

LOCATION

Wales is located on a peninsula in central-west Britain. Its area, the size of Wales, is about 20,779 km². It is about 274 km (170 miles) north-south and 97 km (60 miles) east-west.



Wales is one of the four parts of the United Kingdom (along with England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland). Wales is a mountainous country on the western side of Great Britain. About two-thirds of the population live in the south - east of the country



POPULATION



Population:

2,980,000 (StatsWales 2007)

Population density:

143 persons per square kilometre





LANGUAGE



- Official Languages:
- Welsh, English

- Welsh Alphabet
- The WELSH LANGUAGE CYMRAEG is Europe's oldest living language. It is a Celtic language and dates back to the 6th Century and just before the Romans left Britain. WELSH comes from the language spoken by the ancient Britons, called "Brythonic".
- Welsh is a living language, used in conversation by thousands and seen throughout Wales.
- The Welsh people are keen to keep the language alive so Welsh is a compulsory subject for all school pupils up to the age of 16 in Wales.

NATIONAL SYMBOLS



The Welsh Flag



The Haro







The Prince of Wales Feathers



The Welsh Flag



The national flag - The Red Dragon (or in Welsh Y Ddraig Goch) - was granted official status in 1959, but the dragon itself has been associated with Wales for centuries. Some say it's the oldest national flag still in use, and that it was used by King Arthur and other ancient Celtic leaders.





The Leek

The Daffodil

- The Daffodil
- The Welsh for leek (the original national emblem) is Cenhinen, while the Welsh for daffodil is Cenhinen Pedr. Over the years they became confused until the daffodil was adopted as a second emblem of Wales. National Emblems
- The Leek
- According to legend St David advised the Britons on the eve of a battle with the Saxons, to wear leeks in their caps so as to easily distinguish friend from foe. This helped to secure a great victory. Today Welsh people around the world wear leeks on St David's Day. It is also a surviving tradition that soldiers in the Welsh regiments eat a raw leek on St David's Day.





The Harp

The harp is regarded as the national instrument of Wales. By the end of the 18th century, the triple harp - so called because it had three rows of strings - was widely known as the Welsh harp on account of its popularity in Wales. The harp has been used through the ages as an accompaniment to folk-singing and dancing and as a solo instrument. HRH Prince Charles appoints a Welsh Royal Harpist on a scholarship programme annually. Past Royal harpists include Catrin Finch.

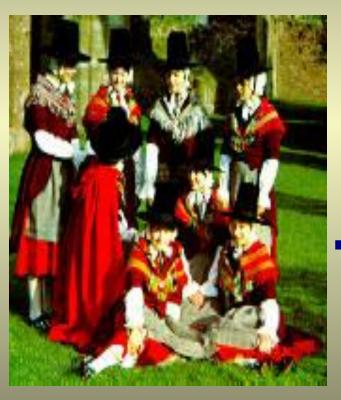




■The Prince of Wales Feathers

The Crest of three ostrich plumes and the motto "Ich Dien" (I serve) were adopted by Edward the Black Prince at the Battle of Crecy. Edward became Prince of Wales in 1343, and was a popular leader - so much so that thousands of Welshmen joined him to fight in the French wars. In fact, a quarter of Edward's troops were composed of Welsh archers and spearmen. The crest is used today in royal heraldry and the feathers still adorn the badge of the National Rugby Union team of Wales.

NATIONAL COSTUME



- For the ladies the typical Welsh costume consists of a hat, made of black felt, with a high crown and wide brim, which is worn over a lace cap. A red flannel shawl is worn over a crisp white blouse, and a full skirt made of wool with a black and white check pattern and a starched, white apron.
- Proper Welsh ladies
 always wore black
 woolen stockings and
 black shoes and carried
 a basket, made from
 willow withies.

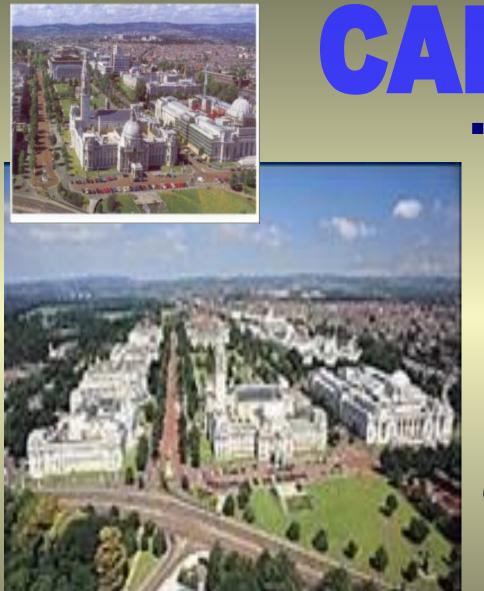




MAIN CITIES



- Cardiff
- Newport
- Swansea



GARDIFF

Cardiff has been the capital of Wales since 1955.

It is the city on the river Severn.

It is both the cultural center (with a university) and the economic centre of the principality.

Financially and industrially, Cardiff is the most important city in Wales.

GARDIFF



Millennium City Centre



Cardiff University



CITY HALL





SHOPPING STREET



Cardiff Bay

PICTURE GALLERY SNOWDONIA





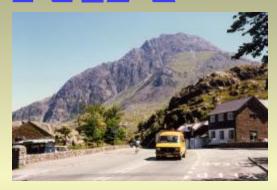






PICTURE GALLERY SNOWDONIA

The highest mountains in Wales are in Snowdonia (Eryri), and include Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa), which, at 1085 m (3,560 ft) is the highest peak in Wales. The 14 (or possibly 15) Welsh mountains over 3,000 feet (914 m) high are known collectively as the Welsh 3000s.





PICTURE GALLERY THE CASTLES OF WALES

Wales is famous over

BEAMARIS CASTLE

Nales is famous over the world for its castles

Almost every town in the country has fortified

remains in one form or another



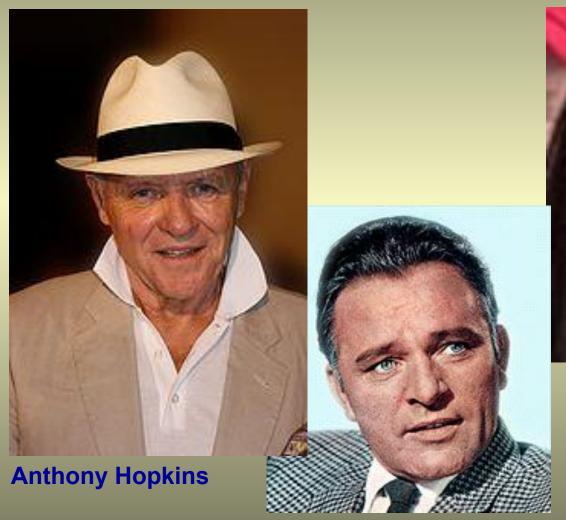
ACTON BURNELL CASTLE

CHEPSTOW CASTLE

ABERYSTWYTH CASTLE



FAMOUS PEOPLE





Catherine Zeta-Jones

Richard Burton

NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF WALES







The most important eisteddfod is the National Eisteddfod of Wales, the largest festival of competitive music and poetry in Europe. Its eight days of competitions and performances, entirely in the Welsh language, are staged annually in the first week of August usually alternating between North and South Wales.



ST.DAVID'S DAY

For centuries the first of March has been a national festival. St David was recognised as a national patron saint at the height of Welsh resistance to the Normans.

To celebrate this day, people wear a symbol of either a leek, or daffodil.



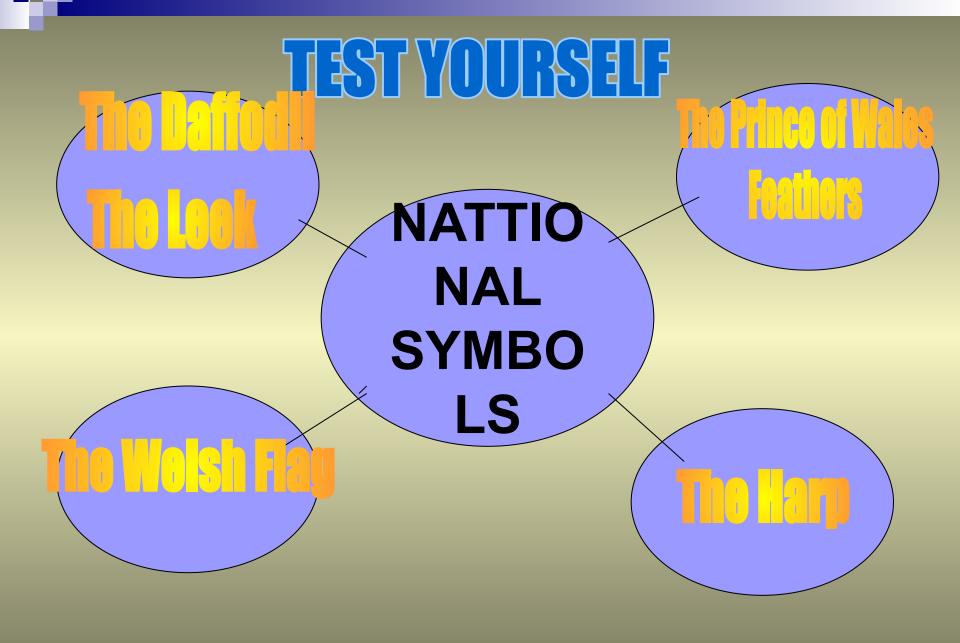


St David

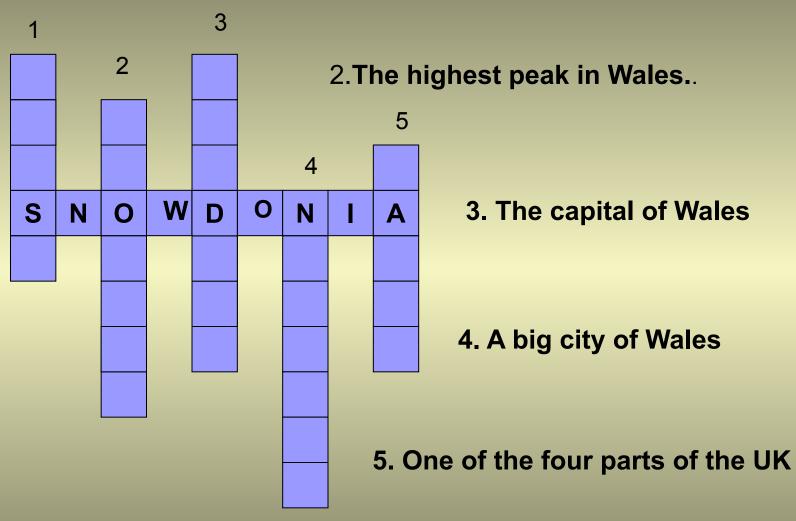


St. David's Day Parade Cardiff

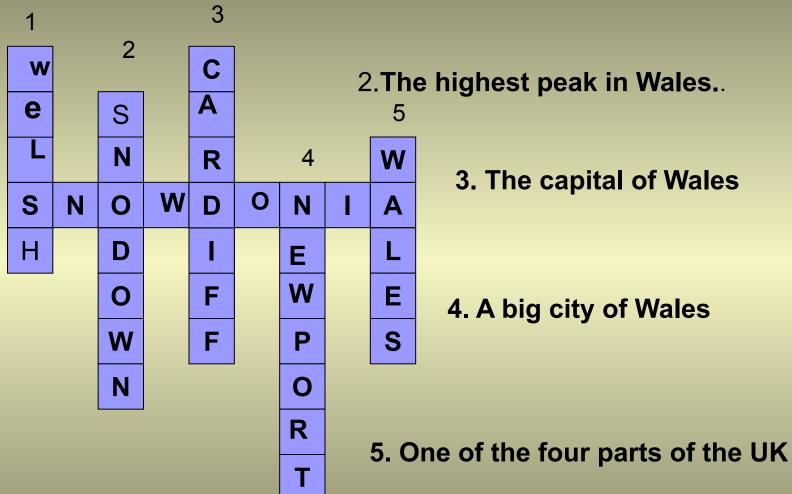
- Is Wales bigger or smaller than Scotland?
- What is its capital?
- What is the symbol of Wales?
- What languages are spoken in Wales?
- Is Wales an industrial or agricultural country?
- Are there any big cities in Wales?
- What landscape is in Wales?



1. An official language



1. An official language





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http://wapedia.mobi/en/List of cultural icons of Wales

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%BD%20%D0%A3%D1%8D%D0%BB%D1%8C%D1%81

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