

# Wales



- Snowdonia NP
  - Cambrian Mts
  - Brecon Beacons NP
- 
- Cardiff
  - Swansea
  - Newport



# Wales is a mountainous country

- Highest peak: Mt Snowdon (1,085 m)



Snowdonia  
National Park



# Wales

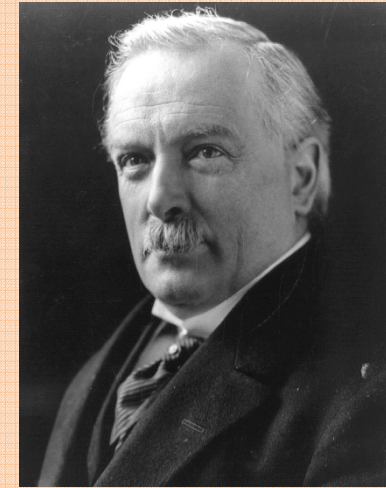
- Population: around 3 million
- Cardiff – the Welsh capital
- Swansea and Newport – the 2 largest cities
- Famous for - coal and steel industries
  - eisteddfod festival
  - castles
- Welsh is a Celtic language
- Most road signs are bilingual

# Eisteddfod



# Famous Welsh people

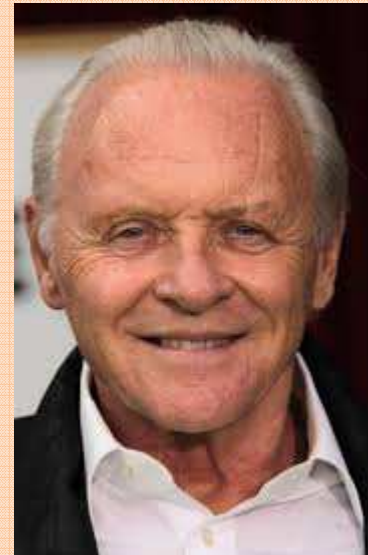
- Catherina Zeta-Jones
- Laura Ashley
- Sir George Everest



David Lloyd George



Dylan Thomas

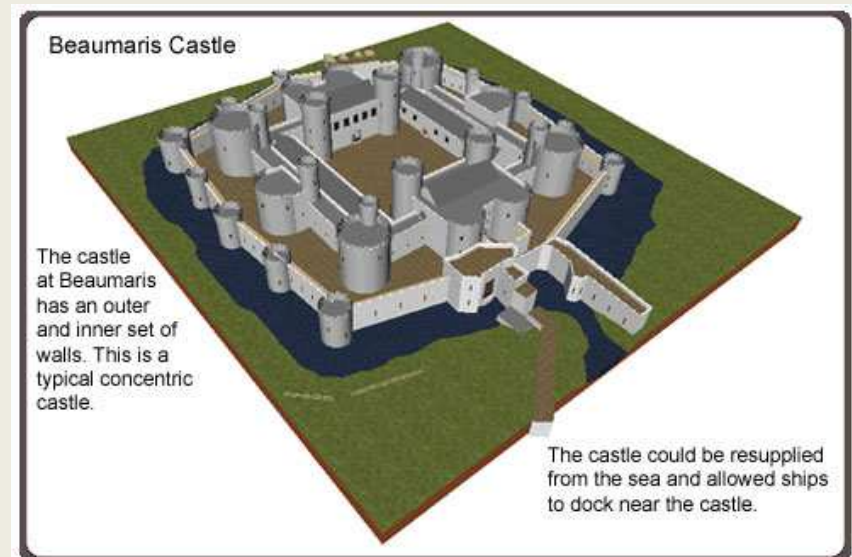


Anthony Hopkins





# Wales is a land of castles





# Cardiff, the Welsh capital since 1955



Cardiff Castle



Cardiff City Hall





# St David

- The patron saint of Wales
- An ASCETIC
- In the 6th c.
- St David's Cathedral



# Welsh history in brief

- A Celtic stronghold ruled by sovereign princes
- Roman invasion after 43 AD
- In 8th c. the Saxons pushed the Welsh further west and built a ditch to keep them out of England
- The Normans
- Henry II placed Anglo-Norman Marcher lords along the border to supervise the boundary areas of England with Wales
- In 1282 Edward I brought Wales under English rule by defeating the last Welsh prince. Edward consolidated his position by building a series of impregnable castles in strategic places across Wales
- 1301 – Edward I made his eldest son (born in 1284) Prince of Wales
- 1485 – Henry VII ascended the English throne – Tudor dynasty
- 1536 – Acts of Parliament
- 1999 – Devolution – National Assembly for Wales



# Devolution



- The process of taking power from a central **authority** or **government** and giving it to smaller, more local regions is called **devolution**. This began in the UK in 1997, with the result that since 1999 there has been an Assembly in **Wales**.
- The Welsh Assembly is based in **Cardiff** (the Welsh **capital**). Assembly members are chosen in **elections** which are held every four years. It makes its own decisions on many local issues and **policies** such as **education**, health services and the **environment**. Although the Assembly cannot *make* laws for Wales, it is able to **propose** laws to central UK Parliament in **Westminster** who can then discuss them and possibly create **legislation** based on those **proposals**.
- Rawdon Wyatt: Check your English vocabulary for living in the UK. London: A&C Black, 2006. p. 41.

# The Prince of Wales

- The Heir Apparent
- Since 1301
- King Edward's son was born at Caernarfon in Wales in 1284

- Prince Charles





# The Welsh national anthem

- It was written in 1856 by Evan James and his son, James James

## **Land of My Fathers**

This land of my fathers is dear to me  
Land of poets and singers, and people of stature  
Her brave warriors, fine patriots  
Shed their blood for freedom

Chorus:

Land! Land! I am true to my land!  
As long as the sea serves as a wall for this pure, dear land  
May the language endure for ever.

Old land of the mountains, paradise of the poets,  
Every valley, every cliff a beauty guards;  
Through love of my country, enchanting voices will be  
Her streams and rivers to me.

Chorus

Though the enemy have trampled my country underfoot,  
The old language of the Welsh knows no retreat,  
The spirit is not hindered by the treacherous hand  
Nor silenced the sweet harp of my land.

Chorus