

MAGICAL STORIES FROM WALES

SUPPORT MATERIALS

If you need further support on specific aspects of outdoor learning these materials can enhance the engaging experiences you are providing. They can support you as you design, plan and implement your curriculum. Outdoor learning is a great way to develop learners' integral skills (creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem-solving, personal effectiveness, planning and organising). You will want to focus on why learning matters and ensure you are meeting your learners' needs.

These materials show paths that could be taken through the activity. These are not meant to be prescriptive. You should adapt your approach depending on your learners' needs and interests and your local area.

OVERVIEW

Learners consider what a story is and explore the difference between a myth and a legend, examining the places and themes that often feature in a typical legend. They invite someone at home to tell them a story and the reasons they like telling the story. Learners share these stories, comparing and analysing them and choose a favourite. Learners develop a mythical creature that lives in a special outside place and research Welsh mythical creatures, making a poster of images. They draw their mythical creature and explain what it does and why, before reflecting on the task.

CURRICULUM FOR WALES

Areas explored:

- Expressive Arts
- Languages, Literacy and Communication

Activity also incorporates aspects of cross-curricular skills outlined in the LNF and DCF.



RESOURCES

Internet enabled device and internet access.

Means of making models of mythical creatures (as required), e.g. modelling clay, recycled materials, etc.

DOING THE ACTIVITY



- Most tasks require learners to work in pairs or groups.
- Encourage learners to share their ideas, and through open questioning, explain and justify their ideas when possible. Focus questions have been suggested to guide learners through the tasks.
- Some tasks might be more effective if pairs or groups of learners have access to an internet enabled device.
- When taking learners outdoors, it is essential that the [Countryside Code](#) is adhered to and any relevant risk assessments have been carried out with risks mitigated.

TASK 1

WHAT ARE STORIES, MYTHS AND LEGENDS?

Learners are encouraged to consider what they think a story is and how people tell stories about real things and real people and people also tell stories about made-up things and made-up people. They explore the difference between a myth and a legend and the imagery associated with both through an interactive task. Learners watch a video about a Welsh legend (Y Ddraig goch), using it as a basis to examine the places and themes that often feature in a typical legend.

If you want learners to explore the myths and legends of Wales in more depth or want them to access background reading for research, the following links might be useful.

- [Education Packs – Cadw](#)
- [Stories, Myths & Legends – Cadw](#)
- [Welsh myths and folklore – National Trust](#)
- [Land of Legends](#)

- [Myths and legends – BBC](#)
- [Legends and Customs of Wales – History Points](#)
- [Welsh mythology – Wikipedia](#)
- [After Dark: Myths, Misdeeds & the Paranormal – The Mysterious World of Welsh Myth and Legend – BBC Sounds](#)
- [Welsh Legends](#)

For those who want a more historic viewpoint see: [The Project Gutenberg eBook of British Goblins: Welsh Folk-lore, Fairy Mythology, Legends and Traditions, by Wirt Sikes.](#)

TASK 2

WHAT STORIES FROM OUR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CAN WE DISCOVER?

Introduce learners to the idea that people like to tell stories and that stories often play an important part in many conversations. Ask learners to invite someone at home to tell them a story they like and to explain why they like telling the story. Learners might draw the story, maybe as a cartoon or as a storyboard and share the story with the rest of the class. Invite pairs of learners to compare and analyse the stories, pick a favourite and consider whether any of the stories is a myth or legend. Finally in this task, encourage learners to consider why people like telling and listening to stories.

TASK 3

HOW COULD WE INVENT OUR OWN MYTHICAL CREATURE?

Inform learners they are going to develop a mythical creature that lives in a special outside place. As a stimulus, ask them to watch the [video](#) and to note down any special places mentioned in the story. The video uses BSL so could be a starting point to explore this further. Following this, invite them to go outside and to find a special place where their mythical creature could live.

Ask pairs of learners to do some online research to find examples of Welsh mythical creatures and make a poster of images of the mythical creatures. Invite them to draw their mythical creature (or to make a model of it) and then to explain what it does and why. Finally, encourage learners to make use of the sentence starters to reflect on the task.

These tasks form the basis of an exploration of storytelling and the development of myths and legends. You might want to encourage learners to explore these ideas in more depth, for example they could build a model of their creature using recycled materials; create a myth involving their creature or work in groups and involve a range of the creatures.

Here are some links that might be worth exploring for each Designated Landscape:

Anglesey National Landscape

[Magic, myth and mystery: The history of Anglesey's druids – Herald.Wales](#)

[Wales History: The Llandona Witches – BBC](#)

[The hidden story behind mythical Anglesey island popular with tourists – North Wales Live](#)

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

[Fairy Legends of the Bannau Brycheiniog - Icy Sedgwick](#)

[Welsh Culture Walks – TrigPoint Adventures](#)

[Myths and legends – Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geoparc](#)

[Welsh Lake Legends and Folklore: Llyn Cwm Llwhch and the Door of the Tylwyth Teg – #FolkloreThursday](#)

Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape

[Myths, Legends and History of North Wales – Curious Clwyd](#)

[Strange Tales of Castell Dinas Brân in Llangollen, Denbighshire, Wales – Into Horror History – J.A. Hernandez](#)

[St Collen and the Fairy Court – a legend of Llangollen – Bylines Cymru](#)

[Stories, Myths & Legends – Llangollen Museum](#)

Eryri National Park

[Mythology and Folklore – Snowdonia National Park](#)

[Myths and legends – Carneddau Landscape Partnership](#)

Gower National Landscape

[Myths of Pennard Castle, Gower – History Points](#)

[Gower Folk Tales & Legends – Coast Swansea](#)

Llŷn National Landscape

[Legends of the Llyn Peninsula – Rhiw Goch Inn – Snowdonia - YouTube](#)

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

[Land of Legends – Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

[Myths & Legends – Pembrokeshire.Online](#)

Wye Valley National Landscape

[Myths & Legends of the Wye – Visit the Forest of Dean & Wye Valley](#)

[Myths & Legends of the Wye Trail PDF – Visit the Forest of Dean & Wye Valley](#)

[Wye Valley and Forest of Dean: Myths and Legends Video – Visit the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley – YouTube](#)

Other useful activities on Tirlun

Other activities on Tirlun that consider Welsh myths and legends include:

- [What are the myths and legends of Wales?](#)
- [Inspirational Llŷn](#)
- [Inspirational Bannau Brycheiniog](#)

These can all be adapted for any location.

