

History



Find out about Rhiwddolion's past...

Hello! Welcome to **Rhiwddolion** (say *Ruth-oh-leon*)! It's the 1940's and my name is Ella Jones, I'm eight and I live here at **Ty Uchaf** (say *Tee-oo-caff*), in the most beautiful part of Wales. I love it here! We had to move here because my dad was poorly. The Doctor said that the clean air would do dad the world of good – and he was right, he's been getting better and better ever since!

I live here with my mam, my dad and my pet duck! Do you have any pets? I'll bet you don't have a pet duck like me! Quack quack!

Have a look at the picture below – that's me in front of Ty Uchaf; you can see the little pram in the background. Mam, dad and I speak Welsh mostly but I don't suppose you do, so I'm writing to you in English instead.

Welsh

Words:

Ty means 'house' and uchaf means 'high' so Ty **Uchaf** means 'High House'.

Coch means 'red' so Ty Coch means 'Red House'.

Capel means chapel so Ty Capel means Chapel House.



Ty Uchaf is a really old house. Dad says it was built at the end of the seventeenth century – that's over three hundred and thirty years ago for you! Which building are you staying in – **Ty Capel** (say *Tee-cah-pell*) or **Ty Coch** (say *Tee-cok*)? Ty Coch is about two hundred and thirty years old and Ty Capel is about one hundred and thirty years old. Wow!



Although it's quiet here now in Rhiwddolion, at one time it was a very busy place. Dad says that there was a time when **lead** (say *led*) mining happened here for about 30 years. After that there was a lot of **slate quarrying** (say *qwar-ee-ing*). I would hate to have to work in the dangerous quarries, climbing the rickety ladders up the mountainside all day! I'm lucky that it's only little boys who get sent to work in the quarries! Phew!

Fact:

Slate Quarrying means getting slabs of slate out of the ground and splitting it into smaller pieces to cover roofs of houses, for floors and for gravestones and memorial tablets.

Slate mines are found all over the world but **Wales** has always been the major slate mining region in the UK.

Every weekday I walk down the hill to the school in **Betwys-y-Coed** (say *Bet-see-Coh-ed*) but a long time ago there used to be a school right here in Rhiwddolion. It was in Ty Capel! As well as being the chapel, it used to be the school too. Imagine this tiny building being your school – I bet just your classroom is double the size of the chapel!

When I'm not at school, my mum sometimes lets me wander down to the tiny swimming pool just outside of **Ty Coch**.

A man named Mr. Bright owns Ty Coch. He had the great idea to dam the stream outside to make a tiny pool for his grandchildren to play in, but my dad was the one who helped him to build it. Dad's very clever like that – he once made me a mini duck pond out of slates!

Mr. Bright and his family live in Liverpool but they come here as often as they can. I just love it when they come as I have lots more children to play with. We have great fun splashing each other in the pool, although we often get told off for splashing Mrs. Bright's fancy frocks!



Mr Bright (in the hat) and his family.

Have you ever tried to dam a stream before? You can use rocks or sticks – just lay them in a line in the running water until you've built a little wall. Watch as the water builds up behind the wall, making a little pool – eventually it'll spill over the top of your stones though, just like a waterfall!

Unruly Rulers

Who were the Georgians?

The **Georgians** were nobles from Germany. George I was King James I's great grandson. So when Queen Anne died with no heirs George became king. They are called **Georgians** because they are all called George (apart from William – but he wasn't meant to be king anyway!) They came from **Hanover** in Germany so this time is called the **Hanoverian** (say 'han-o-ver-ee-an') period.



1714 **King George I**

A king from Germany who couldn't speak much English. He kept his wife in prison for 32 years - how mean!



King George II 1727

A boring king who only liked to fight battles. He died on the toilet of constipation, pooh!

1760 **King George III**

A popular king who went mad. He started talking to an oak tree in Windsor thinking it was Frederick the Great! Poor Georgie, he had to stop ruling as he was so mad.



George III's son George IV had to step in and rule as Prince Regent. This was called the **Regency Period**.



King George IV 1820

A bad king who ruined all his dad's hard work. He loved to drink, eat and party!

1830 **King William IV**

A simple king who wanted to be a sailor but was too stupid to command a ship. He would sometimes offer people a lift in his carriage!





Meet King George III **– who ruled when Ty Coch was built.**



Hi Georgie!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 25 October 1760 when I was just 22.

What are you most famous for?

I went mad, don't you know!

What is your favourite thing to do?

I like playing with my youngest children. I had 15 in all!

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I tried to tax the Americans in the colonies and do you know what? They declared their independence!

Design



What does Ty Coch look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Can you use any of these words to describe the building? Draw a circle around the ones that do.

Cosy	Tall
Pretty	Industrial
Stone	Brick
Symmetrical	Humble
Square	Elegant
Friendly	Low

The three Landmark Trust buildings at Rhiwddolion are shown on the map below.

Can you decide which building is which on the map?

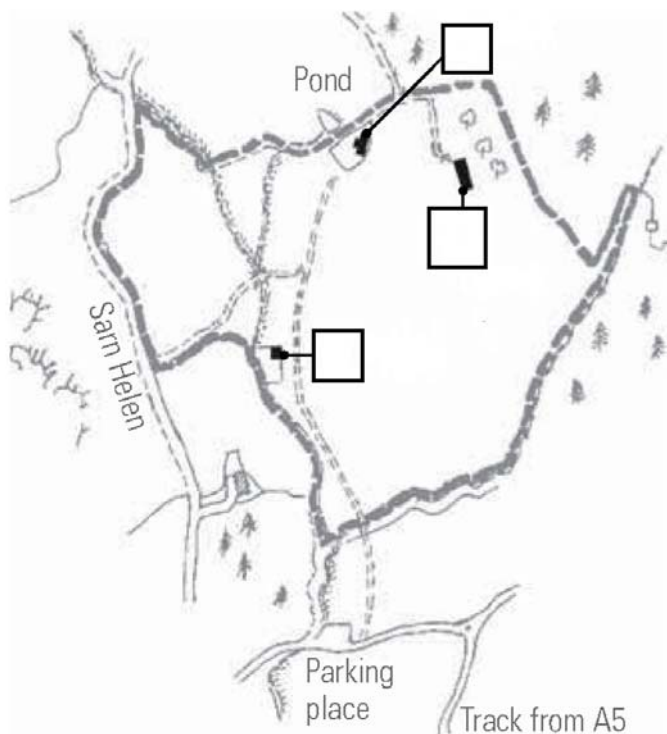
Take an adult with you and go for a walk to find them all, or cheat and look in the Landmark Trust handbook.

Then, label each building with the right letter:

A for Ty Uchaf

B for Ty Coch

C for Ty Capel.



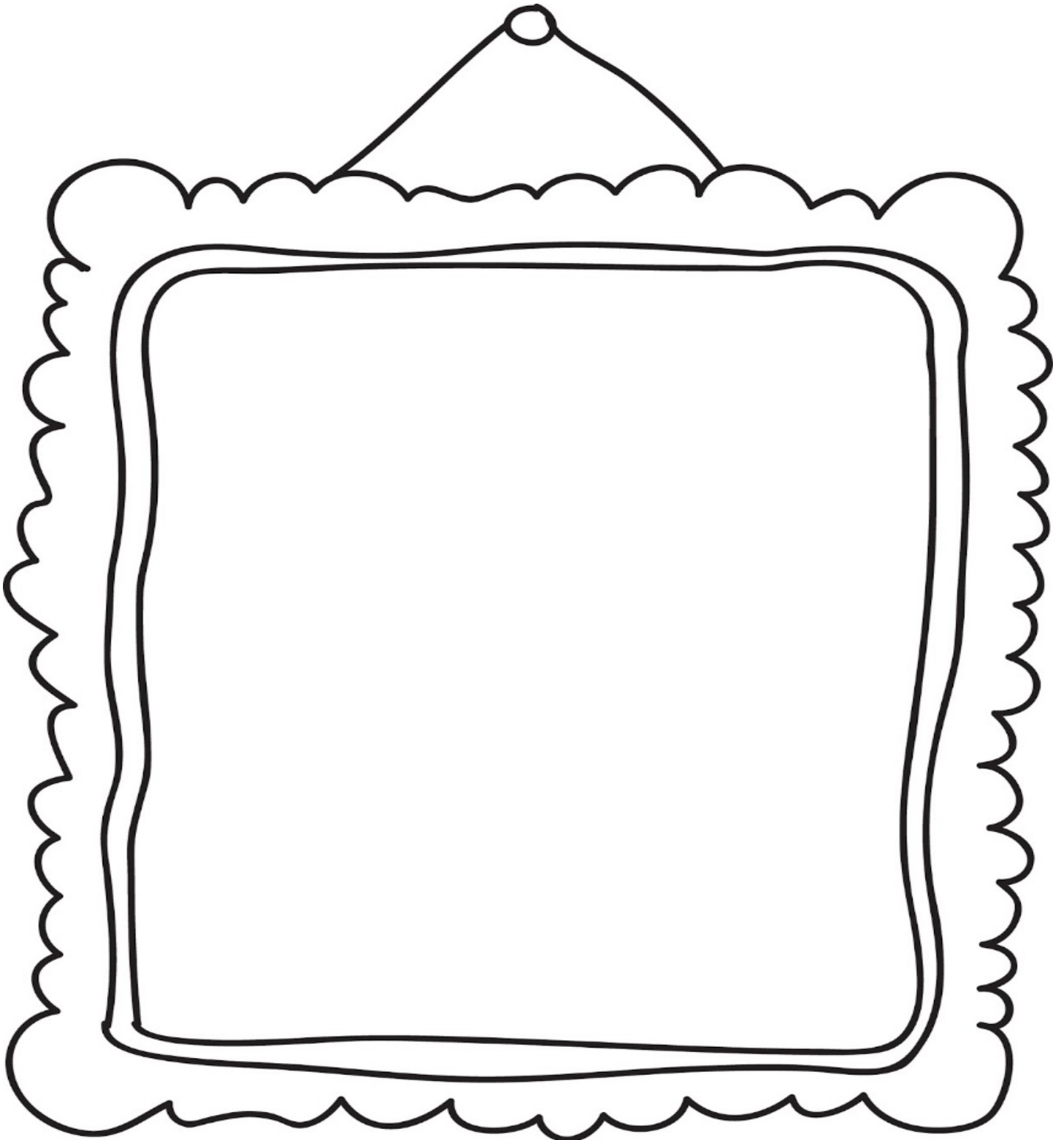
Ty Coch was built in the late 18th century, in the 1790s. That's about 230 years ago. When the Landmark Trust restored it in 1960s the kitchen and the bathroom were added on as an extension at the back of the house.



Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up of lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

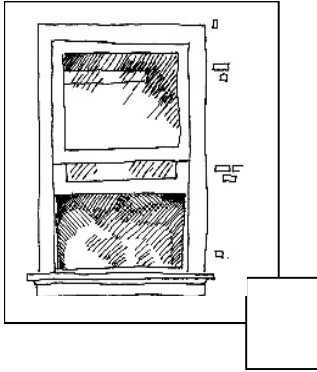
Have a go at drawing Ty Coch

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are!

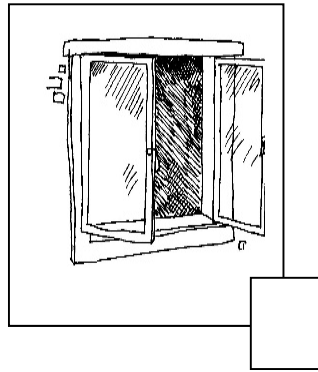




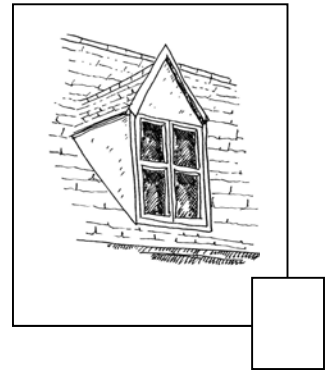
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building.
 What type of windows does Ty Coch have?



Sash

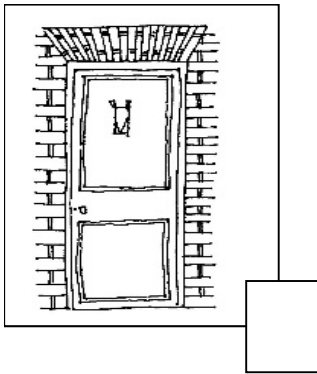


Casement (it opens)

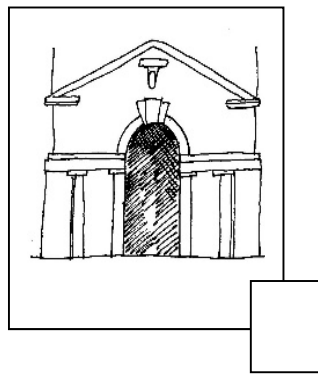


Dormer or attic (in the roof)

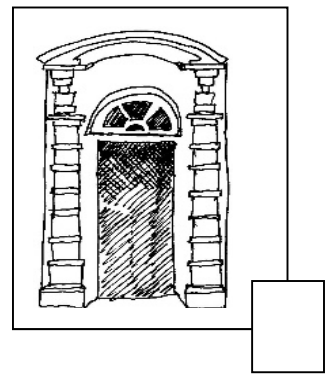
Entrances can be grand or simple. What is the front door of Ty Coch like?



Doorframe



Porch



Canopy

What other building materials can you find outside and inside Ty Coch?

Circle what you can see and note down where you found them.

Stone

Glass

Wood

Brick

Metal

Clay

Flint

Concrete



Discover more about Ty Coch

Ty Coch has seen many changes since it was first built in the late 18th century. That's over 230 years ago! During that time, things have changed both inside and outside the building. Follow this quest to discover more about it.

Can you find the place where this photo was taken?

You'll have to go outside and stand on the track up to Ty Uchaf. Make sure you tell your adults that you're going outside so they know where you are.

Fact:

Doesn't the back of Ty Coch look snug, nestled into the land. In fact, after the new kitchen and bathroom extension was added when the Landmark Trust restored Ty Coch, the land behind was dug out too to stop the cottage getting damp.



Can you find this oven?

Here's a clue – it's not where you might normally find an oven! Write a list of things you'd like to cook in it:

-
-
-



Have a look at the roof – do all of the buildings at Rhiwddolion have the same roof material?

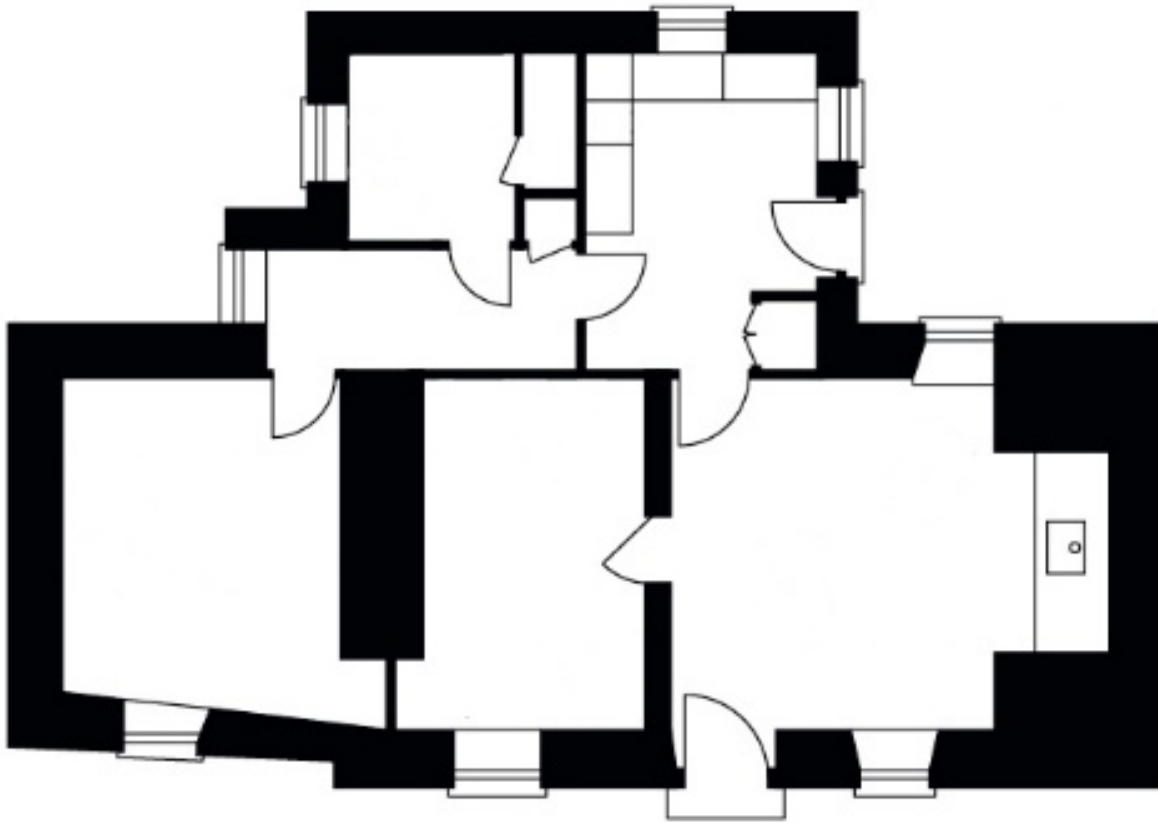
It's made from slate and came from one of the open cast slate quarries very close by. Slate is great for roofing as the water just slides right off of it.

What is the roof at your house made from?



Living in Ty Coch

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Ty Coch only has one floor. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around. **Can you identify the rooms and write on the plan how they are used today?**

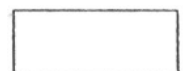


We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Add the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is.

When you've drawn all the beds, put a star, like this, ★ on the bed you're sleeping in!



Bed



Rectangular (or a round) table



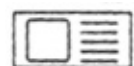
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Ty Coch? Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite piece of furniture

The fireplace (is it an open fire or does it have a stove?)

The pattern of a rug on the floor

Fact:

The cruck (big wooden beam) over the fireplace in Ty Coch is made from the trunk and branch of a single oak tree. This beam may have come from an earlier building on the same spot. Recycling at its best, eh?

In the space below, **draw the view your bedroom window**. What can you see in the distance? Are there any animals in the fields or any trees that look very old and interesting?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing the view from the bedroom window.



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What does Ty Coch mean?

Happy house

Green house

Red house

Cave house

2. Which of these industries never happened at Rhiwddolion?

Lead mining

Farming

Brick manufacture

Slate quarrying

3. What animal will you definitely not see in Rhwiddolion?

Squirrel

Rabbit

Elephant

Sheep

4. What does Ty Capel mean?

Cape house

Chapel house

Peel house

Stream house

5. What pet did Ella have when she lived at Ty Uchaf ?

A cat

A guinea pig

A dog

A duck

6. What year did the school in Ty Capel close?

1922

1933

2002

1902

7. Where did Ella go to school- (remember she had to walk!) ?

Beddgelert

Blaenau Festiniog

Betwys-y-Coed

Bala

8. What did Ella's Dad make in the stream outside Ty Coch?

A well

A fishing pond

A paddling pool

A water mill

9. What does Ty Uchaf mean?

High house

Ugly house

White house

Bridge house

10. What does Rhiwddolion mean?

Wind in the trees

Wood in the valley

Stream in the pasture

Meadow on the hill

To find the answers skip one page...



Rhiwddolion Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

L	T	S	C	A	T	T	Y	C	O	C	H
L	Y	T	A	C	O	Y	E	L	L	A	V
A	C	R	E	R	W	U	S	E	E	R	T
F	A	E	S	L	N	C	S	R	L	I	R
R	P	A	T	E	R	H	N	E	L	R	A
E	E	M	N	P	S	A	E	A	L	R	C
T	L	G	E	H	K	F	M	L	H	A	K
A	N	E	T	A	L	O	E	F	E	L	W
W	H	G	E	C	S	T	S	O	U	N	O
S	L	R	R	S	N	E	H	C	I	L	O
P	E	A	E	A	O	U	P	L	A	N	D
O	C	S	S	R	R	C	K	A	O	H	S
P	A	S	T	U	R	E	E	T	A	L	S

TY COCH

TY CAPEL

TY UCHAF

SARN HELEN

WOODS

MOSSES

LICHEN

VALLEY

OAK

PASTURE

SHEEP

UPLAND

CHAPEL

TREES

WALES

GRASS

STREAM

WATERFALL

SLATE

TRACK

How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

/
20

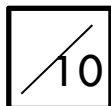


Answer sheet:

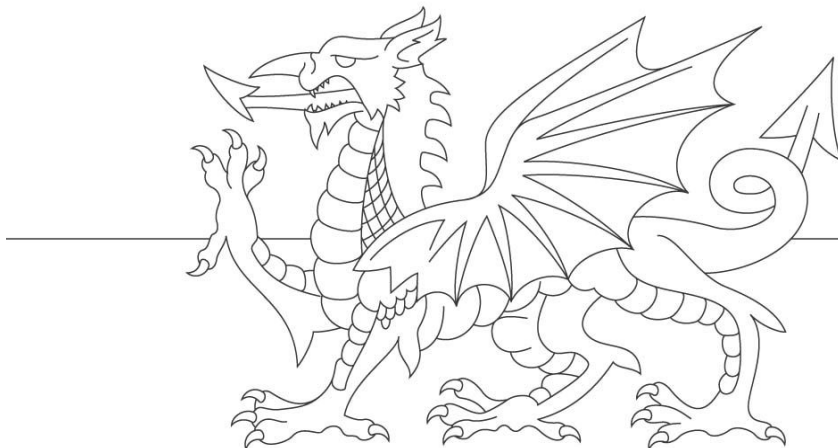
Quiz answers:

1. Red house
2. Brick manufacture
3. Elephant
4. Chapel house
5. A duck
6. 1922
7. Betwys-y-Coed
8. A very small swimming pool
9. High house
10. Meadow on the hill

How many did you get right?



Why not have a go at colouring in the Welsh flag below? The bottom layer is usually green with a white upper layer and a red dragon.





Imagine you lived here 100 years ago. Write an acrostic poem describing life at Rhiwddolion. Each line has to begin with the letter shown, so that the lines spell 'Rhiwddolion'!

R

H

I

W

D

D

O

L

I

O

N

Create



Design your own woodland house

Hundreds of years ago there was a lot more woodland, countryside and open space than there is now. It would have been quite common for lots of people to have their home near or in woodlands with no other houses next door.

Have a go at designing your own woodland house, you can take inspiration from the houses here at Rhiwddolion or even make it a tree-top house! Be as creative as you want – there are no rules!



Make some Welsh cakes (Picau ar y maen)

These spiced cakes are also known as bakestones in Wales because they were traditionally cooked on a flat stone over a fire. When spices became available in the 17th century these were added for extra flavour. You can use a frying pan instead of a bakestone!

Ingredients

225 g self-raising flour

110g g unsalted Welsh butter

1 large egg, beaten

1 tbsp raisins or currants

85 g golden caster sugar

A little milk if needed

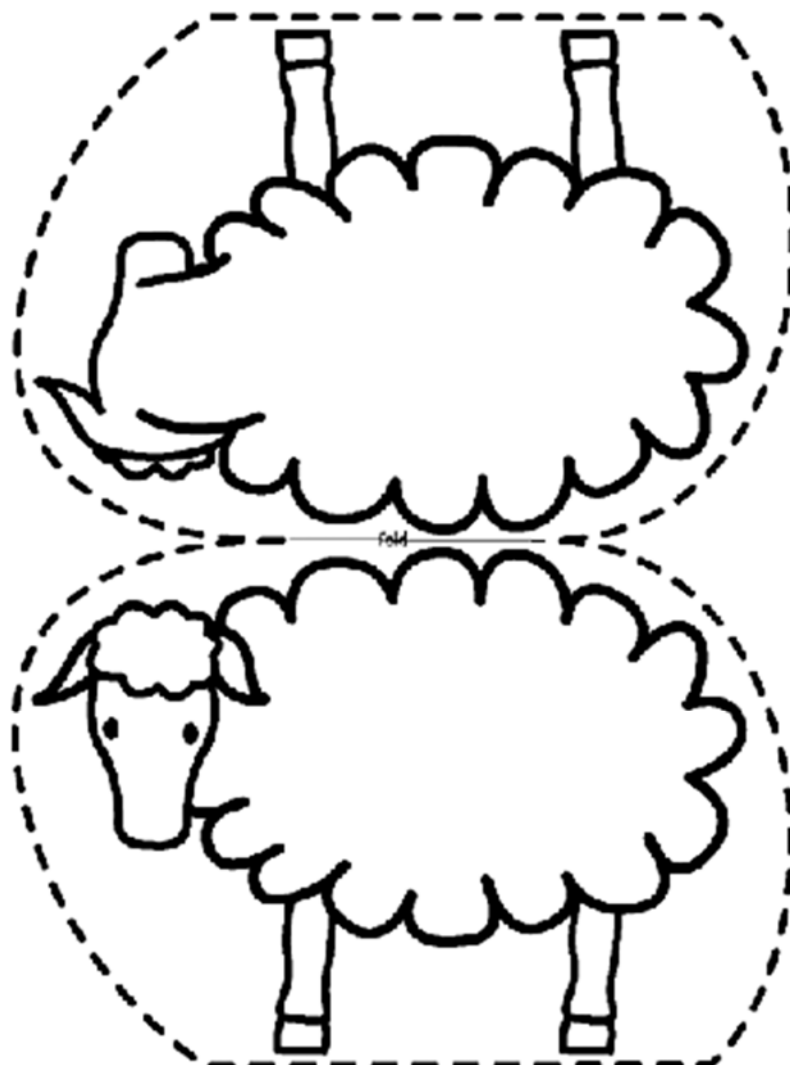
- In a large bowl, rub the butter into the flour until it looks like fine breadcrumbs.
- Add the sugar, dried fruit and then the egg. Mix to combine, and then push together to make a dough. If the mixture feels a little dry, add a little milk.
- Lightly flour your work surface. Roll out the dough until it is about 5mm thick. Cut into rounds about 10 cm wide. If you don't have a cookie cutter, use a drinking glass instead.
- Rub a frying pan with a little unsalted butter.
- Place over a low-medium heat, and cook the Welshcakes slowly until golden underneath.
- Turn them over, cook the other side until golden. They need about 2-3 minutes on each side.
- Remove from the pan and dust with caster sugar while still warm. You can eat them warm or cold, with or without butter on top. Yum!





Make a sheep, or your own flock of sheep

1. Colour in the sheep.
2. Glue the sheep onto a piece of thin cardboard, such as the inside of a cereal box.
3. When the glue has dried, cut along the dotted lines.
4. Fold in half along the solid line, so that your sheep stands up.
5. If you want to you could draw a picture of a field or farm on the rest of the cereal box and use it as a background for your sheep. Or use it to make more sheep by copying this one!





Learn a little Welsh...

Impress the people you are staying with by learning a little bit of Welsh.

Welsh can be tricky to learn as some of the letters sound different to how they would in English.

<u>English</u>	<u>Welsh</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>
Hello	Sut mai	Sit mae
My name's	Fy enw i yw	Vuh an-oo ee yu
Goodbye	Hwyl fawr	Hueyl vowrr
You're welcome	Croeso	Kroy-ssoh
Please	Os gwelwch yndda	Os gewl-ookh uhn thah
Thank you	Diolch	Dee-olkh
How are you?	Sut ydych chi?	Sit uh-deekh keeh?

Have you seen any Welsh words whilst you've been staying here? Next time you go out, see if you can spot the word 'Araf' on the roads. This means 'slow-down'.

Write down any others you've seen in the space below and then look them up when you get home.