

# Wales



**Anthem:** Hen Wlad fy Nhadau / Land of my fathers

**Capital:** Cardiff, population 341,054

**Other major towns:** Swansea, Newport, Wrexham

**Official Languages:** Welsh, English

**Area:** 20,780km<sup>2</sup> (8023m<sup>2</sup>)

**Population:** 3,006,430 (StatsWales 2010)

**Population density:** 145 persons per square kilometre

**Patron Saint:** St David

**Currency:** Pound Sterling (£)

**Number of castles:** over 400 known castles and castle sites



How much do you know about Welsh castles?

Take this quiz and find out!

Complete the sentences with the passive forms of the verbs in brackets.



## 1. Beaumaris

The most technically perfect medieval castle in Britain. It \_\_\_\_ (give) the French name of *Beau Mareys* (Beautiful Marsh).



## 2. Caernarfon

The most famous and perhaps the most beautiful castle in Wales. The site of this castle \_\_\_ (not choose) by accident. It had previously been the location of a Norman motte and bailey castle and before that a Roman fort stood nearby.



### 3. Chepstow

It boasts the oldest castle doors in Europe. The oldest building is the Norman tower but building work continued well into the 17th-century when medieval battlements \_\_\_ (replace) by stronger parapets.





#### 4. Conwy

The most magnificent of Edward I's Welsh fortresses. An estimated £15,000 \_\_\_ (spend) building the castle, the largest sum Edward spent in such a short time on any of his Welsh castles between 1277 and 1307.



## 5. Flint

The first of the castles built during Edward I's campaign to conquer Wales. The king arrived in Flint in July 1277 and by August nearly 3,000 men \_\_\_ (employ) in the building yard digging the ditches around the new fortification and the city.



## 6. Laugharne

It \_\_\_ (build) in the 13th century by the de Brian family, probably atop an earlier Norman ringwork castle. Dylan Thomas, Laugharne most famous resident, worked in the castle on its 'Portrait of the artist as a young dog'.





## 7. Powis

It dates back to 1200 and was once a medieval military stronghold for the Welsh Princes of Powys. Some parts of the castle are said to be haunted. For example, a lady who wears black \_\_\_(witness) sitting in a chair near the fireplace in the Dukes Room.



## 8. Raglan

The finest late medieval fortress-palace in Britain. The present castle \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) in 1435. A phantom musician reportedly haunts this building, particularly the area where a library once stood.



## 9. Weobley

One of the few surviving fortified manor houses in Wales. It included fine hall with fireplace, private rooms, sizeable guest chamber and numerous toilets, or 'garderoles', as they \_\_\_ (know) back then.



## 10. White Castle

It is the best preserved of the Three Castles. Its name - first recorded in the 13th century - refers to the white rendering which is still visible on parts of the exterior walls. The heart of this castle \_\_\_ (surround) by powerful round towers.



## **WELSH CASTLES**

### **Answers**

1. was given

3. were replaced

5. were employed

7. has been witnessed

9. were known

2. was not chosen

4. was spent

6. was built

8. was begun

10. is surrounded