

# WALES

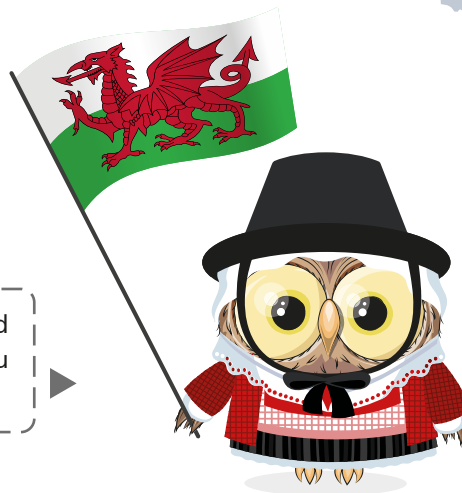
Wales is a mountainous country located in the west of Britain. It is surrounded by the sea on three sides, and it is famous for its hills and mountains. The climate of Wales is very humid, and it rains quite a lot there. Cardiff is the capital of Wales and the biggest Welsh city.

Originally, Wales was a Celtic land, and it has two official languages: English and Welsh. Its population is about 3 million people. About 20% of the people in Wales speak Welsh as their first language. They call their country Cymru in the Welsh language which is one of the oldest languages in Europe. It could be up to 4,000 years old - and it is really difficult to learn and pronounce!



## FUN FACTS

Welsh people are great singers and storytellers. They do not like it if you refer to them as English!



There are about 10 million sheep in Wales – over 3 sheep per person!

Wales has more castles per square mile than any other European country and it is often called the land of the castles. There are over 600 castles in Wales.



Rugby is a popular Welsh ball game. It is quite rough and played on a grassy field where two teams try to move the ball down the field into the opponent's goal. Players can catch, carry, throw or kick the ball which is oval in shape.



Snowdon is the highest mountain in Wales and England. It is 1085 metres high. Contrary to its name, the mountain does not get much snow these days.

Prince Charles, the Queen's eldest son is the Prince of Wales. The title is always given to the ruling monarch's eldest son.



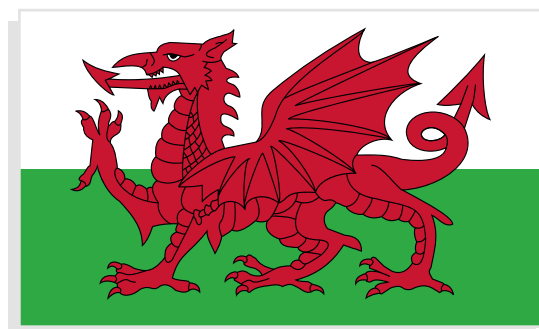
# NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF WALES

The dragon, daffodil and leek are the national symbols of Wales. The daffodil is a yellow spring flower and on March 1<sup>st</sup>, when Welsh people celebrate St David's day, they pin daffodils to their clothes.



The leek is a vegetable that tastes like an onion and many people believe it became a symbol of Wales because St David liked it a lot! The leek is very healthy, and it is rich in vitamins and minerals.

The national flag of Wales is the Red Dragon on a white and green background. Dragons were very popular during the Middle Ages and the red dragon has been used as an emblem in Wales since the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD. However, the current flag was officially adopted in 1959.



## ST DAVID



St David is the patron saint of Wales. The exact date of his birth is unknown, but we know that he was born into a noble family and that he lived in the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. As a young man, he became a monk, and later a bishop who spread Christianity in Wales and across other parts of Britain.

David was vegetarian and according to legend, he lived on a diet of leeks and water – which may be the reason why the leek became a national symbol of Wales!

Legend has it that David was a miracle maker. For example, he restored a blind man's eyesight and also brought a dead boy back to life. However, the most famous of David's miracles took place while he was speaking to a large crowd and some people started complaining that they could not hear him. Then, a white dove sent from heaven landed on David's shoulder and the ground on which he was standing rose up and formed a hill so that everybody could see and hear him without any problems.

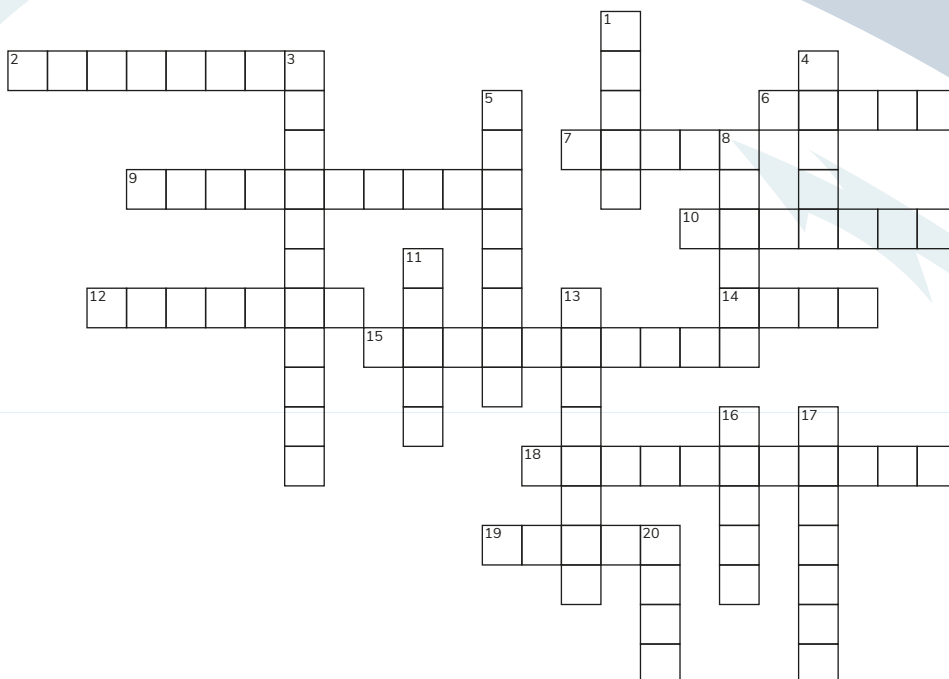
St David's Day, which is the National Day of Wales, has been celebrated on 1 March since the 12<sup>th</sup> Century.

# MOUNT EVEREST



Have you ever wondered how Mount Everest got its name? The mountain was named in honour of a Welshman, Sir George Everest in 1856. He was a geodesist and geographer who worked to create accurate maps of the Indian subcontinent. The mountain's Tibetan name is Chomolungma, which means 'Goddess Mother of the World'.

Interestingly, Sir Everest was not very happy when he learned that the world highest mountain would be named after him! During his lifetime he never saw or climbed the mountain.



## CROSSWORD

### Down

1. The Welsh name for Wales
3. A person who is good at telling stories
4. A type of climate with a lot of rain
5. St David made a couple of them
8. The creature on the Welsh flag
11. There are 10 million of them in Wales
13. A spring flower that is a national symbol of Wales
16. The patron saint of Wales
17. The highest mountain in Wales
20. The bird from heaven that landed on St David's shoulder

### Across

2. Leeks are rich in them
6. A popular Welsh ball game
7. A large group of people
9. Mr Everest's job
10. The capital of Wales
12. Wales has over 600 of them
14. The shape of a rugby ball
15. A person who does not eat meat
18. The adjective for a landscape with mountains
19. Not able to see