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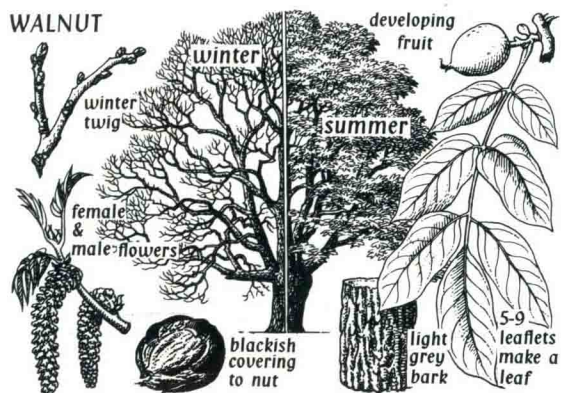
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Children's Britannica

WALNUT. There are many kinds of walnuts, the one grown in England being known as the



English walnut. It is said that it was brought to Britain by the Romans, who called it the nut of Jupiter, the chief of their gods. It was not cultivated much until the 16th and 17th centuries. When the value of the fruit became more widely known the number of trees was increased in the south of England.

Walnut trees come from western Asia and do best in a fairly warm climate and a deep, dry soil. Often they grow 30 metres tall and one metre thick. The bark is thick, grey and deeply furrowed; the buds black and covered with short, fine hair; and the leaves, which are about 30 centimetres long, are made up of oval leaflets. The male flowers are thick green catkins and the female flowers are small and rounded. They develop at the end of the shoots. The nuts are not true nuts but what botanists call drupes. A skin covers the oval, brittle shell, inside which is the white nut, covered with a papery brown skin. Walnuts are picked green for pickling.

The wood of walnut trees is also useful, as it is finely grained and polishes well. It does not warp (shrink or swell) when made into furniture and it resists insects, although beetles and larvae (grubs) may attack a growing tree.

Large quantities of walnuts are grown in France, Germany, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. In France the oil contained in the fruit is used in making paint.

In country regions of Italy the walnut is known as the witches' tree under which nobody should sleep. The Greeks dedicated the tree to Artemis, goddess of the moon, and the Romans

to Jupiter. King Solomon is said to have grown walnut trees.

The hickory, pecan and butter nut all grow on American trees related to the walnut.

WALPOLE, Sir Robert (1676-1745). Sir Robert Walpole, who is generally regarded as England's first Prime Minister, was the son of a Norfolk squire. He was educated at Eton and at King's College, Cambridge, and became a member of parliament when he was 25. During Queen Anne's reign he held several important posts but in 1712 his opponents the Tories accused him of being dishonest about money when he was in office and for a time he was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

When Queen Anne died Walpole supported George of Hanover as King George I. His party, the Whigs, frequently quarrelled and Walpole had several rivals. However, when the financial disaster known as the South Sea Bubble occurred, it was Walpole who was called on to

settle the disturbance. (See SOUTH SEA BUBBLE.) He became Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1721.

George II succeeded his father in 1727 and Walpole at first remained powerful. He was an extremely skilful politician, the first to realize that the English government must



Radio Times Hulton Library
Robert Walpole.

work by means of the House of Commons. Various troubles, however, made him less popular, and in 1737 Queen Caroline, George's wife, and Walpole's friend and ally, died.

Frederick, Prince of Wales, was Walpole's enemy and the Tories were angry with Walpole because of his attempts to keep the peace. To quieten them he declared war against Spain, which was quarrelling with England over America, but his popularity continued to decline and in 1742, two days after he had been made Earl of Orford, he was finally defeated. He retired to Houghton in Norfolk and died in London in 1745, being buried at Houghton.

WALRUS



Leonard Lee Rue III—Bruce Coleman

Massive walrus bulls on an Arctic beach.

WALRUS. Seals, sea lions and walruses are sea-living mammals closely related to each other, but while seals and sea lions are easily confused, the walrus can easily be distinguished, for it is the only member of the group with tusks. These, which may be as much as 60 centimetres long, are the upper canine teeth which grow down below a mass of bristly whiskers which resemble a heavy moustache.

Walruses live only in the Arctic, being found in herds of varying size, usually close inshore or on ice floes. They are heavily built animals, weighing up to 1,300 kilograms and measuring more than 3 metres in length. The head of a walrus is rounded, without visible ears, and seems too small for the great thick neck and huge wrinkled body which becomes almost hairless in old age. The hind flippers are separated and on land the walrus can therefore waddle about awkwardly. In water, however, the great beast moves gracefully and swiftly.

The walrus feeds mostly on molluscs (shellfish) and crustaceans which are dug or scraped from the muddy bottom with its tusks. Walruses breed between April and June and during the fortnight or so that they are ashore they neither eat nor drink. Only one baby is born at a time and the mother looks after it by herself for a long time, perhaps for up to two years.

Man, who hunts the walrus for its hide (skin) oil and tusks, is the worse of its two deadly enemies. The other is the polar bear. If one member of a walrus herd is attacked by a polar

bear, the others will fight savagely with their tusks, trying to push the bear into the water and to hold it under until it drowns. Usually, however, walruses are peaceful animals, and they attack man only if they are threatened.

WALTZ. The waltz is a well-known ballroom dance in which the partners keep turning round and round as they dance. Waltz music is in three time—that is, it has three beats in the bar. When the waltz first became popular, in Germany at the end of the 18th century, it was a quick dance, but a slower version of the waltz is also danced today.

The most famous composer of waltzes to be danced to was Johann Strauss the younger. Composers have also written pieces in waltz rhythm not meant as dances, such as those that Frédéric Chopin wrote for the piano.

WAR. Whenever war breaks out people are killed or wounded, their homes are destroyed and they often suffer from famine or disease. Nevertheless, ever since people first began to live in groups large enough to be described as nations they have fought wars. This is partly owing to pride in belonging to a nation and the wish to protect and keep it together, and partly to a natural instinct—which nearly everyone possesses—to attack and stand up to attack.

Yet another reason for the outbreak of wars is the fact that people, even those within a nation, may hold completely different ideas on a subject. When this has to do with something that actually affects people's lives—different ways of ruling a country, for instance—then men may fight in order to get their ideas accepted. This kind of war, when two halves of one nation fight against each other, is known as civil war. It is a particularly terrible kind of war, for it means that friends or relations may find themselves killing or betraying each other.

England had a civil war in the 17th century, when the country was divided between the people who supported the King, Charles I, and those who supported parliament. (See CIVIL WAR.) Far worse than this, however, was the American Civil War (1861–1865), which broke out when some of the southern United States

claimed a right to secede (break away) from the union of all the states. This was because they wished to make their own laws on the question of keeping slaves. (See AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.) Among 20th century civil wars have been those fought in Spain (1936–1939), between fascists and socialists, and in Nigeria (1967–1970), between the breakaway state of Biafra and the federal government.

Religion is a subject on which many people feel very strongly, and this has often led to wars. The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) in Germany was a war between Catholics and Protestants and a very terrible one. Earlier there had been the crusades—sometimes called holy wars—between the 11th and 13th centuries, when Christians went to Palestine to drive the Moslems away from the holy places there. (See CRUSADES TO THE HOLY LAND.)

National pride has sometimes caused the outbreak of wars of independence, when a nation that is being ruled by another one rises and fights it to win its freedom. This happened in America in the 18th century, when the American colonies fought the ruling power of Britain. (See AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE.) From 1821 to 1830 the Greeks fought a war against Turkey, which had ruled them for nearly four centuries.

A very common and ancient cause is the wish to dominate other countries. Many nations, as the article RACES AND PEOPLES: ANCIENT shows, have had the desire to build up great empires so that they can help themselves to the riches of other countries and have their peoples as slaves. This desire was usually carried out by means of war. Examples of such nations are the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians and Romans. The same kind of thing has happened in later times, as, for instance, in the 16th century, when the Spaniards conquered Mexico and Peru.

Sometimes nations with enormous populations make war on other nations because they wish to gain more land for their own people. A slogan of the Germans between World Wars I and II was *Lebensraum*—"living space".

Sometimes war is partly due to the tremendous pride and vanity of one person, who makes himself leader of a nation and rouses its war-

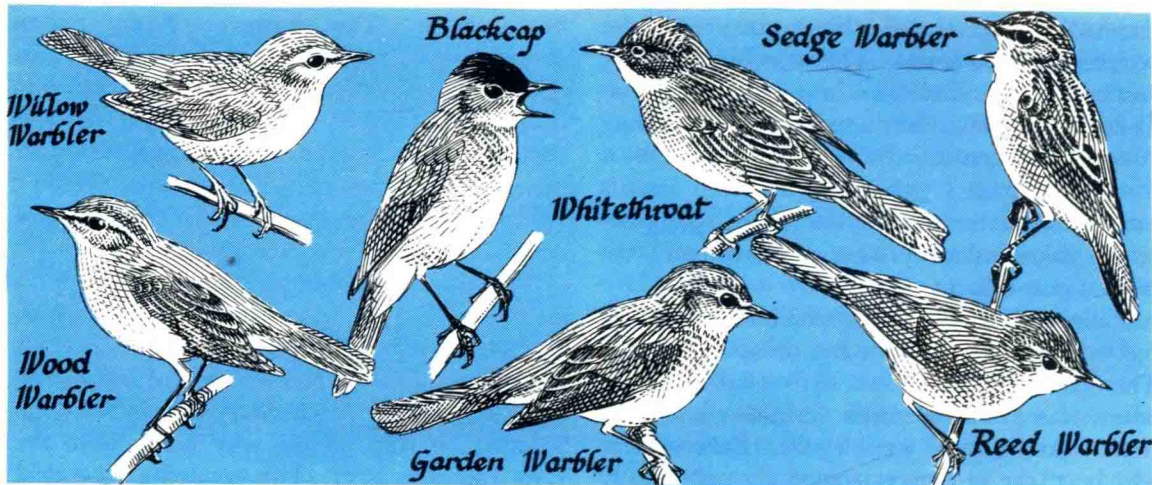
like instinct. (This, however, is not reason enough on its own.) Napoleon Bonaparte attempted in the early part of the 19th century to make himself master of Europe by war, but this fighting also grew out of the French Revolution. (See FRENCH REVOLUTION; NAPOLEONIC WARS.) In 1939 it was in part the mad ambition of Adolf Hitler that led Germany into war.

The names of some wars are rather confusing. There was, for example, an incident which became known as the War of Jenkins' Ear. An English sailor called Robert Jenkins had one of his ears cut off by a Spanish captain who boarded his ship on the way home from the West Indies in 1731. This created a good deal of indignation in England, and eventually led to the war which broke out between England and Spain in 1739.

Until the 20th century war was often the concern only of the people who were actually fighting it, though there was great suffering for people who lived in the path of the armies. When it was not a civil war, the ordinary people frequently went on living just as they had always lived. In the 20th century, however, came two wars that affected all members of the nations involved in them. These were the two world wars, each of which is described in a separate article. They are known as world wars because nations all over the world were involved in them. The fighters used far more terrible weapons than had ever been used before, and the development of air power in World War II (1939–1945) made it possible to destroy whole cities.

Towards the end of this war the atom bomb was used for the first time and this completely changed the conduct of war. Any large wars now—and there is always the danger of large wars developing from small ones—are almost certain to involve the use of bombs even more terrible than the atom bomb. Such bombs could destroy all human life on a continent or of an even larger area. So today the greatest problem facing mankind is to prevent nations from settling their quarrels by war.

WARBLER. The birds belonging to the large warbler family mostly have sweet voices. They are small, sometimes smaller than sparrows,



rather dull coloured, and they mostly feed on insects. All the ones seen in the British Isles, except for the rare Dartford warbler, are summer visitors from the continent of Europe.

Among the first of the commoner warblers to arrive in spring are the chiffchaff and willow warbler. Both these birds are slender and dainty with greenish-yellow plumage, and although the chiffchaff's legs are almost black and those of the willow warbler are light brown, it is not easy to tell them apart until they start singing. The chiffchaff repeats, over and over again, the sounds that have given it its name, while the willow warbler has a plaintive little song ending on two descending notes. Both birds live in woodland and copses—small groups of trees—but the willow warbler is also found in places where there are bushes but no trees.

The nests of both birds have domed roofs and are lined with feathers. That of the chiffchaff is more loosely made and often includes dead leaves. It is built a little above the ground and the white eggs have brownish markings. The willow warbler makes its nest on the ground, generally using moss instead of leaves, and the eggs are marked with reddish-brown.

The wood warbler, which has greenish-yellow upper parts and a yellow throat, is found in woodland, although not among cone-bearing trees such as pines. It has a loud trilling song which continues unbroken for a time and is rather like the sound of a coin spinning on a marble table. This is most frequently uttered as

the bird descends. The domed nest is made of bracken, grass and dead leaves lined with hairs and fine grass stems and built among undergrowth or in a hollow in the ground in a wood. The white eggs are thickly spotted with brown.

The blackcap, which also arrives in early spring, has one of the sweetest songs of birds heard in Britain. It is greyish-brown with paler under parts, but only the cock has a "cap" of glossy black feathers, the hen's cap being rust-coloured. Blackcaps are found in copses and gardens, among undergrowth such as brambles, and make their nests there. The eggs are marked with brown or reddish-brown and some darker spots and streaks.

The garden warbler, another beautiful singer, is a rather plump little bird with brown upper parts and buff under parts. It also lives in undergrowth and builds its nest there, and its eggs, although paler, resemble the blackcap's.

The common or greater whitethroat was so named from the stripe of white beneath its bill. The plumage of the cock is mainly brown with grey on the head; the hen has a brown head. Whitethroats are birds of fairly open country and are frequently seen perched on top of a hedge or thorn tree. The song is a quick, short warble which is not very musical. Whitethroats nest near the ground and lay green, speckled eggs. The lesser whitethroat, which is scarcer, is smaller with duller brown feathers and a black stripe on each side of the head.

The sedge, reed and grasshopper warblers are

birds of the marsh. All three have brown upper parts and buff under parts, but the sedge and grasshopper warblers have dark markings on the upper parts and the sedge warbler also has a cream-coloured stripe above each eye. The reed warbler keeps more to the reeds than the sedge warbler. Both birds have a loud, chattering song and are constantly singing.

The sedge warbler builds a rather bulky nest of stalks and grass in a bush or among reeds. Its eggs are olive green in colour. The reed warbler makes a most beautiful nest in the shape of a deep cup. It is built of reed flowers and grasses twined round the stem of three or four reeds. When the wind sways the reeds, the nest and green and brown eggs sway with them and come to no harm. Although the reed warbler's nest is small, the cuckoo often lays its eggs in it.

The marsh warbler, which breeds only in parts of southern England and the midlands, is very like the reed warbler except for a tinge of green in its brown feathers.

The grasshopper warbler lives in undergrowth near streams as well as in marshes. It has a shrill song which sounds like a fisherman's reel running out, but has also been likened to a grasshopper, and the bird sings so intensely that its throat can be seen throbbing. It is sometimes even heard at night. The nest of the grasshopper warbler is built on or near the ground, hidden in

the undergrowth, and the eggs are cream with reddish markings.

The little Dartford warbler, which lives in the British Isles all year round, has brown and grey upper parts and a long tail, and its under parts are chestnut. The eyes are ringed with red. Dartford warblers are found only south of London. They haunt downs and commons, particularly where gorse grows, and are very shy birds, usually keeping under cover. The song is rather like that of the whitethroat. Dartford warblers build their nests in bushes near the ground and lay cream-coloured eggs speckled with green.

WAREHOUSE. Wares are goods which are put up for sale, and a warehouse is the building where such goods are stored. Many factories also need warehouses in which to store the materials from which they make their goods.

Firms that manufacture goods, such as cigarettes, which have to have a special tax known as duty paid on them have warehouses known as "bonded warehouses". The goods are stored in these under the supervision of the customs and excise authorities (see CUSTOMS AND EXCISE) until duty is paid.

WARSAW is in the centre of Poland and is the capital of the country. The earlier capitals of Poland were Gniezno in the 10th century

A main road through the centre of Warsaw. Much of the city was rebuilt following its devastation during World War II.

Picturepoint



and Cracow from the 11th to the end of the 16th century. Warsaw probably grew around a fort built in the 12th century, when the youngest son of King Boleslaw III set up his rule in the surrounding region of Mazovia. Later Mazovia became part of the Polish kingdom, and because of its central position, Warsaw was made capital during the reign of King Sigismund III Vasa (1587-1632).

Warsaw soon entered a stormy period of history. In 1655 and 1656 and again in 1702 it was captured by the Swedes. In 1794 it was stormed by the Russians and in the following year became a frontier town of Prussia. In 1806 it was occupied by the French and in 1807 was made capital of the Duchy of Warsaw which, after Napoleon's defeat, was given to Russia by the Congress of Vienna (1815). The Duchy then became a kingdom with the Tsar (emperor) of Russia as King of Poland.

In 1830 the Poles rebelled against the Russians, but a year later Warsaw was retaken by the Russians after great bloodshed. Another rising in 1863 also failed. This time the Russians tried to blot out even the name of Poland, and so they called it "Vistula Land" with Warsaw as its ruling city (see POLAND). In World War I, Warsaw was occupied by the Germans in 1915, and recovered its position as capital of the restored state of Poland in 1918. In 1920 the Russian army was defeated by the Poles a few miles east of the city. In World War II most of Warsaw was destroyed, first when besieged by the Germans in 1939 and five years later when the Poles rose against the Germans. On the second occasion Soviet troops took Praga, which is an industrial suburb across the river from Warsaw, and stopped there while the capital was destroyed. They drove the Germans from the ruins in January 1945.

Warsaw (in Polish, Warszawa) stands on the west bank of the River Vistula (Wisla), which here flows through a sandy plain. It had many magnificent buildings, including a magnificent royal palace, many palaces built by the Polish noblemen and churches. The beauty of Warsaw's buildings was recorded by the famous architectural painter Canaletto (Giovanni Canale, 1697-1768), and so accurate were his

paintings that the Poles used them to guide the rebuilding of the old city, which had to be begun from the foundations. The largest building in Warsaw is the Palace of Science and Culture, which was completed by the U.S.S.R. as a gift to Poland in 1955.

Development since World War II has changed Warsaw into one of Poland's most important industrial centres, with steelworks, factories making motor vehicles and tractors, electrical, chemical, printing works and many others. In the old days, Warsaw was famous for its thousands of small shops selling hand-made goods, and its tailors and shoemakers have regained their importance.

Warsaw is the centre of Poland's road and rail systems. It has a great river port at Zeran and the international airport of Okecie is a few kilometres from the city centre.

The population of Warsaw is about 1,846,000.

WART HOG. Perhaps the ugliest member of the pig family is the wart hog of Africa, which is found from Ethiopia and Senegal to the Cape of Good Hope. It was given its name because it has growths like large warts on each side of its enormous head. The wart hog has two pairs of tusks, both of which curve upward. Those on



Gerald Cubitt—Bruce Coleman Ltd.

The wart hog has growths on its head and tusks.

the upper jaw, which are always larger than those on the lower one, sometimes stick out well over 30 centimetres.

The wart hog measures up to 75 centimetres high at the shoulder and may weigh about 100 kilograms. It has a greyish-brown skin which is nearly hairless, except for some long bristles which form a mane on its neck and back. It feeds mostly on roots, berries and other vegetable matter. The animal lives in burrows in open woodland areas and two or three females with their young will often band together. When it goes to its burrow, a wart hog will turn round and go in backwards, so that its head is left sticking out and its tusks are ready to attack any enemy. It is not, however, nearly as fierce as the wild boar of Europe.

WARTS. Most people have had warts at some time or other, usually on their hands. This kind of wart is a bundle of fibres covered with an overgrowth of skin. Warts appear to spread to some extent from person to person, so they are common in children (who are less careful over personal cleanliness) and young people, but they may come on at any age. Sometimes old people have warts on the face or neck. A whole crop of warts may appear suddenly and then disappear weeks or months later. The disappearance is often supposed to be due to a gipsy's charm, or washing the hands in some special spring, or something of the kind.

A wart should be removed only by a doctor, who will burn it away with acid or kill it by freezing. If it is taken out at home the place will bleed a good deal and a new wart will grow there.

In grown-up people rather different warts are often due to repeated slight irritation or infection of the skin. There are warts that people doing certain kinds of work are likely to get—for example, butcher's warts. These warts are more difficult to remove for good than the other kind. In older people, especially chimney-sweeps and people who work with coal-tar, the single raised wart may last for years and slowly become a kind of cancer of the skin.

The Latin word for a wart is *verruca* and this is the name often used by doctors.

WARWICKSHIRE is a county in the midlands of England; in fact, because of its central position, it is sometimes called the heart of England. It is bordered to the east by Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, to the south by Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, and to the west by Hereford and Worcester. When local government in England was reorganized in 1974, Warwickshire lost an area in the north, including the great industrial regions of Birmingham and Coventry, and the boroughs of Solihull and Sutton Coldfield. This became part of the metropolitan county of the West Midlands.

These changes took away from Warwickshire most of its industry. Before it had been a combination of manufacturing areas and beautiful countryside. The Warwickshire coalfield stretches from Bedworth (near Coventry) into Leicestershire. There is some coal around Nuneaton, but most of the Warwickshire coalfield is now within the West Midlands county borders. So Warwickshire today is mainly an agricultural county.

In the east the River Avon enters Warwickshire from Northamptonshire and winds across it in a southerly direction through a broad, flat valley. This is rich farm country and the fields are divided by hedges in which oak trees grow. Near Warwick, the picturesque water mill at Guy's Cliffe has often been painted by artists. Past Stratford-upon-Avon, where Shakespeare was born, the river flows through many orchards full of pink and white blossoms in springtime, until it crosses into Hereford and Worcester.

The Avon valley once divided Warwickshire into the woodland of the northwest and the feldon, or field country, of the southeast. The woodland was the great Forest of Arden, which extended unbroken to where Birmingham now stands. The forest has now gone, but many lonely farms and small hamlets of black-and-white half-timbered houses still stand where they were first built in clearings of the forest. The names of Hampton in Arden and Henley in Arden are a reminder of the forest.

The feldon country was always more open, and the first settlers built villages from which they went out to work in the surrounding fields. Kineton is a large village of this kind and

WARWICKSHIRE

Southam is a small market town.

Farther south, the land rises suddenly to Edgehill and the Cotswold Hills. (See **COTSWOLDS**.) Here, and in the limestone ridge which ends with Meon Hill, south of Stratford, is the highest ground in the county. Beeches grow on the slopes of the hills and the fields are enclosed by stone walls. Many houses here are built of deep yellow stone from quarries in Oxfordshire.

Towns and Industries

The most important activity in the county is farming, both arable and dairy. The main crop grown is wheat, and market gardening is also important, particularly in the valley of the lower Avon, where there are orchards of fruit trees.

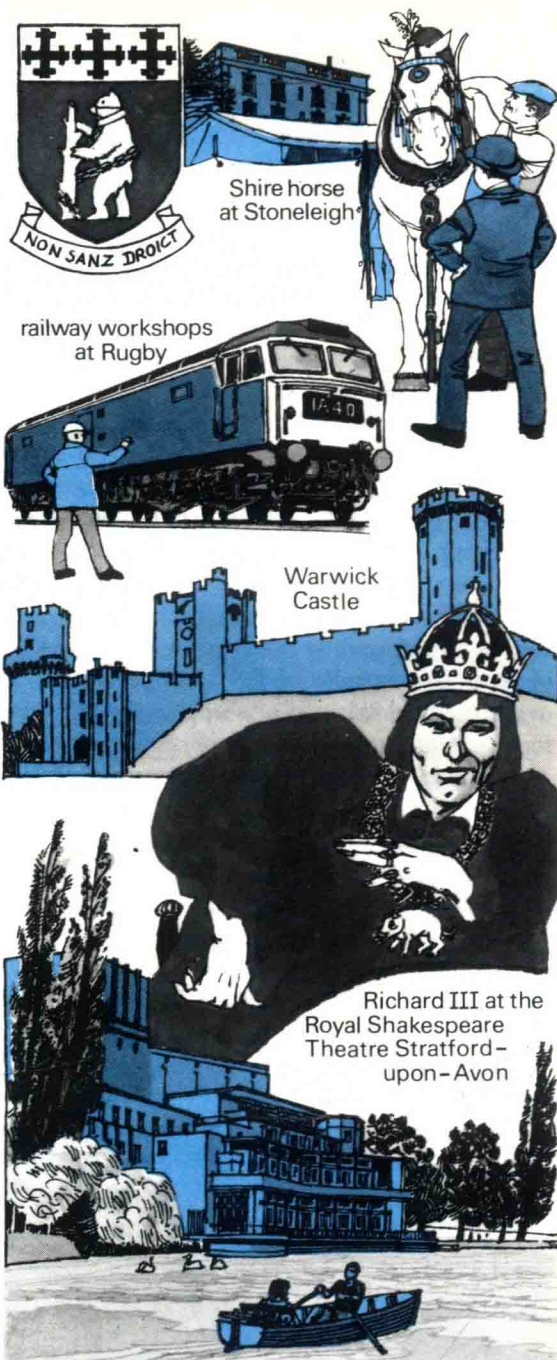
Warwick, the county town, is on the Avon northeast of Stratford. The river flows past a mighty towered castle on a rock. Much of it dates from the 14th and 15th centuries, but it was much rebuilt later, and now it is a mansion. The castle, the park and its beautiful gardens are open to the public. In a greenhouse is the Warwick Vase, made in the 4th century B.C. and brought from Tivoli in Italy.

Although a great fire broke out in Warwick in 1694, many old buildings can still be seen there. It also has some factories; manufacturing motor car bodies, fairground equipment and gelatine.

Nuneaton, close to the Leicestershire border, is a small industrial town which grew up on the Warwickshire coalfield. Some of its people are coal miners, and there are also brick-making works and engineering and textile industries. Crushed stone for road-making is also worked in Nuneaton.

Rugby, in the east, was little more than a village until the 19th century. It became a manufacturing town and now makes radar and electrical equipment. It is also an important railway junction. Probably, however, it is best known for its school, where the methods of running public schools were reformed by Dr. Thomas Arnold in the 19th century. (See **ARNOLD, THOMAS AND MATTHEW**.)

There is a monument in the playing fields of Rugby School to William Webb Ellis, who in 1823 took the ball in his arms and ran with it during a game of football. He broke the rules



but began the game of Rugby football.

Leamington Spa, 3 kilometres east of Warwick gained its name from the mineral waters there. (A spa is a town where people go to bathe in or drink mineral waters for their health.) So many rich people came to it in the 19th century

to "take the waters" that it grew into an elegant town with baths and terraces of fine houses. Brakes and other small parts of motor cars are made there.

History and People

The Forest of Arden kept people out of much of Warwickshire for many centuries. Prehistoric men seem to have settled only on the gravelly region called Dunsmore Heath around Rugby. The Romans made Watling Street along the boundary of Warwickshire and Staffordshire and the Fosse Way across the southeast. Alcester, a small town near the border with Hereford and Worcester where needles and fish hooks are made today, dates from Roman times, and many Roman coins have been found there.

The first Anglo-Saxon settlers came into Warwickshire along the Avon valley, probably from Northamptonshire. Their burial places have been found at Stratford and at Bidford-on-Avon, to the west. This land became part of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia in the 7th century. Ethelfleda, who was the daughter of Alfred the Great and Queen of Mercia, built a fortress against the invading Danes at Warwick in 914.

The earls of Warwick were among the most powerful men in England during the middle ages. Guy de Beauchamp, who was earl in the reign of Edward II, seized the king's favourite, Piers Gaveston, and brought him prisoner to Warwick Castle, where he was hastily tried before being executed on Blacklow Hill, outside Warwick. It is said that the earl hated Gaveston for calling him the "Black Hound of Arden".

Richard Neville, a later earl of Warwick, played such a part in the Wars of the Roses by supporting now one, now another, claimant to the throne that after his death he became known as "Warwick the Kingmaker". He supported York against Lancaster, but later quarrelled with the Yorkist king Edward IV and was killed fighting against his armies in 1471. (See *ROSES, WARS OF THE*.)

The earls of Warwick of the Beauchamp family lie under magnificent tombs in the Beauchamp Chapel, which is part of St. Mary's Church in Warwick. The design of the Bear and Ragged Staff, which was the badge of the Beau-

champs, decorates this chapel.

In the reign of Elizabeth I the most important event of Warwickshire occurred—the birth of Shakespeare at Stratford in 1564. Because of this, Stratford is now not only a market town but a tourist centre visited by people from all over the world. (See *STRATFORD-UPON-AVON*.) Shakespeare is said to have poached (illegally captured) deer in the park of Charlecote House; a mansion near Stratford which still stands. He was brought before Sir Thomas Lucy, the owner of Charlecote, but got his revenge by making Lucy the model for an absurd old judge, Justice Shallow, in his play *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

At Kenilworth, 8 kilometres north of Warwick, is a great ruined castle where Queen Elizabeth I was entertained by her favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, who held magnificent pageants to entertain the queen, both in the castle grounds and on the lake which then lay below the walls. Sir Walter Scott described these pageants in his novel *Kenilworth*.

Coughton Court, near Alcester, is a stately Tudor house owned by the Throckmorton family. Their ancestors were connected with the Gunpowder plot, remembered each year on Guy Fawkes Day. The plotters met there, and the story goes that the wives of some of them watched from the gatehouse for the messenger whose tidings, when they came, were of failure.

The first great battle of the Civil War was fought in 1642 at Edgehill. The armies of Oliver Cromwell and Charles I met on level ground below the hill, but neither side won a decisive victory. The king's horsemen charged off the field and only returned in time to save the rest of the army from defeat by Cromwell's forces. Five hundred of the dead were buried in a pit at Battle Farm near Kineton.

Mary Ann Evans, whose pen name was George Eliot, was born at Arbury Farm, Chilvers Coton (near Nuneaton) in 1819. She wrote about Warwickshire in several of her novels, including *Adam Bede*.

WASH, THE. On the east coast of England is a shallow bay, about 24 kilometres across, called the Wash. It is between Lincolnshire on

WASHING AND IRONING

the north and Norfolk on the south. Once it reached as far inland as Peterborough in Cambridgeshire, but silt (gravel, mud, sand and other substances) brought down by the rivers Witham, Welland, Nene and Great Ouse have partly filled it up. Small ships can go up Boston Deep and Lynn Deep, the two main channels of the Wash, to Boston in Lincolnshire and King's Lynn in Norfolk.

In English history the Wash will always be remembered as the place where King John lost the royal jewels while crossing the Welland in 1216.

WASHING AND IRONING. In parts of the world where the houses do not have running water, clothes are washed out of doors in streams or ponds. The dirt is removed from the clothes by slapping them against stones by the water.

In most houses more labour-saving ways of doing the washing have been adopted. Another reason for the change in washing methods is the use of many different fabrics. Cotton or linen can stand quite a lot of rough treatment, but artificial fibres like nylon and rayon need to be handled more carefully. Wool and silk things, too, need gentle washing. There are also mixtures of natural and man-made fibres and cottons which have special finishes to help them crease less—all these need to be washed in special ways. Many garments are sold with a label attached telling you how they should be washed.

The aim of washing clothes is to get them clean with the least possible amount of wear and strain on the material. To wash out grease and most other dirty marks you need to add some soap or soapless detergent to the water, and have the water warm or hot. Just use enough soap to make a good lather that will stay bubbly when the washing goes in. Soap powder, flakes or detergent are sprinkled into the water and must be dissolved before you put the clothes in.

The water used for most washing should be "hand hot"—that is, it should feel hot to your hands but not so hot that you cannot keep your hands in it comfortably. Woollen articles should be washed in luke-warm water, however, and so should coloured things. In hot water the colours may run.

White cotton and linen articles—shirts, blouses and handkerchiefs, for instance—may be given quite vigorous rubbing in the hot soapy water. Catch a handful of the fabric in each hand and rub briskly together—do it this way because when the fabric is rubbed against itself the dirt comes out more easily than if you just rub it with your hand.

Silk, woollen and rayon things must not be rubbed, however, and no extra soap must be put on. Instead, gently squeeze and knead the clothes in the soapy water. If you rub woollens they shrink and become thick and matted. Be as quick as you can when washing coloured things so that you give the colours as little chance to run as possible. Nylon and Terylene are strong fabrics and can be washed in very hot water.

When the clothes are clean, remove the excess soapy water by gently squeezing them. Now rinse them twice in clean water to get rid of all the soap. With woollens, the rinsing water should be the same temperature as you had the soapy water, or otherwise they may shrink.

After rinsing, the clothes must be wrung out or spun, using a wringer or dryer. Wring the clothes out by twisting them in your hands, but never do this with woollens, rayons, nylons and Terylene. Just squeeze them as dry as you can without twisting. Many drip-dry articles are best hung straight out to dry, without wringing. When using a wringer, fold each article roughly lengthwise and bunch the material up alongside any buttons so that they are protected as they pass through the rollers. Hang the clothes to dry, out of doors if possible. White cottons and linens can be boiled in fresh soapy water after they have been washed, to keep them white. Do not boil them for more than 10–15 minutes, and rinse them thoroughly afterwards.

Dampening and Ironing

Most washing needs to be ironed while it is still a little damp, so bring the clothes in from the line before they are quite dry. Fold them, roll them up tightly and leave them for an hour or two so that the dampness becomes evenly spread. Alternatively, you can use a steam iron.

Use a hot iron for cotton and linen, a cooler iron for wool and silk, and coolest of all for



rayons and nylon, which can be seriously damaged if they are ironed with too hot an iron. Adjust the pointer on the iron to the right mark for whatever you are going to iron. Here is a good order to follow when you are ironing :

1. Iron first all parts of the garment where the material is double, such as hems, pockets, cuffs and collars.
2. Iron all small parts next, such as belts and sleeves.
3. Then iron the main parts of the article. With a blouse or shirt, for instance, these are the back and the two sides of the front. If you are ironing a dress with a skirt that is gathered or pleated into the waist, do the skirt first and then the bodice.

All ironing should be aired before it is put away, in drawers or cupboards, so hang the ironed articles on a clothes horse in a warm place

or on an electric airer, or put them into the airing-cupboard for a time.

Washing Machines

The most popular washing machines are run by electricity, and some types are completely automatic. This means they do all the washing and rinsing and part of the drying of the clothes without needing any attention. Follow the makers' instructions carefully and be sure you know how to work the switches and how to turn off if anything goes wrong.

In most towns there are washing centres known as laundrettes where there are automatic washing machines and spin driers available for public use.

WASHINGTON, Booker Taliaferro (1856–1915). Booker T. Washington was an American Negro who became a leader of black Americans in the difficult days soon after the Negroes in the southern parts of the United States were freed from slavery.

He was born a slave on a plantation in Virginia in a one-room cabin with an earthen floor and no windows. All black slaves were freed when, in 1864, the American Civil War ended with a victory for the Northern States (see AMERICAN CIVIL WAR). However, Washington and his family were desperately poor and he worked in the coal and salt mines of West Virginia when he was very young. From his small wages he saved enough money to pay his fees at a night school, and learnt to read and write at a time when few black children had any education at all. He grew up determined that others too should have the benefits of education.

At the age of 17 he went to a school at Hampton, in Virginia, where he learnt the trade of a bricklayer. But he was soon working as a schoolmaster. In 1881 when a college to train black teachers was opened at Tuskegee, in Alabama, Washington became its first principal. The college was short of money and many of the students had received only a poor school education, but Washington achieved remarkable results. He believed that blacks and whites could and should live together in friendship, and he thought that when the blacks had been better educated there would be a better understanding between the two races. He became the recognized leader of American Negroes and won high regard from white and black alike. Washington wrote the story of his life in a famous book called *Up From Slavery*.

Meanwhile the college at Tuskegee prospered and by the time Washington died it had more than 1,500 students and nearly 200 teachers. It led the way in improving the lot of the Negroes and helped them take their rightful place as respected members of American society.

WASHINGTON, George (1732–1799). George Washington, the first president of the United States of America, was born near Fredericksburg, Virginia on February 22, 1732.

His father, Augustine Washington, owned big estates, but as he died when George was only 11, and there were 9 other children, George's education was both scrappy and short. However, by the time he was 14 he had learnt something about surveying (see SURVEYING) and made beautiful maps. He earned his first money when at 16 he joined an expedition that went to survey the unknown country along and beyond the River Shenandoah in western Virginia. On his return he was made public surveyor for Fairfax county in Virginia and once more went into the wild interior. The year 1752 brought him land of his own, for his half-brother Lawrence died and Washington inherited the estate of Mount Vernon on the banks of the Potomac River. In the same year he was given the rank of major and was made adjutant of one of the four districts into which Virginia was divided for military purposes.

The French, who were then growing powerful on the Ohio River, started to order British settlers to leave areas that had been claimed for Britain. In 1753 the governor of Virginia sent young Major Washington with a message to the French commander that he was to withdraw. To deliver this message Washington had to travel over 800 kilometres—nearly to Lake Erie—by boat, on foot and on horseback, and his account of this journey was one of the first reliable descriptions of life in the regions across the Allegheny Mountains.

The French did not withdraw and Washington, now a lieutenant-colonel, was sent with several hundred men to enforce British claims to the Ohio River lands. In May 1754 he captured a French party and killed their leader. However, the French counter-attacked and Washington surrendered, but he and his men were allowed to return to Virginia. In 1755 he was in battle against the French once more, this time so ill with fever that he rode on a pillow instead of a saddle. He showed great bravery and when General Edward Braddock was killed he helped to bring the defeated army safely out. Virginia made him a colonel and commander of its troops. He had to protect a thinly settled frontier nearly 650 kilometres long with only about 700 rather poor troops. He was ill again

but recovered in time to take part in the capture of Fort Duquesne, which was where the city of Pittsburgh now stands. Washington then left the army and early in 1759 married and settled down to the life of a landowner and tobacco-planter.

However, the most famous part of his career was yet to come. As a member of the House of Burgesses (parliament) of Virginia he was drawn into the disputes which, in 1775, led to war between Britain and its American colonies. (See AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE.) When the people of Massachusetts revolted against Britain and asked the other colonies to help them.



Radio Times Hulton Library
George Washington.

Washington became commander-in-chief of the revolutionary armies. His job was not an easy one, for the 13 colonies were jealous of one another. Although they had set up a "parliament" of their own, called Congress, it was not strong enough to make the leaders of all the states carry out

its orders. The soldiers under Washington's command were volunteers and they went home when they felt like it. Washington reached Boston, however, bluffed the British and made them sail away with their fleet.

After this he went to defend New York, which the British were attacking. Heavily outnumbered, he was defeated and made his famous retreat across the state of New Jersey. Most of his army deserted and the remainder was in rags. However, at Christmas 1776 Washington captured a British outpost and turned his country's despair into confidence. After this he both suffered defeats and won victories, often turning defeats into victories. He and his starving, almost naked army spent the winter of 1777-1778 in camp at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Then the spring brought help to the Americans, for France joined them against Britain. In 1781 at Yorktown in Virginia the British were defeated. Two years later the peace

treaty was signed and Washington went back to Mount Vernon. But he soon returned to public life. The colonies, now free from British rule, united to form the United States of America and in 1789 Washington was chosen as the first President of this new country.

During his eight years as President the political storms continued, and in 1794 he had to quell the Whisky Rebellion—a rising in Pennsylvania by people who refused to pay tax on whisky.

In 1797 Washington retired from public life and was at last free to enjoy Mount Vernon. However, he died two-and-a-half years later on December 14, 1799, and was honoured by all Americans as the "father of his people" and the founder of the United States. He was buried at Mount Vernon which he loved so well.

WASHINGTON is the capital of the United States of America and is situated on the eastern bank of the Potomac River about 160 kilometres from its mouth.

When the 13 American states banded together in 1788 to form the United States, each state wanted one of its own towns to become the national capital. However, Congress (the American parliament) decided that wherever the new capital was located it should cease to belong to any individual state. Between them Congress and the President, George Washington (see WASHINGTON, GEORGE), chose land on the Potomac River. Part of this land belonged to the state of Maryland and part to Virginia, so both states gave up their right to it. (In 1846 Virginia was given back its land.) The area became known as the District of Columbia, and that is why Washington is always referred to as Washington, D.C.

The city-to-be was named after George Washington. He appointed a Frenchman, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, who had been one of his officers in the American War of Independence, to plan the design of the city. L'Enfant was certain that the United States would one day be a great nation so he planned an imposing capital. The President's house (see WHITE HOUSE, THE) was begun in 1792 and the Capitol, or parliament building, in 1793.