

Welshness

1.4 Mining in Wales

Slate

Wales is famous for slate. Slate is a flat, black rock. Slate is used to make roof tiles and floor tiles. Slate has been taken from the ground (quarried) in Wales since Roman times. Welsh quarries have produced more slate than any other slate quarries in the world



Coal

Coal is a rock taken from the ground. It can be burnt to make heat and energy. A lot of coal was mined in Wales until the end of the 20th century. Wales was one of the biggest producers of coal in the United Kingdom. Most of the coal mined in Wales was exported to other countries by ship.



Gold

The Romans found gold in Wales and used it to make jewellery. Queen Elizabeth's wedding ring is made from Welsh gold. There are three gold mines in Wales today.



Other metals

Lead, silver and copper were also mined in Wales until the end of the 20th century.