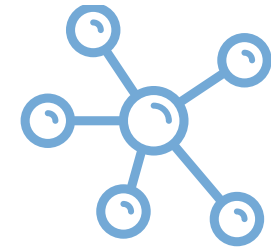
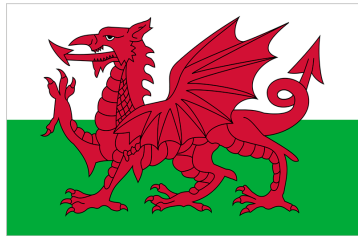


The United Kingdom: Wales



Quick summary



Wales is one of the four countries of the United Kingdom (UK). It is also part of Great Britain, which includes Scotland and England. It has a population of around 3 million. Wales has six cities and many rural areas. Its capital city is Cardiff. The official language is English but some people also speak or understand the Welsh language. People from Wales are known as Welsh. The national flag is the Red Dragon and the Patron Saint is St David. The national emblem is the leek. Although part of the UK, Wales also has its own National Assembly for local matters.



Location

Wales lies to the west of England. It borders England with the preserved counties of Clywd, Powys and Gwent. To the west of Wales is the Irish Sea and to the south is the Bristol Channel which separates Wales from the English counties of Devon and Cornwall. Off the north west coast is the island of Anglesey and, beyond that, the country Ireland.



Human processes

In the past, most jobs were in industry, mining or farming. Farming is still a major source of income for Wales but many of the mines and factories have closed. Tourism is now a large part of human activity in Wales.



Human features

Wales has only six cities, the largest of which is Cardiff, followed by Swansea. There are also many smaller towns and villages with a range of roads and transport networks linking them together. Houses, shops, leisure centres, theatres, cinemas and restaurants occupy cities but most of the land in the country is rural.



Physical features

Wales is known for its mountains and valleys. The highest mountain is Snowdon. It has three national parks: Snowdonia, an area marked by lakes, hills, moorlands, and waterfalls; the Pembrokeshire Coast – the only coastal national park in the United Kingdom – which is marked by sandy beaches and rugged hills; Brecon Beacons, a mountain range in South Wales, famous for high peaks, valleys, moorlands, lakes, caves and waterfalls.



Vocabulary

rural: relating to the countryside

emblem: badge or symbol

preserved counties: Wales now has local authorities but in the past it had counties (which have been kept for some purposes)

tourism: providing services for people on holiday



Location



Physical features



Human features



Diversity



Physical processes



Human processes



Techniques

