

Short interesting facts about Wales



Read the text carefully and then answer the questions.

The spoken language is Welsh. It is one of the Celtic languages and survived in the north and the west. The Welsh language has become compulsory in primary schools as an academic language although it is known by many but used only by a few people. The Welsh are very proud of their language and culture. The national flag, with its dragon, is regularly displayed the Welsh national anthem played and sung. Choral singing is a national art. Wales has traditional **folk music** that is related to the Celtic music of countries such as Scotland and Ireland. People say that Wales is the land of song and associated with its Male Voice Choirs. One of the most traditional Welsh instrument is the harp and crwth.

The **Welsh National dress** of a woman is a red cloak and a tall black hat which is called chimney. One of its parts is a shawl and a tradition is attached to it such as carrying babies.

There are three National Parks in Wales. They are protected by law because of their natural beauty. The three biggest towns are located in the South Wales coastal area Swansea, Cardiff, Newport. The Rhymney and the Rhondda are of the best known South Wales valleys.

The modern capital of Wales is **Cardiff** also called in Welsh Caerdydd. It has a castle dating back to Roman times. Cardiff became an important port and industrial town where there are plenty of parks.

After London, the University of Wales is the largest university in the United Kingdom. There are three colleges: Aberystwyth on the coast, Bangor on the edge of Snowdonia mountains, Cardiff is in an urban environment. As a tourist

you might visit the **Big Pit Mining Museum** in south Wales, where you can see the miner's life in the old days and typical miner cottages and pithead baths.

In Cardiff is the famous **Cardiff castle** which is known for being haunted by the ghost of the Second Marquis of Bute. After a banquet he died suddenly. The room in which he died has been converted into a small chapel, his bust stands at the spot where he breathed last. His ghost has been seen in the library. In that castle there is also a woman ghost but no one knows who she is.

The Princess of Wales, Diana Spencer was a famous person even before her tragic death. Her husband was Charles, the Prince of Wales and their sons are William and Henry. Diana and Charles's marriage and divorce were in the attraction of the United Kingdom. Diana was a very pretty and helpful character with her charities. She died in a car crash. Her grave is on an island in Althorp Park, in the Spencer family home.

Prince Charles is the present Prince of Wales. He is the first son of Queen Elizabeth II. and the heir to the throne. He is interested in architecture and also keen on painting. Prince Charles wrote a book for children in 1980, *The Old Man of Lochnagar*.

A short history about the Princes of Wales. Over centuries the male heir to the crown of England has been named Prince of Wales. This title cannot be hereditary. The first Prince of Wales was Edward II. in 1301. Well-known features are the titles and honours. The most important titles are the five aristocratic ranks such as duke, marquess, earl, viscount and baron.

Stones of Gwent is famous for its **Harold's Stones**. An interesting folklore story tells that Jack o' Kent, a giant, was thrown down from the Sugar Loaf mountain, while he was playing pitch and toss with the Devil. As a result, three stones stand leaning at all angles in an open field. Actually its purpose is unknown. Stones were commemorated the battle won by King Harold.

Answer the questions:

Where does the Welsh language come from? _____

What kind of traditional things did you read in the text?

Which places can be visited in Cardiff? _____

Who was the Princess of Wales? _____

What did the Prince of Wales write? _____

How many important titles are there? What are these? _____

What did Jack o' Kent do? _____

What was the result? _____

Are the statements true or false? (T/F)

There are four National Parks in Wales. _____

The Welsh National dress of a man is a red cloak and a small black hat. _____

The University of Wales is the largest University in the U.K. _____

There are two ghosts in Cardiff Castle. _____

The title of baron belongs to the most important aristocratic ranks. _____

Stones of Gwent is famous for its giant. _____
