



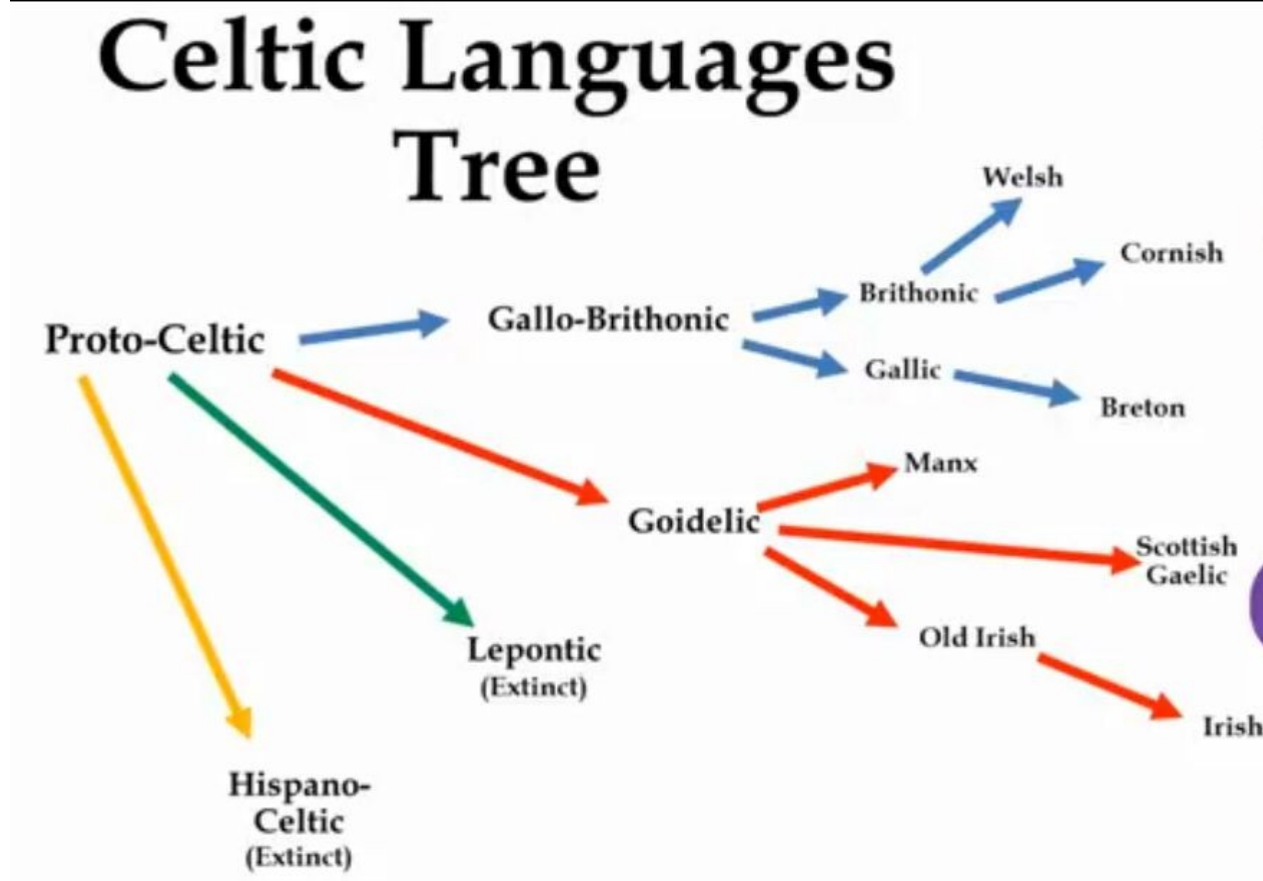
The World of Languages and Languages of the World

Celtic

Let's learn about the ancient Celtic language, where we see its influence today and where Celtic languages are spoken in the modern world.



In the beginning was Celtic



Quiz Time!

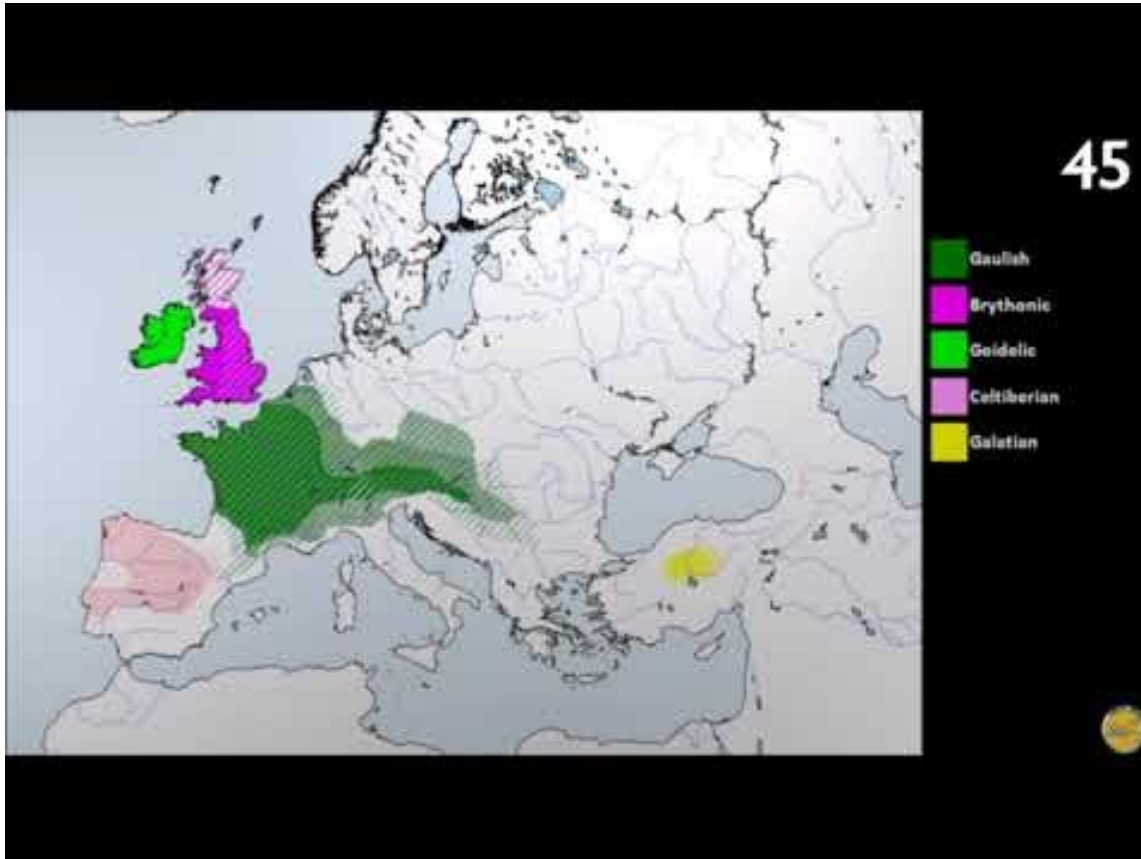
Having looked at the diagram on the previous slide...

1. What is a proto language?
2. What is an extinct language?
3. What links Cornish, Welsh, Manx, Breton, Irish and Scottish Gaelic?

1. A proto-language is a lost parent language. Other languages are derived from it.
2. An extinct language no longer has any speakers.
3. They are all Celtic languages that are spoken today.



The History of Celtic Languages in Europe



- Watch how Celtic Languages spread across Europe and see their decline. Make notes on your timeline in your workbook.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lab8d2YfG5k>

Film by Costas Melas.



Ιπποπόταμος
WoLLow the HiPPo

The Spread of Celtic Tribes and Celtic Languages

The Celtic people was made up of hundreds of tribes, some were small and others had more than a ¼ million people.

There was not one Celtic nation or state but they were linked by their ethnicity, some shared cultural characteristics and artistic styles as well as language from the same roots.

The Greeks called these diverse people the *Keltoi*, which is perhaps how the Celts referred to themselves.

The Celts were great migrators; the areas they inhabited stretched from Scotland to Spain, France to Greece, Eastern Europe to Turkey.

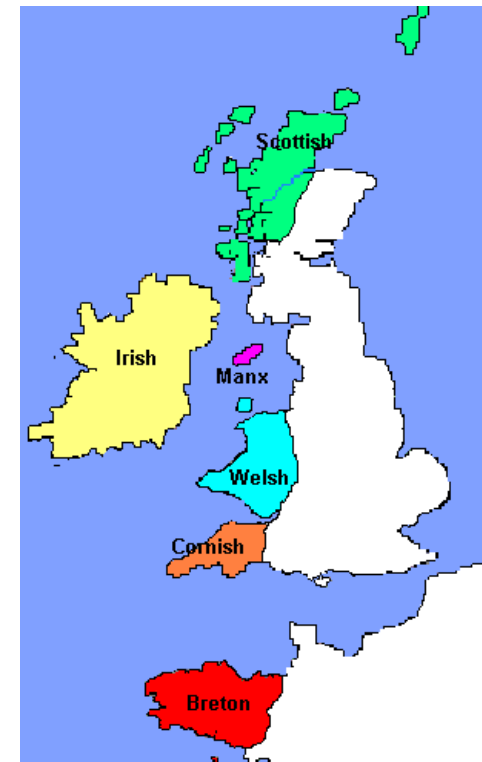


Once upon a time the Celtic language was all over Europe - and now it isn't.

What countries were Celtic
languages spoken in?



Celtic languages today.
So, what happened?



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)



Ιπποπόταμος
WoLLow the HiPPo

**What stopped the
Celtic expansion
in Europe?**

The Romans.

**But did they
simply kill the
Celtic tribes?**



Ιπποπόταμος
WoLlow the HiPPo

This Photo by Unknown author is licensed under CC BY-SA.

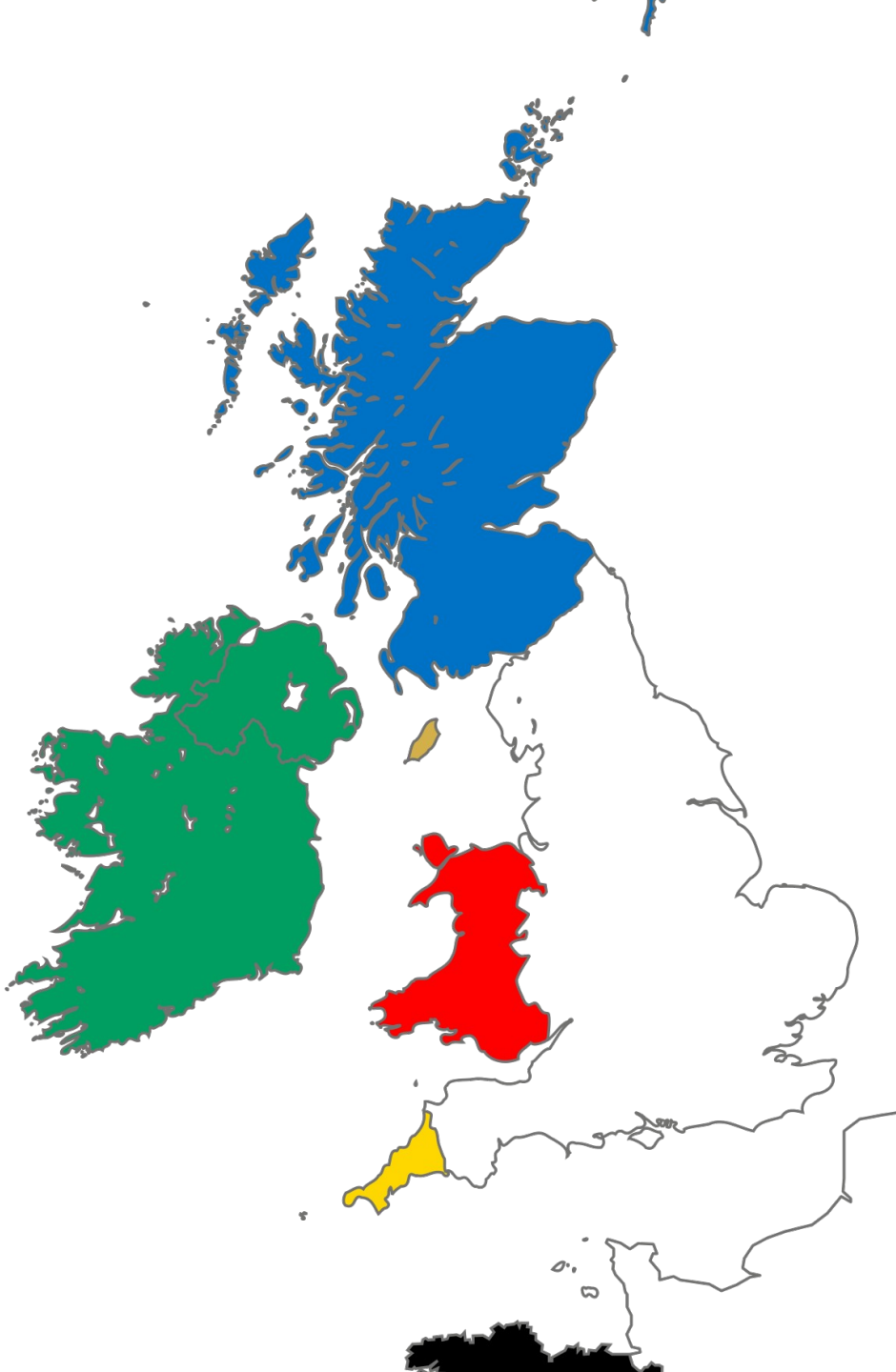
Why was the Celtic expansion halted?

The Celtic tendency to migrate to new lands, and the relentless Roman expansion beyond the Italy meant that the civilizations' were fated to encounter each other repeatedly—both on the battlefield and in the marketplace.

Roman and Celtic traders exchanged goods including wine, tin, lead, silver, gold, salt and fine pottery.

Some Celtic tribes formed alliances with Rome and fought in their armies.

Other tribes became enamored of the Roman way of life—the prosperous cities and farms, the well-developed infrastructure and stable government—and became Romanized.



Celtic strongholds remained in Britain, but the Roman invasion and Anglo-Saxon invasion combined to push the Celts to the West.



Ιπποπόταμος
WoLlow the HiPPo

This Photo by Unknown author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#).

Celtic Place Names in Britain

There are a large number of Celtic Place Names in Britain. Some include;

- Avon
- Leeds
- Severn

Many Celtic prefixes or suffixes are to do with the landscape:

- Cumb, comb (deep valley)
- Dun (hill fort)
- Lin (lake)
- torr, pen crug, bre (hill)

➤ Can you think of any more?

There are many compound names (the Celtic element in bold):

- **Berk**shire
- **Cam**bridge
- **Carl**isle
- **Cire**ncester
- **Don**caster
- **Glouc**ester
- **Lanc**aster
- Ilfr**acombe**
- **Lanc**aster
- **Lincoln**
- **Man**chester
- **Pen**rith
- **Wilt**shire
- **Worce**ster



But these
lists hide
an
important
point...

Celtic place names are not evenly distributed throughout Britain. They increase in number as we move from East to West.

In Wales and Cornwall there are hardly any Germanic (Anglo-Saxon) place names at all, but many Celtic names.

This uneven distribution shows us where Anglo-Saxons had successfully assimilated British people into their society.

It also shows where British people had held on to their own identity and language and co-existed with Anglo-Saxons.



Why did the Anglo-Saxons not end up speaking Celtic?

- Why are there so few Celtic loanwords in Old English?
- How did the Anglo-Saxons fail to have been influenced by the Celtic majority when they came to our shores?
- Perhaps the Romanised Celtic culture was so different from Anglo-Saxon culture that there was no motivation to borrow their words.
- Perhaps the Anglo-Saxons saw themselves as superior, with Celtic being "gutter-speak".
- Perhaps the Celts, having been so influenced by Roman culture, were perceived as too posh.
- Or perhaps their ways of life were so similar that they didn't need to borrow words.



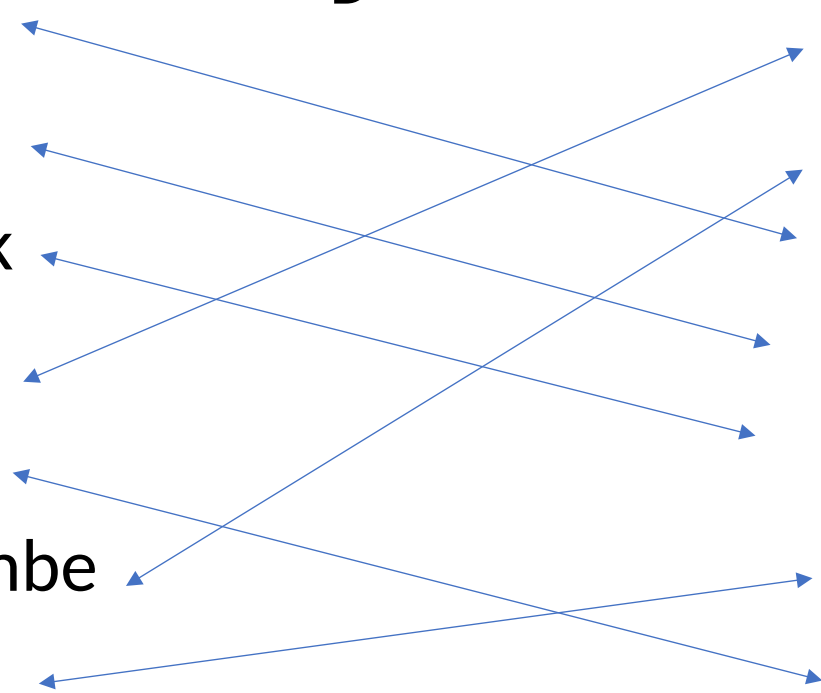
We use these old Celtic words in English today. Match the Celtic (1-7) to the English (a-g).

1. Ass
2. Carr
3. Brock
4. Hog
5. Tor
6. Coombe
7. Crag

- a. Pig
- b. Valley
- c. Donkey
- d. Rock
- e. Badger
- f. Group of Cliffs
- g. Mound



We use these old Celtic words in English today. Do you know what they mean?

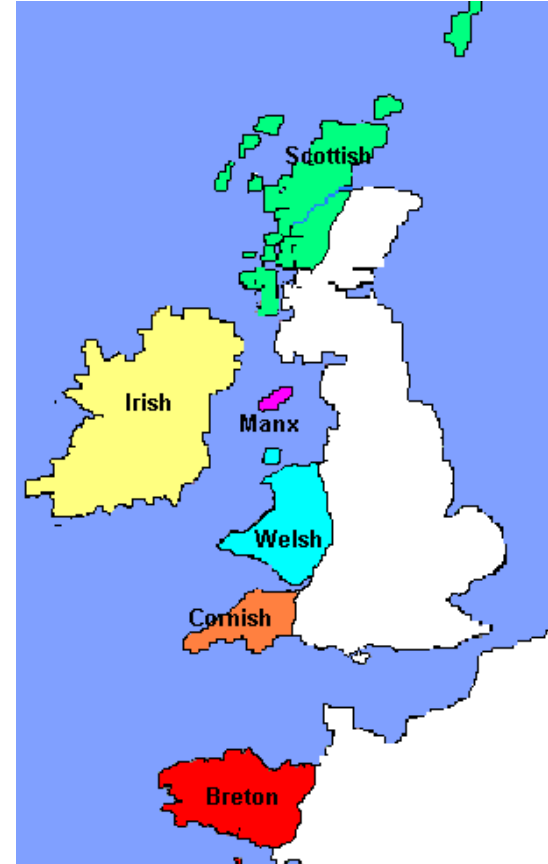
- | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| 1. Ass | ← | a. Pig |
| 2. Carr | ← | b. Valley |
| 3. Brock | ← | c. Donkey |
| 4. Hog | ← | d. Rock |
| 5. Tor | ← | e. Badger |
| 6. Coombe | ← | f. Group of Cliffs |
| 7. Crag | ← | g. Mound |
- 



Celtic spoken today.

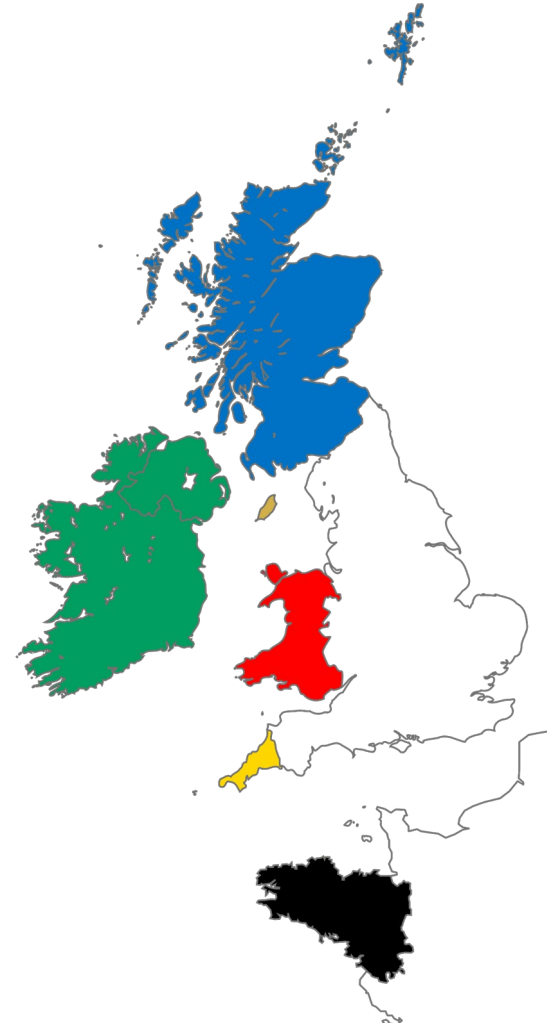
- Welsh has 310, 000 fluent speakers and 510, 000 who speak some.
- Irish Gaelic has 8,000 proficient speakers and 2 million that know some. UNESCO termed the language "definitely endangered".
- Scottish Gaelic has 87,000 people with some knowledge of the language and 57,00 who speak it well.
- Breton, spoken in the Brittany region of France has 226,000 speakers (including pupils learning it in school). According to UNESCO it is severely endangered.
- Cornish is spoken in Cornwall and came very close to extinction. Thanks to a revival movement it now has a few hundred speakers.
- Manx is spoken on the Isle of Mann and has around 100 proficient speakers. There is a new primary school that only teaches in Manx.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wwwclcz7_q4



Label the map with the correct Celtic language spoken in each highlighted area.

- Manx
- Cornish
- Breton
- Scottish Gaelic
- Irish Gaelic
- Welsh



Case Study: Welsh

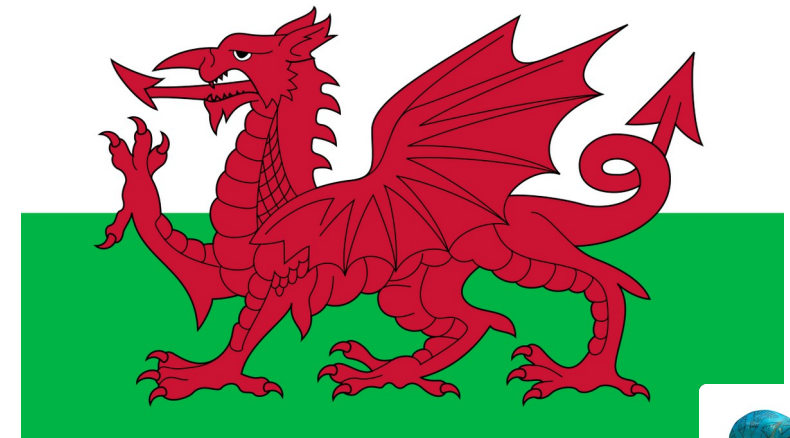
All Celtic languages have what are called “mutations”. These are changes to the initial letter of a word depending on how the word is used in a sentence.

For example, the Welsh city ‘Bangor’ is Bangor in Welsh. But in Aethom i Fangor ‘We went to Bangor’, it appears as Fangor. This is because b mutates to f after the word i ‘to’.

Here are some Welsh nouns in their unmutated forms with their English translations.

Can you understand the Welsh on the next slide?

This activity is taken from the UK Linguistics Olympiad.



<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



Let's explore the Welsh language. Using this grid to help you, answer Welsh Q1 in your workbook.



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

Which is the correct Welsh translation of each of the following English sentences?

Circle the letter on the left. Work in your workbooks.



Which is the correct Welsh translation of each of the following English sentences?

Circle the letter on the left. Work in your workbooks.

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



A final thought...

- Do you know anyone that speaks a Celtic language?
- Have you been to a country or area that speaks a Celtic language?
- If so, did you notice any Celtic spoken or written around you?

Acknowledgements

- With thanks to the UK Linguistics Olympiad.

