

WELSH RULERS

AGE OF THE PRINCES



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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Timeline

Birth - death

Rhys ap Tewdwr

c.1040 - 1093

Gruffudd ap Cynan

1055 - 1137

Gwenllian ferch Gruffudd

c.1100 - 1136

Owain Gwynedd

1100 - 1170

Rhys ap Gruffudd

1132 - 1197

(The Lord Rhys)

Llywelyn ab Iorwerth

1173 - 1240

(Llywelyn the Great)

Llywelyn ap Gruffudd

1225 - 1282

(Llywelyn the Last)



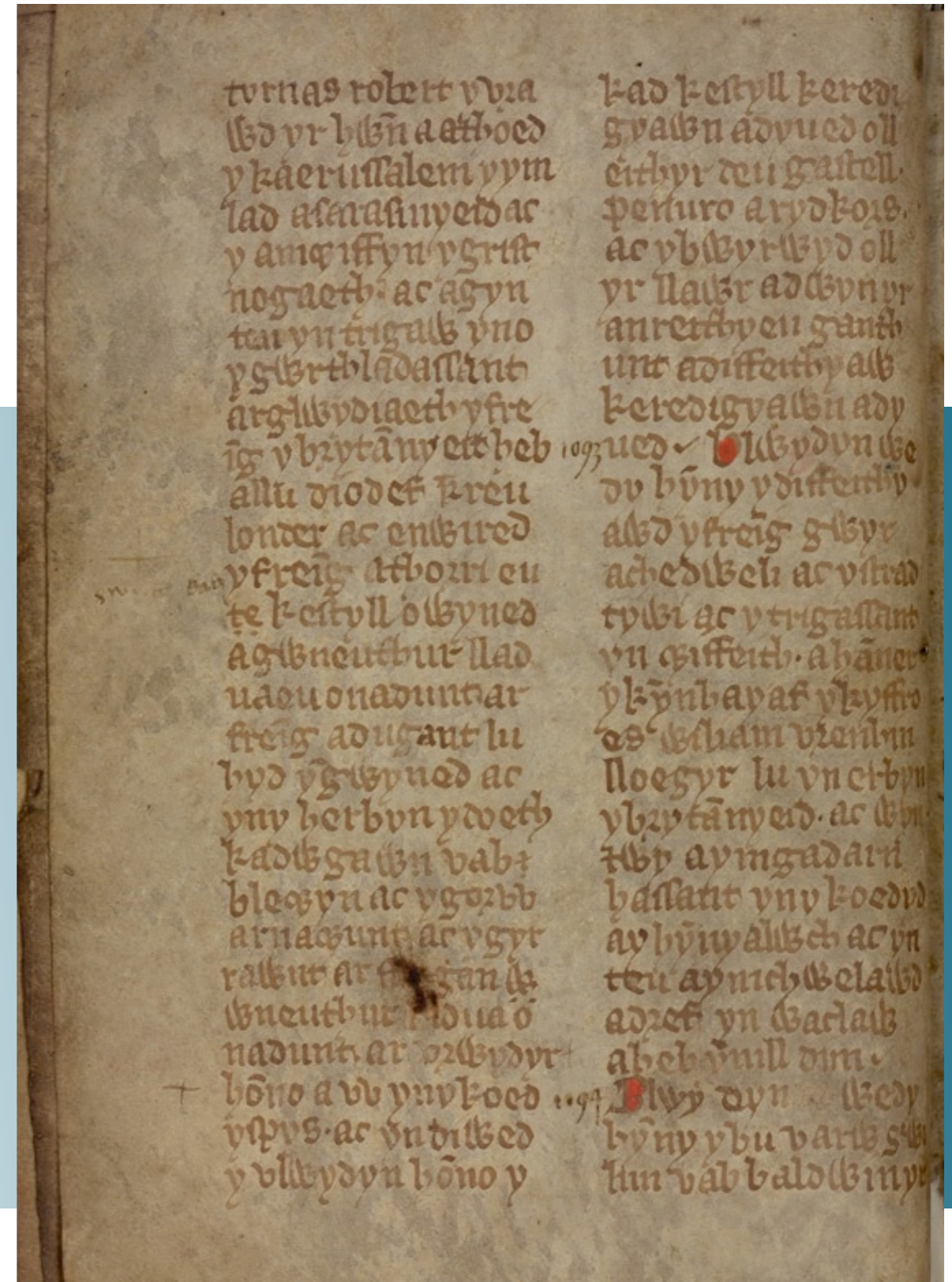
Evidence

How do we know what happened in Wales during the Middle Ages?

This manuscript, **The Chronicle of the Princes** contains a record of what happened each year in Wales during the Middle Ages.

Since little written evidence has survived from the period; this is one of the most important sources to understand what happened in Wales during these years.

This manuscript is kept at The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.



The Chronicle of the Princes, The National Library of Wales

Rhys ap Tewdwr

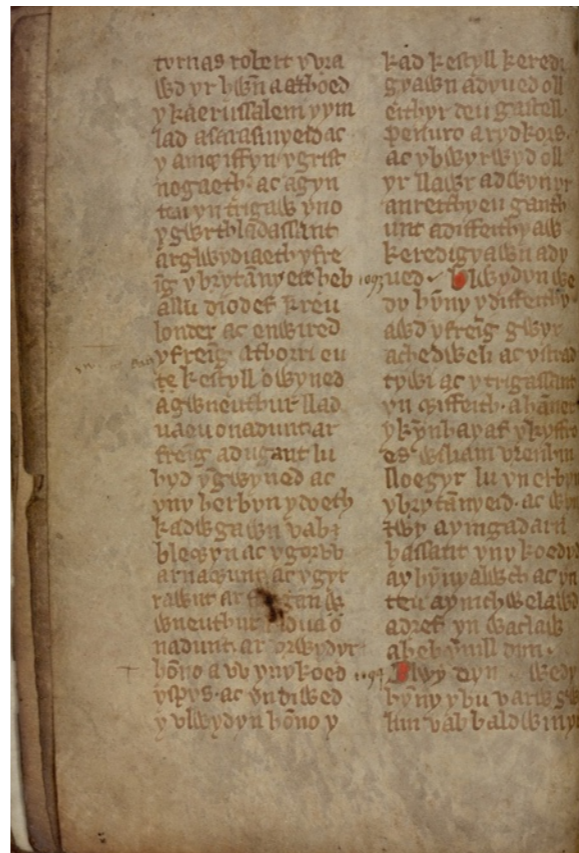
c. 1040 - 1093

Rhys ap Tewdwr was the King of Deheubarth, South Wales. Rhys's family had ruled the area for years (his great grandfather was Hywel Dda). Rhys used his political and military skills to keep control of the Deheubarth during his reign. By the end of Rhys's reign the Normans ruled more and more of South Wales.

Interesting fact

Tewdwr is another version of 'Tudor' in Welsh. Henry Tudor was related to Rhys ap Tewdwr.

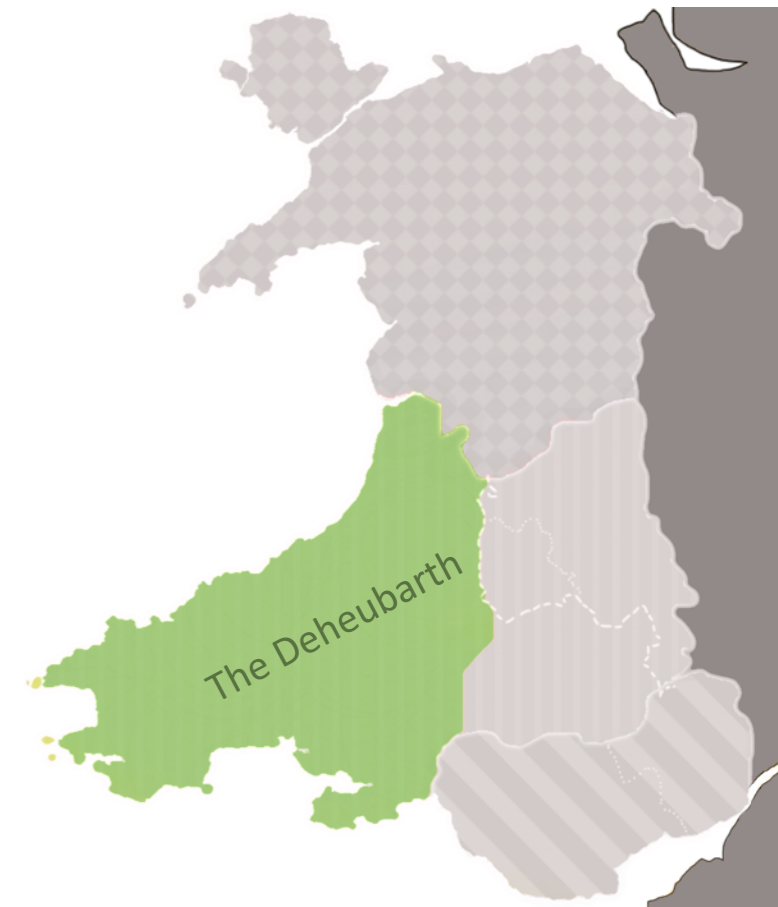
Power in Wales:



The Chronicle of the Princes

“It was the year 1093 when Rhys ap Tewdwr, King of the Deheubarth was killed and that was the end of the Briton's reign”

Kingdom



The Deheubarth

Timeline

1040

1078 Begins his reign of the Deheubarth following the death of his 2nd cousin, Rhys ab Owain.

1081 Makes a deal with The King of England, William I - £40 a year for the right to rule the Deheubarth.

1088 Comes back from Ireland with an army to reclaim the land. He was victorious and killed Madog and Rhirid.

1093 Rhys was killed by the Normans. This is where the Norman conquest of South Wales begins.

1093

1081 Caradog ap Gruffydd attacks the Deheubarth and sends Rhys into hiding. But Rhys fought back at the battle at Mynydd Carn and killed Caradog.

1088 Driven out of the Deheubarth by three lords from Powys; Madog, Cadwgan and Rhirid. Rhys escapes to Ireland.

1091 Another threat to Rhys's kingdom was his distant cousin, Gruffydd ap Maredudd ab Owain. Rhys managed to kill Gruffydd in a battle in St Dogmaels.

Rhys ap Tewdwr

Reading comprehension

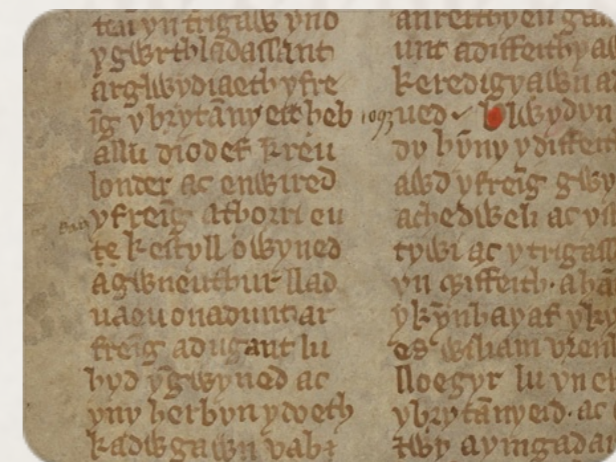
Which Welsh region did Rhys ap Tewdwr control?

In which year did Rhys flee to Ireland?

When did Rhys ap Tewdwr begin ruling this region?

In which year was Rhys ap Tewdwr killed by the Normans?

How much money did Rhys ap Tewdwr pay The King of England, William I, to keep control of the Deheubarth?



Gruffudd ap Cynan

1055 - 1137

Gruffudd ap Cynan was the King of Gwynedd. He ruled during a troublesome period against the Normans. Three times he lost and then reclaimed the rule of Gwynedd, and was jailed for 12 years by the Normans. Gruffudd laid the foundations for princes such as his son, Owain Gwynedd, to rule after him.

Interesting Fact

He was born and raised in Dublin, Ireland. He was related to Rhodri The Great, the King of Wales in the 9th century.

Power in Wales:



Wikimedia commons

Kingdom



Timeline

1055

1137

1055 Born in Dublin, Ireland

1075 Gruffudd sails from Ireland to Wales for the first time with his Irish army but has to flee back to Ireland.

1081 Sails to Wales again and lands by St Davids and creates an alliance with Rhys ap Tewdwr, King of the Deheubarth.

1081 The battle of Mynydd Carn. Gruffudd becomes King of Gwynedd, but in the same year was jailed for 12 years in Chester by the Normans.

1094 Escapes from jail in Chester and attacks and captures Norman castles across Gwynedd.

1114 A relatively peaceful time in Gwynedd. Gruffudd is solving problems politically with the English King, Henry I.

1098 The Normans attack again, Gruffudd flees to Ireland. The King of Norway, Magnus, attacks the Normans in Anglesey.

1136 A victory over the Normans in Ceredigion.

1124 Gruffudd's sons are responsible for most of the military work by now.

Gruffudd ap Cynan

Reading comprehension

Which region in Wales did Gruffudd ap Cynan control?

What happened to Gruffudd ap Cynan in 1081?

When did Gruffudd ap Cynan begin ruling this region?

Which King helped Gruffudd ap Cynan fight the Normans in 1098?

Where was Gruffudd ap Cynan born?



Gwenllian

c. 1100 - 1136

Daughter to Gruffudd ap Cynan, wife of Gruffudd ap Rhys, and mother of Lord Rhys. Her husband was away in the North when a Norman army attacked the Deheubarth, South Wales in 1136. Gwenllian led an army of Welsh soldiers into battle against the Normans at Kidwelly. She was killed in the battle.

Interesting fact

Years after her death, Welsh soldiers would shout 'For Gwenllian' before going into battle.

Power in Wales:



D. Salesbury Hughes, The National Library of Wales

Timeline

1100



1136 Gwenllian's husband, Gruffudd ap Rhys went North to fight the Normans with Gwenllian's father Gruffudd ap Cynan.

1136



1136 With her husband away, the Normans decided to attack the Deheubarth. Gwenllian gathered an army to fight. She was caught and beheaded by the Normans, along with her sons Morgan and Maelgwyn.

There aren't many facts about Gwenllian's existence before her final year

Gwenllian

Reading comprehension

Who were Gwenllian's relatives?

Which castle was Gwenllian defending?

What happened to Gwenllian in the year 1136?

Years after Gwenllian was killed, what did Welshmen shout before going into battle?

Where did Gwenllian's husband go in 1136?



Owain Gwynedd

1100 - 1170

Owain Gwynedd was the Prince of Gwynedd, North Wales from 1137 until he died in 1170. Owain was a determined leader. He fought against other Welsh princes, the Normans and English Kings. Owain Gwynedd was the first to be given the title 'Prince of Wales'.

Interesting fact

Owain decided to blind his young nephew, Cunedda, before he could become a threat to him.

Power in Wales:



D. Salesbury Hughes, The National Library of Wales

Kingdom



Timeline

1100

1170

1136 A big victory over the Normans with Gruffudd ap Rhys, the Prince of Deheubarth, to conquer Ceredigion.

1150 Jailed his son, Cynan.

1160 Gains land in Powys after Madog, the Prince of Powys dies.

1165 Known as the most powerful leader in Wales; a title that infuriated Henry II.

1146 Captures Mold Castle from the Normans

1150 Captures Rhuddlan Castle from the Normans.

1157 The King of England, Henry II, attacks Gwynedd. Owain fights hard but loses the battle in the end.

1170 Died in November 1170. Chose his son Hywel ab Owain as his successor.

Owain Gwynedd

Reading comprehension

Which Welsh region did Owain Gwynedd control?

What did Owain do to his young nephew?

When did Owain Gwynedd begin ruling this region?

Which title did Owain have in 1165 that made Henry II, the King of England angry?

Name some of the castles Owain captured from the Normans.



The Lord Rhys

1132 - 1197

Rhys ap Gruffudd was one of the richest and most powerful princes in the Deheubarth, South Wales. He was a talented prince on the battlefield and politically astute. He built castles in Dinefwr and Cardigan, held the first 'Eisteddfod' and also established monasteries such as Strata Florida.

Interesting Fact

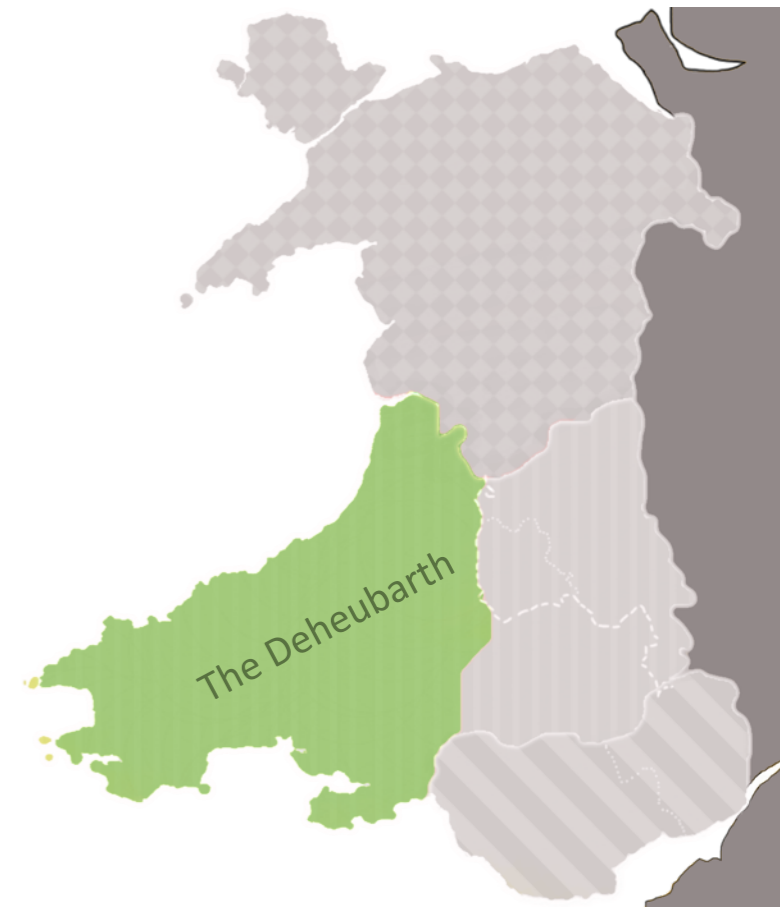
The Lord Rhys held the first 'Eisteddfod' in Cardigan Castle in 1176.

Power in Wales:



D. Salesbury Hughes, The National Library of Wales

Kingdom



Timeline

1132

1136 Rhys's mother, Gwenllian, died in battle against the Normans in Kidwelly.

1146 Took part in a campaign by the Welsh to capture the Norman castle in Llansteffan by Carmarthen when he was only 14 years old.

1155 His brother, Maredudd, died and Rhys became the only ruler in the Deheubarth.

1158 The King of England, Henry II, takes some of The Lord Rhys's land. Rhys agrees to call himself a Lord instead of a King.

1164 Rhys revolts against the King and the Normans. He captures Ceredigion including Cardigan and Cilgerran castles; the land he lost in 1158.

1170 Henry II agrees that the Lord Rhys, to all purposes, rules over South Wales.

1189 Rhys attacked and conquered lands under Norman rule all over South Wales.

1196 At 65 years old he led his last campaign in Carmarthen, burning the town to the ground.

1197

The Lord Rhys

Reading comprehension

Which Welsh region did the Lord Rhys control?

What did the Lord Rhys regain from the Normans in 1164?

When did the Lord Rhys begin ruling this region?

By 1189, did The Lord Rhys have control of the Deheubarth?

Which important event was held at Cardigan Castle in 1176?



Llywelyn the Great

1173 - 1240

Llywelyn ab Iorwerth is famous for his efforts to unite Wales and for fighting the English King and the Norman Lords for Welsh freedom. He was the Prince of Gwynedd, and in his heyday he ruled most of Wales. Other Welsh princes considered him their leader.

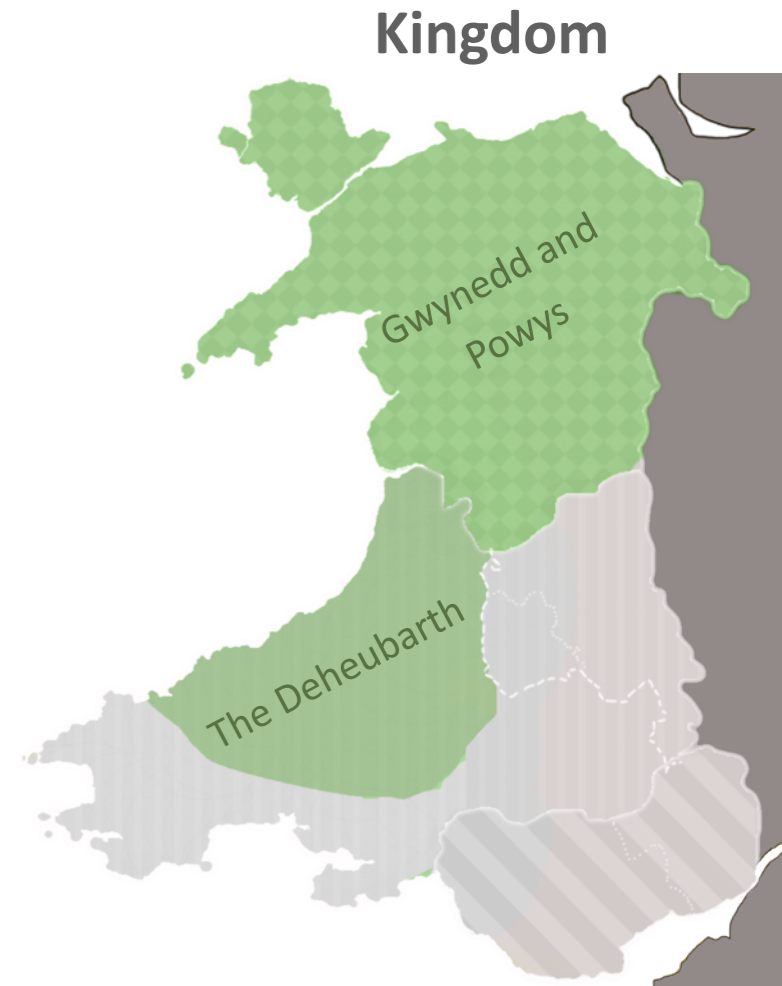
Interesting Fact

Llywelyn had to fight against his own family for over 10 years for the right to succeed his grandfather, Owain Gwynedd.

Power in Wales:



D. Salesbury Hughes, The National Library of Wales



Timeline

1173

1240

1194 Defeated his uncle Dafydd and captured a part of the Heartland.

1205 Marries Siwan the daughter of John, The English King.

1216 Welsh Princes meet in Aberdovey and agree that Llywelyn is their leader.

1230 William de Braose, one of the marcher lords, is hanged for having an affair with his wife, Siwan.

1200 Becomes the only leader in Gwynedd. Gruffudd ap Llywelyn is born as his illegitimate son.

1215 Leads an army to capture castles in Carmarthen, Kidwelly, Llansteffan, Cardigan and Cilgerran

1218 The King of England, Henry III, acknowledges Llywelyn's right to his lands.

1240 Dies, and is buried at the Cistercian Abbey in Aberconwy.

Llywelyn the Great

Reading comprehension

Which Welsh region did the Llywelyn the Great rule?

What did other Welsh princes agree upon in Aberdovey in 1216?

When did the Llywelyn the Great begin ruling this region?

Who did Llywelyn sentence to death in 1230 and why?

Who did Llywelyn the Great marry in 1205?



Llywelyn the Last

1225 - 1282

Llywelyn ap Gruffudd was the first prince to be recognised as the Prince of Wales by an English King. His aim was to unite Wales and he fought hard against English Kings to achieve this. Most people call him Llywelyn the Last because he was the last Welsh prince before Edward I, the English King, ruled the whole of Wales.

Interesting Fact

Llywelyn imprisoned his brother Owain Goch for over twenty years in Dolbadarn Castle.

Power in Wales:



D. Salesbury Hughes, The National Library of Wales

Kingdom



Timeline

1225

1282

1247 Llywelyn ruled Gwynedd with his brother, Owain.

1267 The King of England, Henry III, agrees that Llywelyn is the Prince of Wales but has to pay homage to the King.

1274 Llywelyn finds out that there is a plot by his brother, Dafydd, to kill him. Dafydd flees to England after the plot fails.

1278 Llywelyn marries Eleanor de Montford. King Edward I attends the wedding.

1255 His brothers, Owain and Dafydd, turned against him. Llywelyn was victorious and he became the sole Prince of Gwynedd.

1270 He attacked and burnt Caerphilly Castle that was being built by the Normans.

1277 The first war against The King of England, Edward I. Around 15,000 soldiers came from England to fight. Llywelyn surrenders.

1282 There was a revolt in Wales, and by now Edward I wanted complete rule over Wales. Llywelyn was killed in a battle in Cilmeri.

Llywelyn the Last

Reading comprehension

Which Welsh region did the Llywelyn the Last control?

Who did Llywelyn imprison for over twenty years in Dolbadarn Castle?

When did the Llywelyn the Last begin ruling this region?

Where and when was Llywelyn killed?

What did Henry III, the King of England agree upon in 1267?

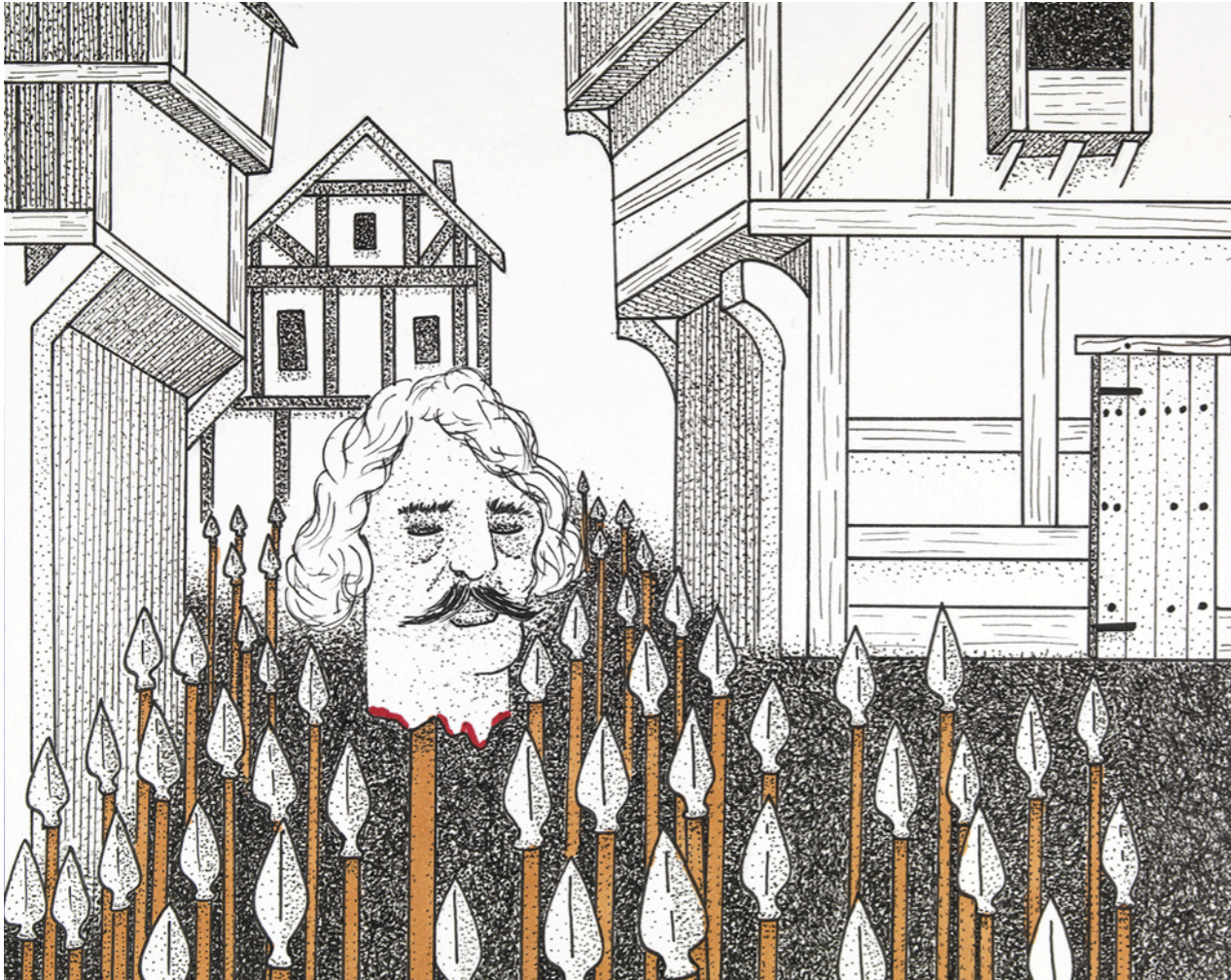


The Death of Llywelyn the Last

Llywelyn the Last was killed on the 11th of December 1282 in Cilmeri by a soldier who was unaware he had killed the Welsh leader. His head was sent to London to prove that he had been killed.

After Llywelyn was killed, within six months the King of England, Edward I, ruled most of Wales and the majority of the fighting was over.

By 1284, Edward I had built large, imposing castles across North Wales to make sure that the Welsh folk didn't revolt again!



Where is Cilmeri?

