

## WALES STATISTICS

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>Wales in Welsh</i>      | Cymru  |
| <i>Term for Citizens</i>   | Welsh  |
| <i>Capital</i>             | Cardiff  |
| <i>Official Languages</i>  | Welsh and English  |
| <i>Size and Population</i> | Wales would fit into Maricopa County in Arizona. They have 2.9 million people, compared to 3.1 million in Maricopa county alone!   |
| <i>Terrain</i>             | Wales is a rugged, mountainous land with a jagged coast. No part of Wales is further than 50 miles from the sea, making it an important part of their history and economy. 750-mile coast line. Plus, one quarter of it's land mass is over 1000 ft high |



Wales in Great Britain

## WELSH LEAGUE OF ARIZONA

4802 E. RAY ROAD  
SUITE 23-510  
PHOENIX, AZ 85044

TELEPHONE/FAX  
602-532-7837

EMAIL  
AZWELSH@AOL.COM

WEB ADDRESS  
WWW.WELSHLEAGUEOFARIZONA.ORG

CLUB MEETINGS  
USUALLY THE 1ST SATURDAY OF EACH  
MONTH AT THE IRISH CULTURAL CENTER  
IN DOWNTOWN PHOENIX

LANGUAGE CLASSES  
HELD IN PHOENIX AND TUCSON. CHECK  
WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

MUSIC AND SPECIAL EVENTS  
CHECK WEBSITE OR SEND EMAIL FOR  
CURRENT DETAILS

**Cynghrair Cymreig**  
**Arizona**   
**Welsh League of Arizona**



**Welsh League of Arizona**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

***TO PROMOTE THE UNDERSTANDING  
OF WELSH HISTORY, CULTURE, MUSIC  
& PRESERVATION OF THE LANGUAGE***

***SERVING ALL OF ARIZONA***

VISIT US AT  
**WWW.WELSHLEAGUEOFARIZONA.ORG**

**TELEPHONE**  
**602-532-7837**

## WELSH FAQs

### Isn't Wales a part of England?

*No! While Wales and England share a long history (with occasional conflict!), Wales has always been a distinctly unique and separate area of the British Isle with its own culture, language, and identity.*

### Is Welsh just a variant of English, like Old English?

*No, Welsh is much older than English and is derived from the language of the original inhabitants of the British Isles. Welsh is an Indo-European language and falls under the Brittonic branch of the Celtic languages, making it a linguistic cousin of Cornish and Breton. While it was Latinized a bit by the Romans, its roots go back at least 2000 years, making it one of the richest, most intriguing languages linking us to our ancestors.*

### Okay, if it's a Celtic language, is it the same as Gaelic?

*No. While Welsh has some similarities to Scots Gaelic, Manx Gaelic, and Irish Gaelic, those languages are in a different branch of Celtic languages.*

### What's unique about Wales and the Welsh?

*Nicknamed "The Land of Song", Wales has a wonderful tradition of music, singing, and poetry. The National Eisteddfod, held each August, is a world renowned celebration of Welsh culture and language, featuring the best music, poetry, and art of the country.*

### Besides world-class cultural events, what else is there to see and do in Wales?

*The rural nature of Wales completely enhances and embraces the character of the country and its people. From castles along its jagged coastline to rugged mountains to quaint farmlands, Wales offers something for everyone of every age!*

### What has made it possible for the Welsh language to survive to the modern age?

*The terrain has affected Wales' history, offering refuge and isolation to its people when under attack or invasion, but also making communication difficult. It has made communities close-knit, but it has also created an obstacle to unification. This isolation of communities has helped preserve Welsh language and traditions until the recent revival in the 1960's of the Welsh spirit!*

## HISTORY OF THE WELSH DRAGON

There are two prominent stories as to the origin of the Welsh dragon.

### Version 1

According to one story, Vortigern wanted to build a fortress on Dinas Emrys Hill, Snowdonia, but the building material kept disappearing overnight. His sorcerers advised him that the blood of a fatherless child, sprinkled over the rock, would stop this from happening. Young Arthur was chosen to be thus sacrificed, but he outwitted Vortigern's magicians by telling them of a nearby well under which lay two fierce dragons, one red and one white. When the well was uncovered, the dragons flew out and fought. The red one won and flew off. Arthur escaped in the commotion.

### Version 2

In another version, Merlin was asked by a lord of a Welsh castle to solve a curse of the castle. He discovered and released the two dragons under the castle, who then fought, the red one defeating the white one before flying off. Since the Welsh fought off the Saxons, successfully defending Wales against invasion, the red dragon in the legend became used as the symbol of Welsh nationhood.

## Mottos and Anthems

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>National Motto</i>             | Cymru am byth<br><br>(Wales Forever!)                                 |
| <i>Medieval Welsh Royal Motto</i> | Y ddraig goch ddyry cychwyn<br><br>("The Red Dragon Inspires Action") |
| <i>National Anthem</i>            | Hen Wlad fy Hadau<br><br>("Land of my Fathers")                       |

## WELSH INFLUENCE ON AMERICA

The Welsh have had a dramatic influence on the shaping of the United States, an influence that continues to this day. Here are some examples:

- In the late 1600's, the Quakers, primarily Welsh, sailed to the New World to escape persecution and were the primary founders of the city of Philadelphia.
- Welsh descendant Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence
- The Welsh were the largest ethnic group represented by the signers of the Constitution.
- Nine American Presidents are of Welsh heritage.

## LEARN WELSH

### Useful Phrases

Thank you : Diolch (dee-olch)  
Hello : Shwmae (shoe-my)  
Good morning : Bore da (borreh-dah)  
Good day : Dydd da (deeth daa)  
Good night : Nos da (nohs-dah)  
Good bye : Pob hwy! (pobe hoyeel)  
Happy Birthday : Penblwydd hapus (pen-bloo-eth hapis)  
Merry Christmas : Nadolig Llawen (na-do-lig laooen )  
Happy New Year : Blwyddyn Newydd Dda  
(bloo-eth-en new-eth thah)  
Congratulations : Llongyfarchiadau (long-uh-var-chi-ah-die)

### Numbers

1 : un (een)  
2 : dau (die)  
3 : tri (tree)  
4 : pedwar (pedwah)  
5 : pump (pimp)  
6 : chwech (kwech)  
7 : saith (s-eye-th)  
8 : wyth (ooith)  
9 : naw (now)  
10 : deg (dayg)

*Come to our Welsh language class to learn how to say these and much more about one of the oldest yet most thriving of the Celtic languages!*