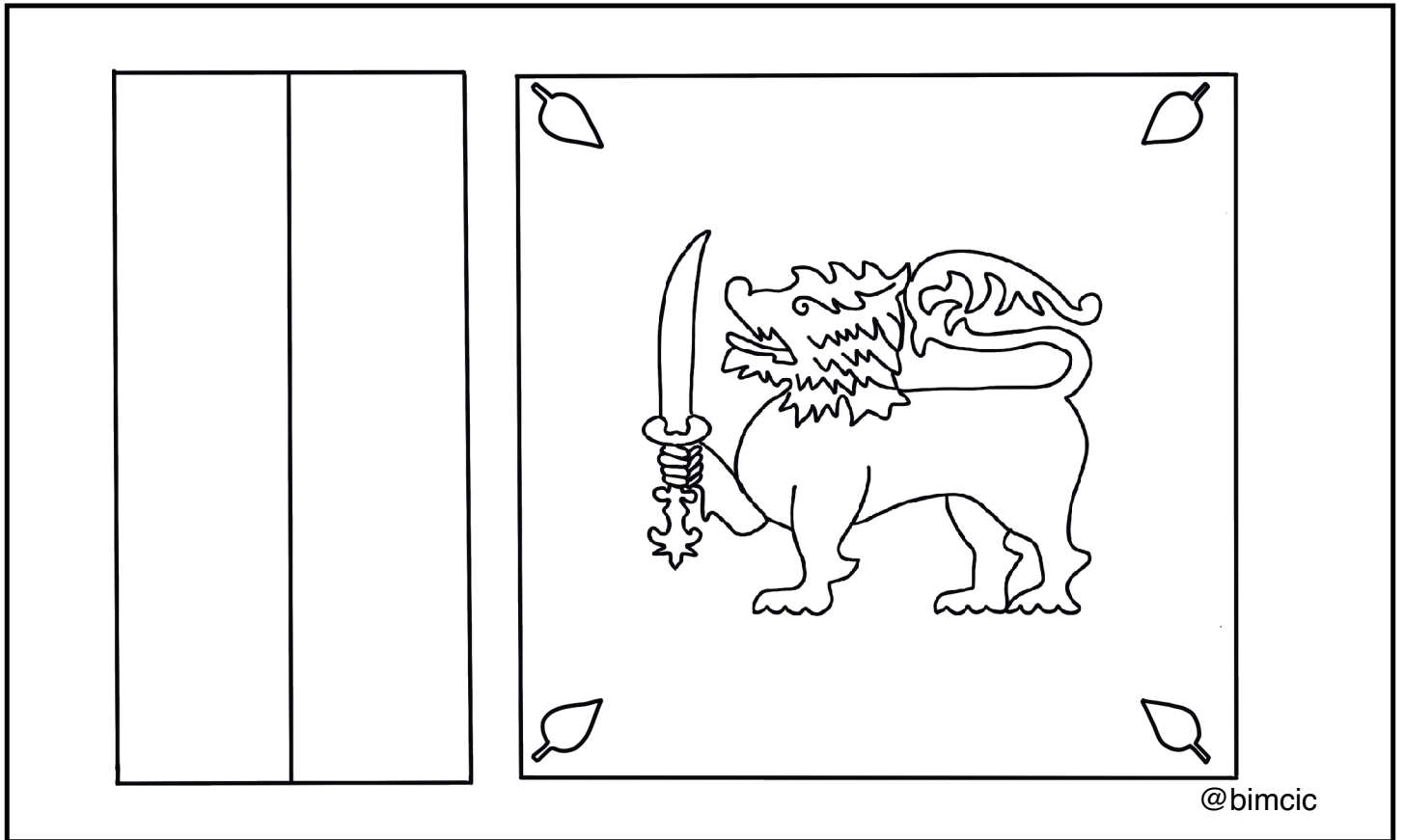
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South Africa

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Did you know...

25 South Africans served in the RAF and took part in the Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940.

Sri Lanka

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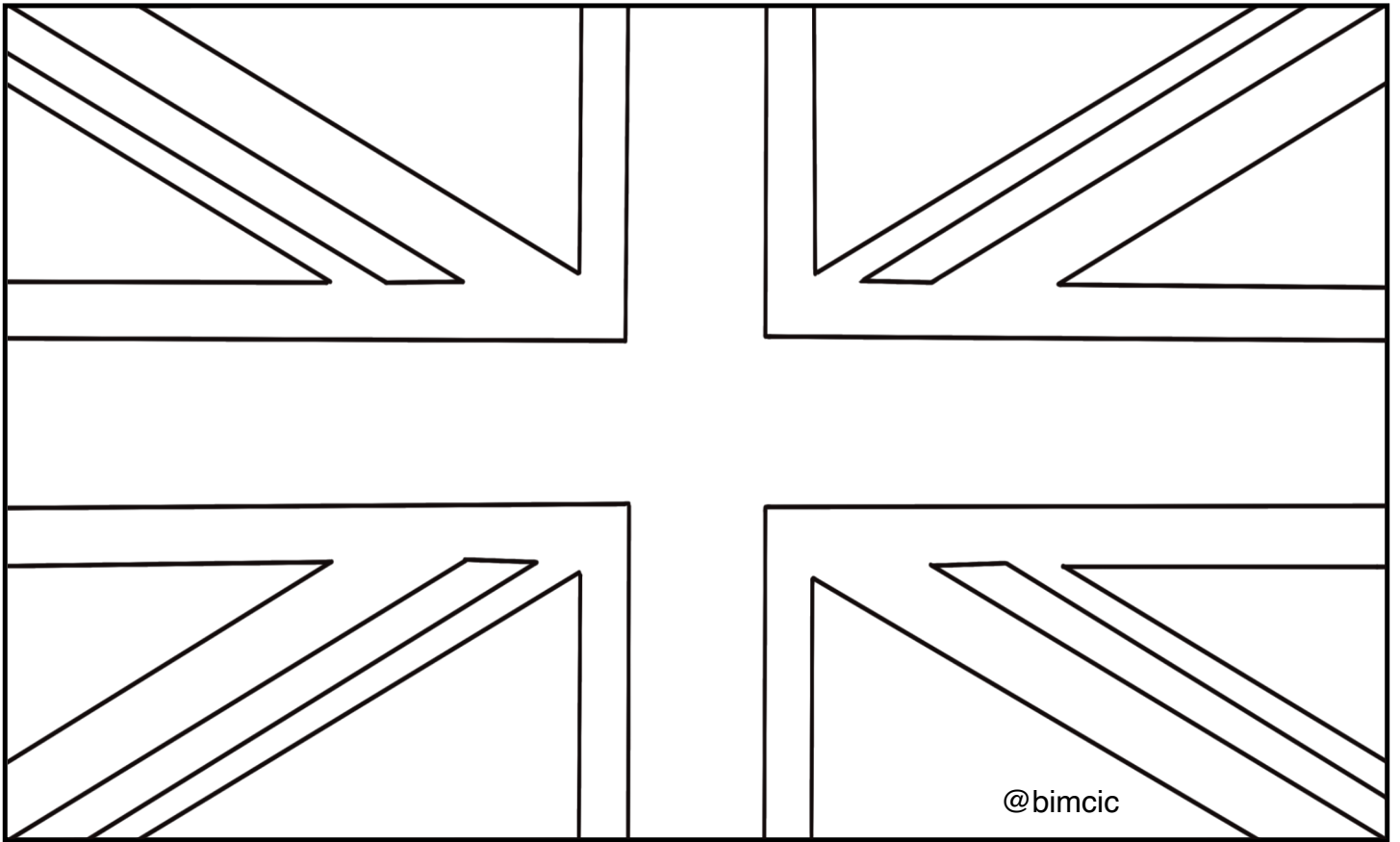**Did you know...**

Sri Lanka was a British colony known as Ceylon during the Second
World War. Many people of Ceylon volunteered to serve in the
British forces and the country itself was bombed by the Japanese
in April 1942.

United Kingdom

@bimcic

Did you know...

As the head of the Empire and the Commonwealth the UK was supported by those countries as it was the only remaining European nation that fought against Nazi Germany and the Axis powers throughout the whole of the war from 1939 to 1945.