





**Facts about Wales**

- A country in the UK
- Population (2011): 3.06 m
- Area: 20,779 square km
- Capital: Cardiff (Caerdydd)
- Languages: English, Welsh
- Highest point: Snowdon, 1085 m

## Getting to know Wales

 Read these texts about Wales. Note down the most important facts in your mind-map.

 Discuss your findings with your partner and note down their facts in your mind-map.



### The capital city

Cardiff, the capital, is Wales's largest city (346,000). With over 300,000 tourists a year, it is one of Britain's favourite cities. People go there to see its old castle or watch the Welsh Parliament at work.

Or they visit the Welsh National Museum or the famous *Doctor Who Experience*.



### Two languages

Welsh and English are official languages in Wales. That's why road signs are bilingual. Everyone in Wales speaks English, but about 20 per cent of the population also speak Welsh, the country's original Celtic language. In the north-west, the number of Welsh speakers is higher. There, many people use Welsh in everyday life and at school.



#### new words

**population** - Bevölkerungszahl


**capital** - Hauptstadt


**experience** - Erfahrung

**bilingual** - zweisprachig

**Celtic** - keltisch

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### Steel, coal and rugby: the Valleys

Wales was once a land of steel and coal. In 1945, 30 per cent of all Welsh men worked in these industries in the valleys of south Wales. But today, steel and coal are no longer important. The last coal mine closed in 2008.

One million people still live in the Valleys, but today they work in manufacturing or health and social services.

The Valleys are still a centre of Welsh culture, and rugby, the "national sport" of Wales, is very popular. There are rugby grounds in most of the towns and villages.



### The National Eisteddfod (Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru)

The Eisteddfod is the biggest festival in Wales and takes place in a different town every year. 150,000 visitors come for a mix of music, dance and theatre. There are competitions for everything from disco dancing to large choirs, many of them for young kids and teens.

The Eisteddfod goes back to 1176. It promotes Welsh language and culture and all official events are in Welsh. But everyone is welcome, even if they can't speak Welsh.



#### new words

**steel** - Stahl

**once** - einst/ehemals

**per cent** (%)

**manufacturing** - Fabrik/ Produktion

**health and social services** -  
Gesundheits-/ Sozialwesen

**rugby grounds** - Rugby Sportplatz

**to promote** - unterstützen