

EXPRESSIVE ARTS / CYMRAEG · YEAR 1–6

# Eisteddfod yr Urdd — Preparing for the Urdd

## Classroom Preparation Pack

### About the Urdd Eisteddfod

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#### Urdd Gobaith Cymru

The Welsh League of Youth — a youth organisation founded in 1922. Runs the Urdd Eisteddfod annually — the largest youth festival in Europe, attracting over 100,000 competitors and visitors.

2

#### The Urdd Eisteddfod

A national competition held each May/June alternating between north and south Wales. Children compete from district to county to national level in poetry recitation, singing, dancing, art, and more.

3

#### Llefaru (Recitation)

Welsh poetry recitation — individually and in groups. All competitors must present a set piece (penillion, poem, or prose) and sometimes a free-choice piece. Judged on pronunciation, expression, and communication.

4

#### Canu (Singing)

Solo and ensemble vocal competitions. Welsh songs — folk songs, contemporary Welsh songs, and sometimes set pieces. Unaccompanied and accompanied categories.

5

#### Dawns (Dance)

Dawnsio gwerin (folk dancing) and contemporary dance competitions. Groups from schools compete with choreographed performances.

### Classroom preparation checklist



- Choose the competition(s) — which pupils are entering which categories?
- For llefaru: clear pronunciation, meaningful expression, eye contact with the audience.
- For art entries: read the theme carefully. Original work only. Presentation matters.
- Manage nerves: teach simple breathing exercises. The Eisteddfod is meant to be enjoyable.
- Obtain the llefaru set piece — practice daily from 6 weeks before.
- For singing: learn the words perfectly first, then work on tone and expression.
- Rehearse in front of different audiences — class, other classes, parents.
- Make entries accessible: there are categories for all Welsh language levels in some Eisteddfodau.

