

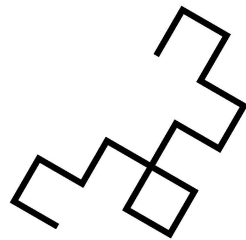
MathsJam Shout



March 2024
Wales Special Edition

1st March was **St. David's Day**, celebrating the patron saint of Wales. We've pulled together some Wales-related maths activities for you to enjoy.

Make Dragon Curves



The Welsh Dragon is a heraldic symbol that represents Wales, and the Dragon Curve is a cool fractal made from a single line. Make one from paper, write some code to generate dragon curves, or bring along the paperback of Jurassic Park for dragon curve chat.

Paper instructions: bit.ly/dragon-curve-paper

Conversation Starters

- Numbers in Welsh are named using a base-20 system (vigesimal). Learn to count in Welsh!
- The $=$ symbol and the use of the Greek letter π are both credited to Welsh mathematicians. If you could invent your own symbol for a mathematical concept, what would it be?
- Wales has the most castles per capita of any country in the world. Investigate similar statistics for your own country, or other countries – the most, the least, or whatever you find interesting!

A useful resource: ourworldindata.com

Calculate Reference Quantities

The area of Wales (21,218km²) is often used as a journalistic unit. The standard journalistic unit of length is the double-decker bus – but which bus? For example, if we define a double decker bus to be 14.566m then 1 Area The Size Of Wales is exactly equal to 100 Square Kilodouble-Decker Buses.

What other reasonable definitions can we make that will result in nice conversions, and what other quantities can we introduce to the system?



Good starting points include: volume (Olympic Swimming Pool), long and short distance (Distance To The Moon And Back and Thickness Of A Human Hair), energy (Atomic Bomb; The Asteroid That Killed The Dinosaurs), and power (Coal-Fired Power Plants).

MathsJam Shout is a monthly sheet of ideas for activities to do at a MathsJam night. It's created using suggestions from a different MathsJam each month, and if you'd like to submit suggestions for a month in the future, email katie@mathsjam.com for details.

MathsJam is a monthly opportunity for like-minded self-confessed maths enthusiasts to get together in a pub and share stuff they like. Puzzles, games, problems, or just anything they think is cool or interesting. Monthly MathsJam nights happen in over 70 locations around the world, on the second-to-last Tuesday of each month. To find your nearest MathsJam, visit the website at www.mathsjam.com.

James Tanton's favorite math puzzle: It's the wordless one below. This video explains why it is my favorite <https://youtu.be/b86QcxdrNF4>.

