

Learning Resource Pack

Harlech and Caernarfon Castles

Key Stage 2

History and Literacy – Age of the Princes

Branwen ferch Llŷr



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Introduction

The aim of this pack is to help teachers approach a self-led visit in a creative, confident and imaginative way. The activity suggestions are flexible and can be carried out in a number of ways. We encourage teachers to select and adapt the material to ensure it meets topic and year group needs.

Booking a visit

Did you know that self-led visits to Cadw sites are free to education groups attending education establishments in the European Union?

To book your free visit, please follow these simple steps:

- Please book your visit at least five working days in advance.
- Telephone the site to check the availability for the date you'd like to visit.
- Once you have agreed a date and time with the site, complete the online booking form at www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/learning

We also offer interactive, curriculum-linked education activities at selected sites.

Health and Safety

Teachers and group leaders are responsible for carrying out risk assessments prior to the visit, in accordance with guidance issued by local education authorities. We offer free teacher familiarisation visits to enable teachers to write the risk assessments and plan activities before bringing a group to the site. The learning pages on the Cadw website offer advice for planning your visit and site specific information.



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Objectives

National Numeracy and Literacy Framework

Language, Literacy and Communication Skills –
Oracy, Reading, Writing

Students will be able to:

- Identify events as they appear, and distinguish between past and present
- Use appropriate vocabulary
- Identify the differences between past and present
- Identify different ways of interpreting the past
- Ask questions about the past and answered by reference to sources

School to provide:

Clipboards

Paper

Pencils

The story of Branwen ferch Llyr is available on the kids zone on the [Cadw website](#).



Top: A statue of Bendigeidfran stands outside Harlech Castle



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Language Activities based upon the story of Branwen ferch Llŷr:

Research & presentation

The strategies that follow can lead to individual or group work.

Find out about one of the following topics. Present the information to an audience, such as other members of the class.

Presentation could include a combination of the following: a talk, posters, booklets or leaflets, wall display.

- **A study of people's names:**

e.g. Branwen ferch Llŷr = Branwen sister of Llŷr.

Gwern fab Matholwch = Gwern son of Matholwch

Place names – Aberffraw = mouth of the river Ffraw

Others you may have heard of are:

Llywelyn ap Iorweth = Llywelyn sôn of Iorwerth.

Mair = Mary

This can be extended to consider surnames arising from occupations eg Smith, Baker, or names describing physical characteristics, eg Matthew Goch, red-haired Matthew.



- **A look at comparisons**

Find the descriptive words in the story. For each adjective you find, make up some comparisons to describe them, eg a magnificent fleet of ships: The ships were as magnificent as a...the magic cauldron: The cauldron was as magic as a...

- **Role-play**

Imagine you are Branwen, Bendigeidfran, Efnisien or Matholwch. The news that Efnisien has hurt the horses has just reached the party – how do you react?

Poems

Using material from the story, write a poem about Branwen's time living in Ireland. It could be a 'found poem' taking in words and phrases from the story. What did Branwen see, feel, touch, smell and hear?



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Writing

The news of Efnisien hurting the horses during the wedding has reached the local newspaper. Write an article which records the events of the evening.

Research

Find out about other stories of the Mabinogion and their characters and their history in Wales. A map of Wales showing where they were set could be drawn. Prepare a two or three minute talk to the class.

Creative Activities

1. Design and produce puppets and a theatrical set for a medieval hall or fair.
Devise a script for a puppet play to be based on the story of Branwen.
2. Advertise the performance for fellow pupils using posters, tickets and programmes.
Rehearse and perform the play.
3. Reviews of the play could be written and published, being part of a display, including sketches and photographs, or as an article for a class newspaper.

Drama and movement

A large feast will have been prepared for the wedding of Branwen and Matholwch. Find the castle kitchens at Caernarfon or Harlech Castle.

In groups, discuss what jobs there were in the kitchen

Using mime, let each individual show what his or her job is. Everyone else should try to work out what each job is from the mime.

Form pairs, A and B. A selects a number of kitchen activities and mimes them slowly and methodically. B must copy the mime, as in a mirror. Stand face-to-face with the palms of your hands almost touching.

Group work

Something terrible has happened in the kitchen. You must discuss as a group what it is and where in the kitchen it has occurred.

Form a still picture of the incident to show how you would react, but without speaking. Remember that not everyone would react in the same way.

Before leaving the picture, each character has an opportunity to say ONE word to describe how he or she feels at the moment of the occurrence.

