

CASE STUDY

MYTHS AND LEGENDS

The two Year 6 classes in the school used the 'Myths and legends' Key Activity on Tirlun to supplement their cross-curricular topic, exploring myths in and around the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape. Learners wanted to find out more about myths and legends of the local area and were keen to try to find out whether any of the local myths were based on any truth.

Initially, learners used Task 1 of the Key Activity to activate prior knowledge and understanding about what they believed myths and legends are, developing some interesting definitions that provided some high quality discussion.

They used this as a basis to explore Castell Dinas Brân, which translates as 'Castle of the City of Crows'. Situated 365 metres above Llangollen, the ruins are home to strange tales and intrigue. Learners were fascinated by the legend of a giant called Gogmagog, the claim that magical walnut trees rapidly grow during full moons, only to disappear at dawn; a devilish spirit that plays music that draws in humans like a siren's song and nearby a place called 'Nant yr Ellyllon'—meaning 'hollow of the goblins'.

Both classes had also visited Corwen to see the sleeping form of Drewyn the giant. In 2019, the local community and visitors took part in Waking Corwen's Giant, an opportunity to experience the myths and legends of the area and the story of Drewyn the giant.

Building on this investigation of local myths and legends, learners collaborated on Task 2, finding out about Gwyllgi, Guto Nyth Brân and Mari Lwyd. They worked in small groups to create verses and raps they could use to try and gain entry into a house or to use to ward off people trying to gain entry to their house. Each class then took turns to go outside to take part in a 'rhyming battle' using their ideas to gain entry or ward off the other class.

One group's rap to ward off intruders:

*Hey, step back, this crib belongs to me and me and me
No entry here, no coming through this door.*

Our locks are tight, security is key

You aren't coming in, no alien feet on this floor.

You can knock and bang, but you can't come through,

This is our space, it's not for you.

Respect the rules bro, don't make a fuss

Breaking in isn't an option, you better believe us!



One focus of the topic was the Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of the curriculum. The teacher believes that the 'rhyming battle' task, provided learners with good opportunities to develop their creative writing and verbal interpretation skills.

Following this, learners completed Task 3, before moving onto Task 4, where they created their own myths and legends.