

WELCOME TO WALES



READING

17a **K** Read the text. Are the sentences True (T) or False (F)?

Tourists come to Wales for its history and culture. Towns, cities and castles are places of interest for tourists and visitors in Wales. Cardiff is the capital; there, the Museum of Welsh Life is a very popular attraction.

The varied landscape also helps tourism. There are three national parks: the Brecon Beacons National Park, Snowdonia National Park and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. The activities at the parks include hill walking, hiking, canoeing, hang-gliding, kayaking, pony trekking, fishing and climbing.

There are a lot of features of the Welsh landscape that are popular with visitors: in the Wye Valley they visit Tintern Abbey and Chepstow Castle, along Offa's Dyke Path they walk on the English border, on Taff Trail they walk or cycle along the River Taff and in Gower they admire sandy beaches, beautiful bays and interesting coves. In 1956 Gower, in the South of Wales, was designated the first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales. About three and a half million people visit it annually and they are all impressed by its breathtaking majesty. Gower is considered a place for inspiration and dreams and visitors take a lot of photos of the spectacular rocky cliffs, sand dunes and nature reserves.



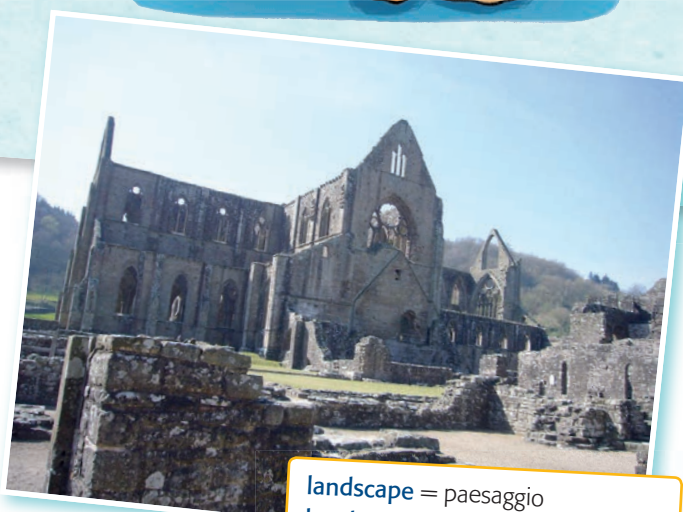
▲ Brecon Beacons National Park



1. Tourists in Wales visit historic attractions.
2. The Museum of Welsh Life is in Cardiff.
3. Tourists are not interested in natural features in Wales.
4. Tintern Abbey and Chepstow Castle are on the English border.
5. Gower is in South Wales.
6. Gower is a cultural place.
7. Not many people visit Gower.
8. Gower was the first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Wales.

T **F**

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▲ Tintern Abbey, Wye Valley

landscape = paesaggio
border = confine
coves = piccole insenature
outstanding = notevole
breathtaking = che toglie il respiro
cliffs = scogliere

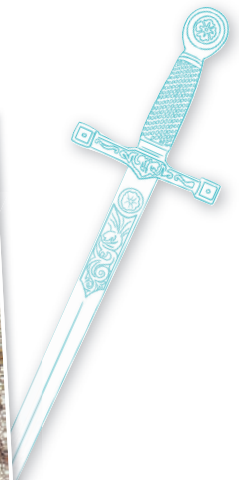
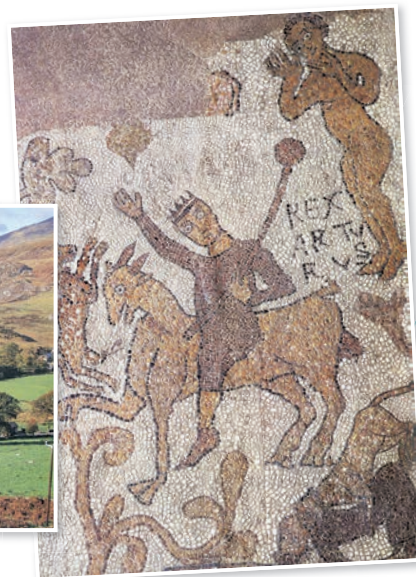
17b Match the activities in English with the correspondent activities in Italian.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> hill walking | a. fare escursioni |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> hiking | b. andare in canoa |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> canoeing | c. fare arrampicate |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> hang-gliding | d. andare in kayak |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> kayaking | e. pescare |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> pony trekking | f. passeggiare a dorso di pony |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> fishing | g. fare passeggiate in collina |
| 8. <input type="checkbox"/> climbing | h. volare con il deltaplano |



LISTENING

19a Do you know the story of King Arthur, Guinevere and the Knights of the Round Table? Have you seen a film or cartoon about these people? Have you ever heard of Geoffrey of Monmouth? Talk about it in class with your teacher.



19b **1.10** Listen to Mr Baugh talking about a great character of Welsh literature and underline the correct alternative.

- The origin of the story of King Arthur was in the **Roman tradition** / Welsh tradition.
- The story is composed of **historical events** / literary inventions.
- Arthur **was** / wasn't a legendary king.
- The name Arthur comes from a **German name** / Roman name.
- Arthur was a leader against the Saxon invaders in the **5th century** / 6th century.
- Geoffrey of Monmouth was **the creator** / the best friend of Arthur.
- Geoffrey was born in Wales in **1100** / 1200.
- Arthur** / Geoffrey was the son of Uther Pendragon.
- Arthur was mortally wounded and carried to **Avalon** / Guinevere.
- The stories of Arthur were interesting **for adults and children** / just for children.

WRITING

18 You were back from a holiday in Wales yesterday. Write an e-mail to your friend and talk about your experience. Use the notes below.

- Where you were.
- Who you were with.
- How long you were there.
- You were in a hotel, bed and breakfast, campsite...
- What it was like.
- What the weather was like.
- What the food was like.
- The activities there were.
- You had some new friends.
- How the holiday was.

SPOKEN INTERACTION

20 Work in pairs. One of you is an interviewer and the other is Mr Baugh, a Welsh culture expert. Use the notes below to ask questions about King Arthur and give answers.

- Where / the origin of the story?
- Who / Arthur?
- Where / the name / from?
- When / Arthur / against the Saxons?
- Who / Geoffrey of Monmouth?
- When / Geoffrey of Monmouth / born?
- Who / Arthur's father?
- Arthur / mortally wounded?
- Why / the stories / popular?
- Why / you / interested in King Arthur?

wound = ferire
carry = trasportare