

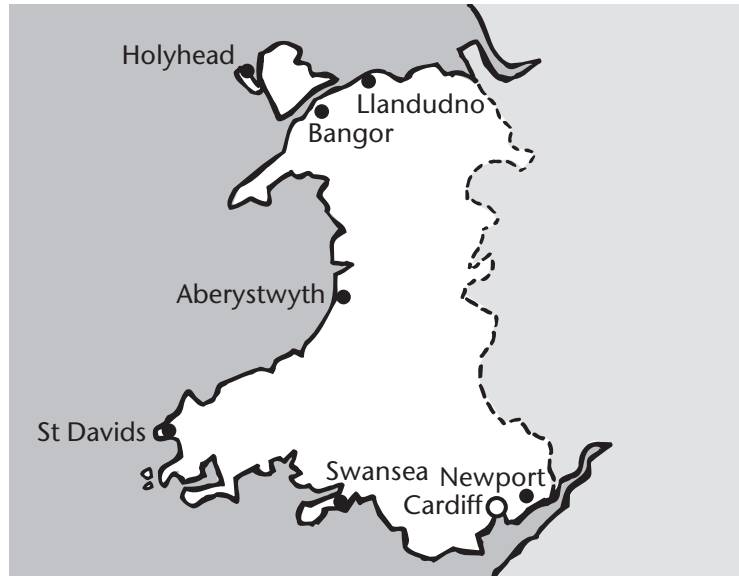
Welshness

1.1 Wales

Shw mae, croeso i Gymru (Hello, welcome to Wales)

Wales is next to England. More than 3 million people live there.

The capital city of Wales is Cardiff. Cardiff is in South Wales. The currency (money) in Wales is the pound sterling. The language of Wales is Welsh. Wales has 641 castles and 750 miles of coast (where the land meets the sea).



Wales has three special symbols. The first is a vegetable called a leek. The leek has been a national symbol for Wales since 1536.

The dragon (a magical animal), is on the Welsh flag. The dragon has been on the flag since Roman times. The daffodil is a flower. It has been a symbol for Wales for a hundred years.



A lot of people in Wales like music and singing. Wales is sometimes called 'the land of song'. Many towns and cities have their own choir for men. These choirs were started by workers from the coal mines. Today the choirs are groups of men who want to sing traditional Welsh songs.



There are Eisteddfod festivals in the whole of Wales. At an Eisteddfod people sing and perform. The first Eisteddfod was in Cardigan in 1176. The National Eisteddfod of Wales is the most important one. It is in the first week of August every year. Only the Welsh language is used.