

HUMANITIES — WELSH HISTORY · YEAR 5–6

# Yr Iaith Gymraeg — The Welsh Language

History, Survival &amp; Revival — Years 5–6

## Key vocabulary

1

**Cymraeg (Welsh language)**

One of the oldest living languages in Europe. Celtic origin, from the Brythonic branch. Approximately 900,000 speakers in Wales today, with a further 150,000+ outside Wales.

2

**Welsh Not / Not-Our-Language (NOL)**

A wooden board hung around the neck of children caught speaking Welsh in school in the 19th century. Passed from child to child — the child wearing it at the end of the day was punished. A deliberate policy to suppress Welsh.

3

**Welsh Language Act (1993)**

Gave Welsh official status in Wales for the first time. Required public bodies to offer Welsh language services. A major step toward legal equality for Welsh.

4

**Welsh Language (Wales) Measure (2011)**

Gave Welsh official status on an equal basis with English in Wales. Created the role of Welsh Language Commissioner.

5

**Eisteddfod**

The annual cultural festival conducted entirely in Welsh. The National Eisteddfod and the Urdd (youth) Eisteddfod are the two main ones.

6

**Gwynedd / Gwynedd Cymraeg**

The county of Gwynedd in northwest Wales has the highest proportion of Welsh speakers — around 65-70% of its population.

