

# Hedd Wyn

## Key question: Why do we remember the story of Hedd Wyn?

### Focus: History and Literacy

**Aims and objectives:** develop pupils' understanding of the story of Hedd Wyn and why he is remembered in Wales today. Pupils will have the opportunity to research, read and understand original written and visual sources to learn more about the story of Hedd Wyn.

### Ideas and activities for starters

#### Newspaper

Pupils will search for items about Hedd Wyn using the <http://newspapers.library.wales/> website for their research

- What can we learn about Hedd Wyn from these newspapers?
- How is Hedd Wyn portrayed?
- Does the information in newspapers from the period support what the pupils already know about Hedd Wyn?

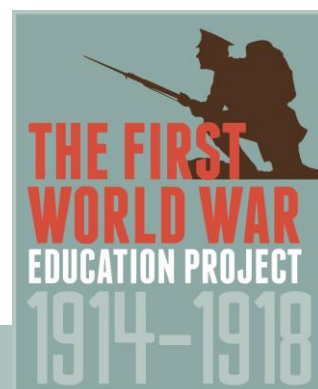
**Photograph:** Teacher can use the photograph of the unveiling ceremony of a memorial to Hedd Wyn at Trawsfynydd as a starter to the lesson and a starting point for discussion on specific questions, for example:

- What is the purpose of a monument?
- What message does it give us about the individual or event?
- Idea storm -what do pupils already know about Hedd Wyn?

### Preparation activities

- Pupils can read the evidence from the period through the eyes of different characters in Hedd Wyn's life, for example, his family, some of his contemporaries from Trawsfynydd or an officer from the 15th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers
- They will need to write questions and make notes when reading and analysing the evidence.
- Pupils can share their character's experiences with another pupil in pairs, and discuss what interests them or attracts their attention about the other characters.

## Ideas for teachers



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## Main activity

### Possible tasks

- Pupils can create and perform **slam poetry**. This can be part of a more extensive task such as a class competition where the class identifies the criteria for marking slam poetry presentations by their peers in the class.
- Create a **dialogue or script** which characterises people in Hedd Wyn's life and their reaction to his death, for example, his mother, his friends, the officer of his regiment in the army. An *app* such as *Puppet Pals* could be used to present the dialogue or script.
- **Role play** through examining the effects of the loss of Hedd Wyn on different groups of people, for example the family and surrounding community, the whole of Wales, and the Government.
- Script and film a **news bulletin** from the Eisteddfod field in 1917 about the Black Chair ceremony.
- **Information pamphlet** to promote Yr Ysgwrn on behalf of the National Park. .
- Create **text for the National Park's new website** which coincides with the re-opening of Yr Ysgwrn in 2016 and the centenary of Hedd Wyn's death in 1917.
- **Present a tribute** to Hedd Wyn by recreating the imaginary scene on the stage when it was announced that Hedd Wyn was the winning bard which would include Archdruid Dyfed, the Prime Minister David Lloyd George and the adjudicators T.Gwynn Jones and J.J. Williams.
- **Newspaper article** about Hedd Wyn's contribution and importance to Wales.

## Ideas for teachers

