



Unit 2 Lesson 1: History of the English Language

The Celts and Celtic Languages

A) Celtic Languages were spoken throughout Europe. How and why did Celtic become so rare? Complete the timeline.

| Date | Where Celtic was spoken |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 750 BC | |
| 500 BC | |
| 250 BC | |
| 1 AD | |
| 250 AD | |
| 500 AD | |
| 750 AD | |
| 1000 AD | |
| 1500 AD | |
| Present Day | |

B) Why did the spread of Celtic languages stop in Europe?

- 1
- 2
- 3

C) What do these Celtic words mean? We still use them in English today.

Ass

Carr

Brock

Hog

Tor

Coombe

Crag



D) Label the map with correct Celtic language spoken in that area.



E) Welsh. The following activity is taken from the UK Linguistics Olympiad.

All Celtic languages have what are called “mutations”. These are changes to the initial letter of a word depending on how the word is used in a sentence. For example, the Welsh city ‘Bangor’ is Bangorin Welsh. But in Aethom i Fangor ‘We went to Bangor’, it appears as Fangor. This is because bmutates to fafter the word i‘to’. Welsh mutations can be challenging for a learner. However, there is a logic to them, as you’ll (hopefully) see. Here are some Welsh nouns in their unmutated forms with their English translations. Lok at the information below then see if you can understand the Welsh beneath.



| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>ceffyl</i> 'horse' | <i>tad</i> 'father' | <i>meddyg</i> 'doctor' | <i>bachgen</i> 'boy' | <i>cath</i> 'cat' |
| <i>ci</i> 'dog' | <i>dafad</i> 'sheep' | <i>darlun</i> 'picture' | <i>beic</i> 'bicycle' | <i>dyn</i> 'man' |
| <i>Cymru</i> 'Wales' | <i>draig</i> 'dragon' | <i>theatr</i> 'theatre' | <i>Bangor</i> 'Bangor' | |

Here are some Welsh sentences with their English translations (Aberystwyth is a city on the central Welsh coast, and Dolgellau is a town in North Wales). Pay attention to the order of words in both Welsh and English!

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Aeth Megan i Fangor | Megan went to Bangor | Mae yn Dolgellau Fegan | In Dolgellau is Megan |
| Aeth Emrys i Aberystwyth | Emrys went to Aberystwyth | Mae Megan yn Dolgellau | Megan is in Dolgellau |
| Mae dafad yma | A sheep is here | Gwelodd Megan ddarlun | Megan saw a picture |
| Mae yma ddafad | Here is a sheep | Gwelodd ddarlun | She saw a picture |
| Mae yn Aberystwyth dad | In Aberystwyth is father | Gwelodd y dyn gath | The man saw a cat |

Which is the correct Welsh translation of each of the following English sentences? Circle the letter on the left.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. He saw a bicycle in the street | 2. In the street, he saw a bicycle |
| a. Gwelodd beic yn y stryd | a. Gwelodd yn y stryd feic |
| b. Gwelodd feic yn y stryd | b. Gwelodd yn y stryd beic |
| c. Gwelodd yn y stryd beic | c. Gwelodd beic yn y stryd |
| d. Gwelodd yn y stryd feic | d. Gwelodd feic yn y stryd |
| 3. In the theatre, she saw a horse | 4. The boy's father saw a dog |
| a. Gwelodd yn y theatr geffyl | a. Gwelodd dad y bachgen gi |
| b. Gwelodd ceffyl yn y theatr | b. Gwelodd tad y bachgen gi |
| c. Gwelodd yn y theatr ceffyl | c. Gwelodd tad y bachgen ci |
| d. Gwelodd geffyl yn y theatr | d. Gwelodd dad y bachgen ci |