

Destination UK: Wales

Task 1 Welcome to Wales.

What do you know about Wales? Make notes below on anything you know about the country. Write or draw your ideas.

Task 2 Guess the Welsh celebrity

Read the descriptions of four famous Welsh people and try to guess who they are.

A - She was born in South Wales, near Swansea, in 1969. She started acting at an early age and has starred in blockbusters like *The Mask of Zorro*, *Traffic* and *Chicago*. She is married to Hollywood star Michael Douglas and has two children.

B - He was born in South Wales in 1940. He is a singer and his most famous songs are 'It's not unusual', 'Delilah' or more recently, 'Sex Bomb'. He is well known for wearing tight trousers and exotic shirts on stage.

C - He was born in 1937 in Port Talbot, South Wales but now he lives in Hollywood. He's a very famous actor. He played the character of Hannibal Lecter in 1991 in *The Silence of the Lambs*.

D - This football player was born in Cardiff and plays for Manchester United and the Welsh national football team. He has played for Manchester United since 1991, so is one of the longest serving players in the team.

Task 3 Wales quiz

See how much you know about Wales by doing this quiz.

- 1) What's the capital city of Wales?
 - a) Swansea
 - b) Cardiff
 - c) Newport

- 2) What's the population of Wales?
 - a) 2.75 million
 - b) 3.75 million
 - c) 4.75 million

- 3) What's the national sport of Wales?
 - a) Football
 - b) Hockey
 - c) Rugby

- 4) What's the national emblem of Wales?
 - a) Potatoes
 - b) Coal
 - c) Leeks

- 5) What is depicted on the Welsh flag?
 - a) a horse
 - b) a dragon
 - c) a monster

- 6) What colour shirt do the Welsh rugby team wear?
 - a) red
 - b) black
 - c) blue

- 7) Who is the Patron Saint of Wales?
 - a) Saint David
 - b) Saint Patrick
 - c) Saint George

- 8) What's the name of the Stadium that was built in Cardiff in 1999? It's the 14th largest stadium in Europe.
 - a) New Arms Park
 - b) The Millennium Stadium
 - c) Welsh National Stadium

Task 4 Living in Wales – Jigsaw reading

You are going to read a text about life in Wales. Make sure you understand it well, as you are going to explain it to your classmates.

Student A

Language, Rugby and the Millenium Stadium – Living in Wales

Wales is a land of rugby, singing and beautiful scenery situated on the western side of the UK. Its population is just under three million which is about 5% of the total UK population. The main cities are Cardiff, the capital city, Swansea and Newport.

Wales was ruled directly from London until 1999 when the first elections to the Welsh National Assembly were held. The Assembly has some powers specific to people in Wales and can make decisions on areas such as education and health. Wales remains part of the UK and Members of Parliament (MPs) from Welsh constituencies continue to have seats in the UK Parliament at Westminster. Laws passed by Parliament in Westminster still apply to Wales.

Student B

Language

The Welsh language is probably the most important thing that distinguishes Wales from the rest of the UK. Welsh (or Cymraeg) is one of Europe's oldest languages and is spoken by one in five Welsh people. This number doubles among children and teenagers which shows that the language is very much alive among the young.

Road signs and other signs are in both English and Welsh. The language is at its strongest along the Llyn Peninsula in North-West Wales, where 75 per cent of the population speak Welsh. Towns, villages and cities in Wales often have both a Welsh and an English name and Wales is home to one of the longest place names in the world -

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch which means St Mary's (Church) by the white aspen over the whirlpool, and St Tysilio's (Church) by the red cave!

Student C

Sport and culture

Wales is also known for its 'Eisteddfodau' which are festivals celebrating Welsh language, art, culture and heritage and which include an eclectic mix of music, dance, drama, debate and cultural competitions. Most people know of the annual National Eisteddfod which is held alternately in North and South Wales and the International Eisteddfod which is held in Llangollen, but there are Eisteddfodau of varying sizes held in towns and villages throughout the land.

The national sport is very much rugby union and the national team are sometimes known as the Dragons as a red dragon appears on the national flag of Wales. The home ground is the Millennium Stadium at Cardiff Arms Park in Cardiff.

Task 5 Let's learn Welsh!

Did you know that the Welsh language is taught at all schools in Wales and some schools do all their classes in Welsh?

Have a look at these common expressions and try saying them.

Bore da	Good morning
Prynhawn da	Good afternoon
Sut mae?	How are you?
Da iawn	Very well
Diolch	Thanks
Creosol i Gymru	Welcome to Wales
Hwyl	Goodbye

- Do you think Welsh would be an easy language to learn? Why / why not?
- How many different languages are spoken in your country?

Task 6 Trip to Wales

You have won a trip to Wales. You will go with your English class and will stay for one week. There are lots of things you can do on holiday in Wales. Here are some of the options. Discuss the options you're your group. You must choose the three you would prefer to do. All of you have to agree, so you may have to persuade your classmates to change their minds!

- Watch a rugby match.
- Learn to speak Welsh.
- Go horse riding in the countryside.
- Do a Welsh cookery course.
- Visit Cardiff Castle.
- Learn to surf at the beach.
- Go to a concert in the Millennium Stadium.
- Go shopping in Cardiff city centre.
- Go out for the evening in Swansea. (Famous for its night life)
- Go mountain biking / quad biking in the countryside.

Our top three activities are:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)