

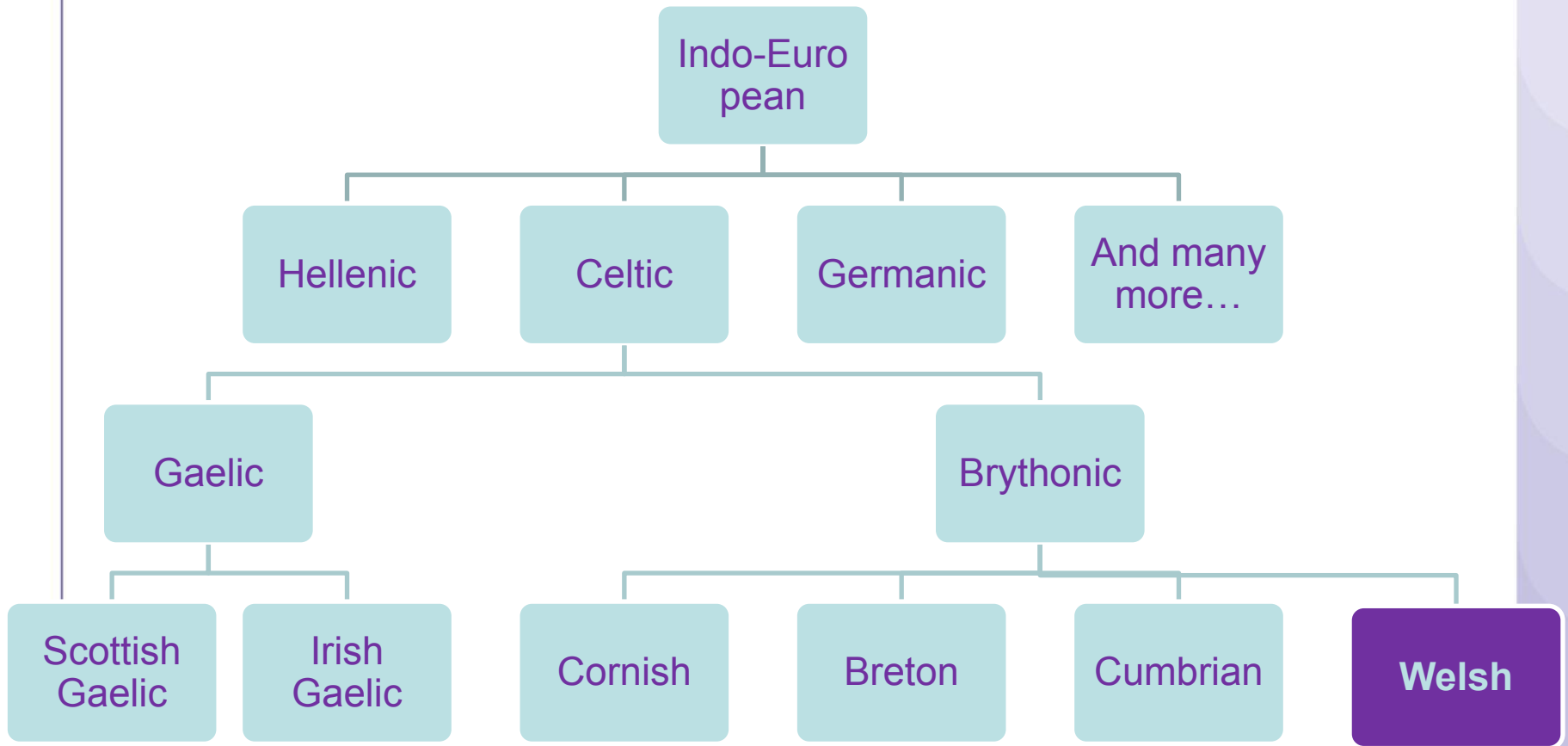
The Welsh Language in Contemporary Wales



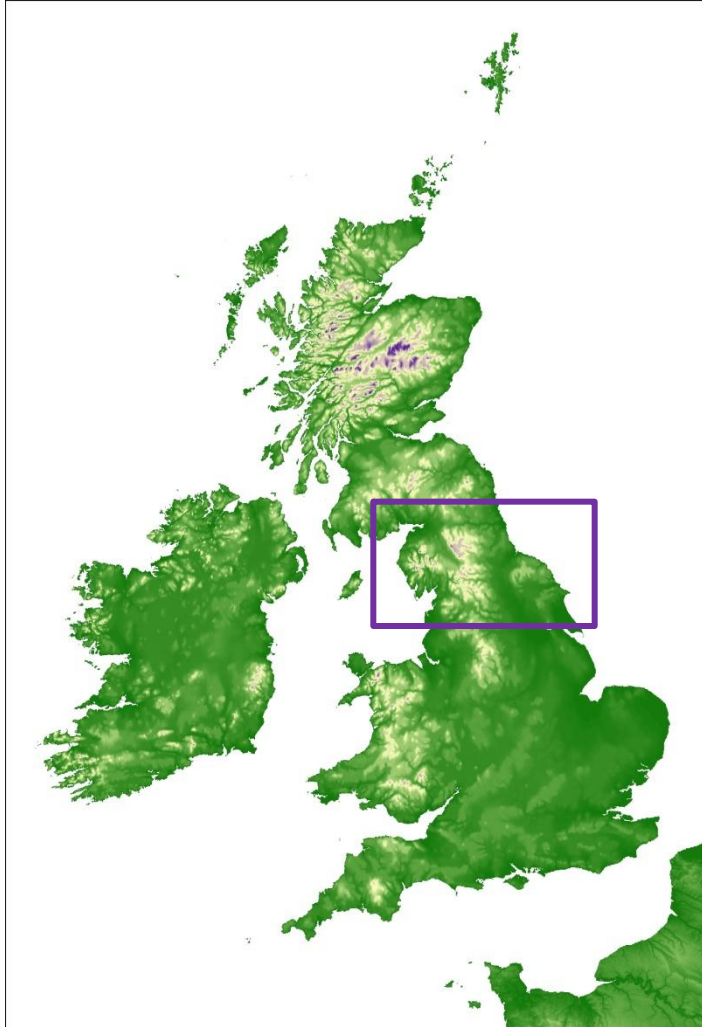
Objectives

- Introduce the history of the Welsh language
- Examine the changes in the number of people able to speak Welsh from 1891 until today
- Consider the factors that have contributed to these changes
- Consider the future challenges facing the Welsh language

The Origins of the Welsh Language



c. 550-800 ‘The Old North’



*“a chenau Coel byddai
gymwyawg”*

**Gwaith Argoed Llwyfain,
by Taliesin**

©HYDRO1K DEM data provided by the USGS

The Acts of Union

1536 Act of Union and the Welsh language:

“The people of the same dominion [Wales] have and do daily use a speche nothing like ne consonant to the naturall mother tonge used within this Realme”

The intention was...

"utterly to extirpe alle and singular sinister usages and customs” belonging to Wales

The Language of Bards and the Bible

14th-16th century:

The arts were thriving
e.g. the poems of
Dafydd ap Gwilym



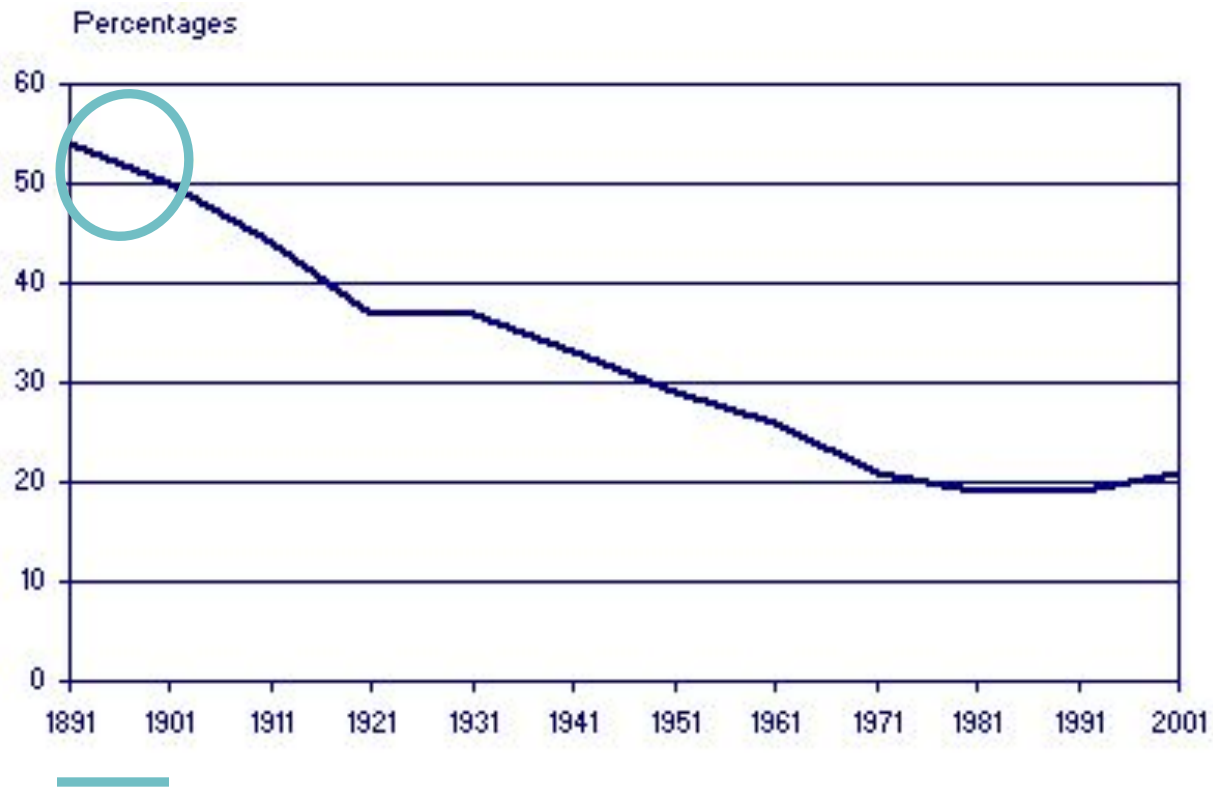
© Ffion Gruffudd

1588: The publication of the Bible in Welsh

The 1891 Census and Beyond

- 1801: The first census
- 1841: The first census to ask for personal details
 - a census was undertaken every 10 years after 1841 (except for 1941)
- 1891: The first census to ask about the language spoken in the household
- 2011: The latest census

The Welsh Language: 1891-1901



Nonconformity



“Salem”
Sidney Curnow Vosper
(1866 - 1942)

© National Museums Liverpool

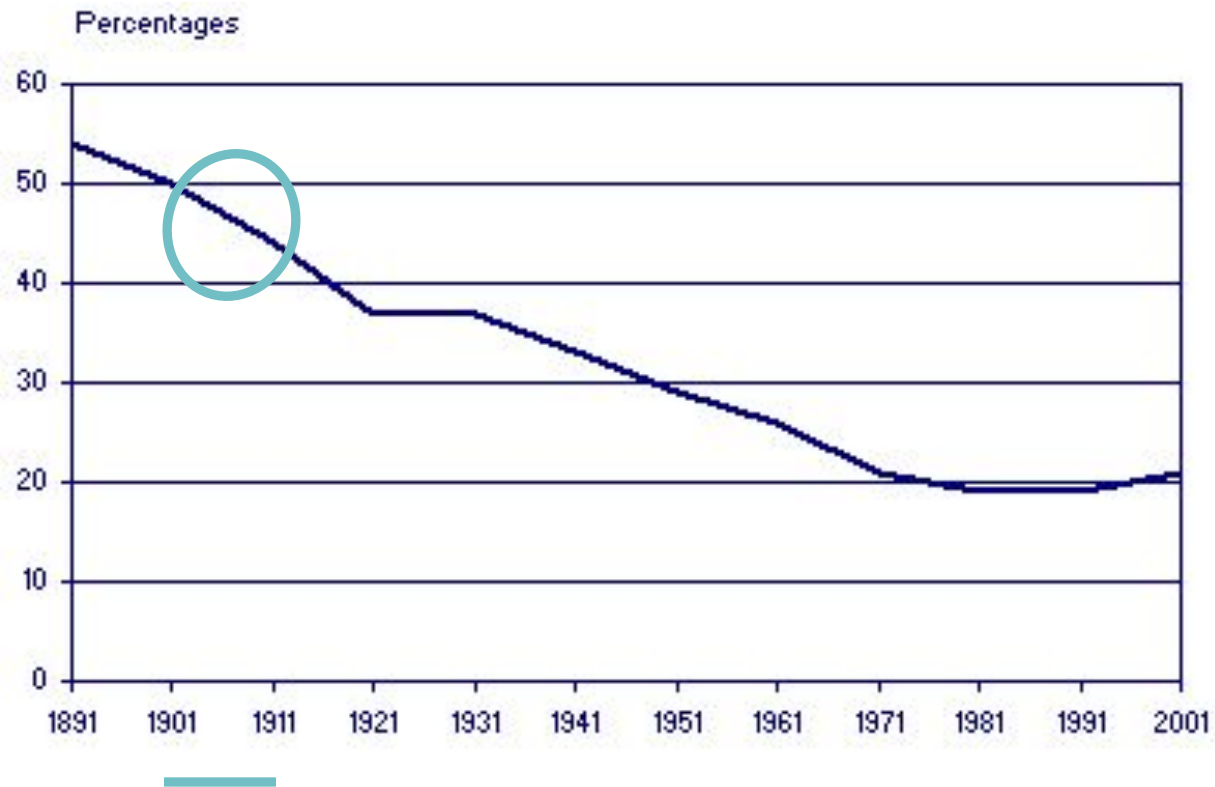
“Welsh Not”

The child wearing the “Welsh Not”
would be punished



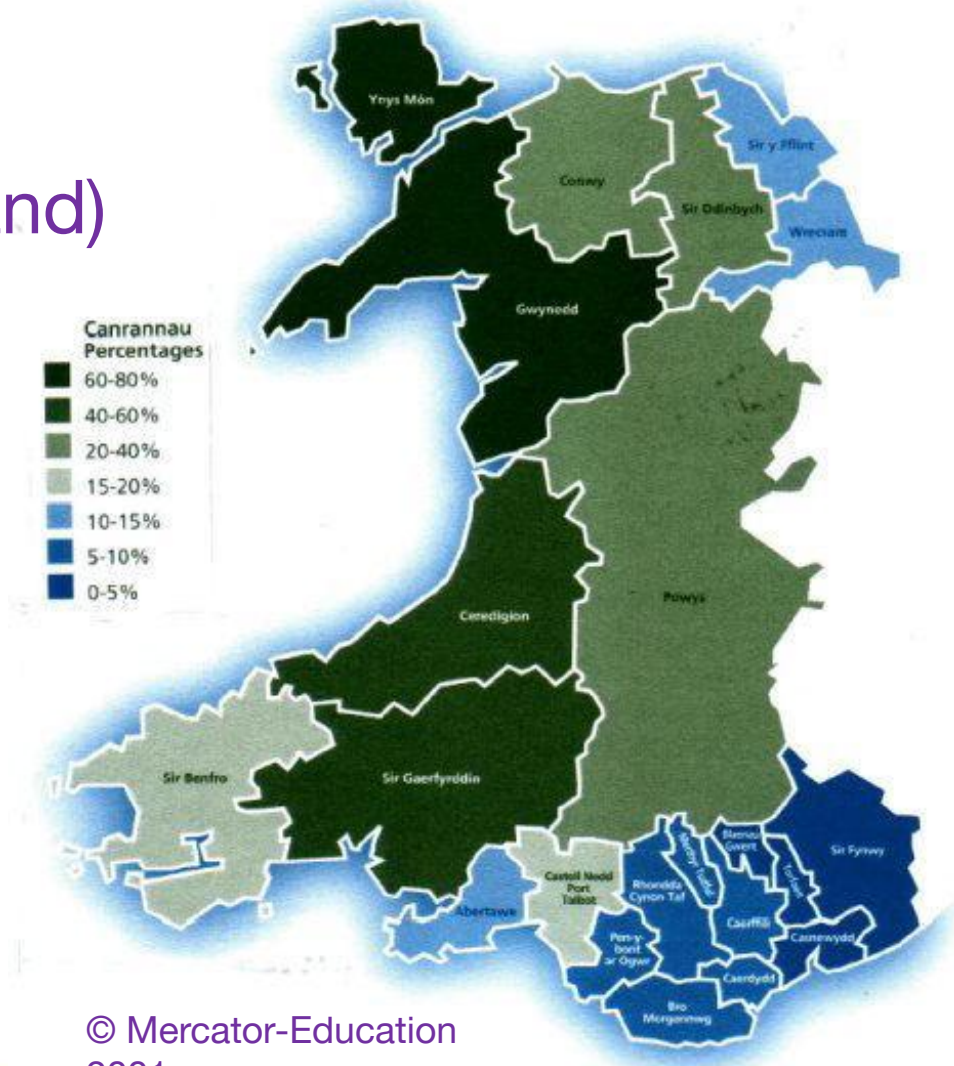
© Gwynedd Museum & Art Gallery, Bangor

The Welsh Language: 1901-1911



Spatial Differences

“Y Fro Gymraeg”
(The Welsh Heartland)



Moel yr Ogof near Beddgelert



© Ffion Gruffudd

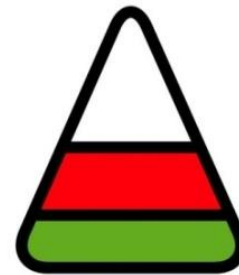
The Welsh Language: 1911-1921



The First World War



1922: Urdd Gobaith
Cymru was founded



urdd.org

Urdd Gobaith Cymru

The Welsh Language: 1931-1951



The Burning of the Bombing School



‘The Three’:
Saunders Lewis
Lewis Valentine
DJ Williams

© Plaid Cymru

The Second World War



© National Library of Wales

The Welsh School, Aberystwyth



© Aberystwyth University

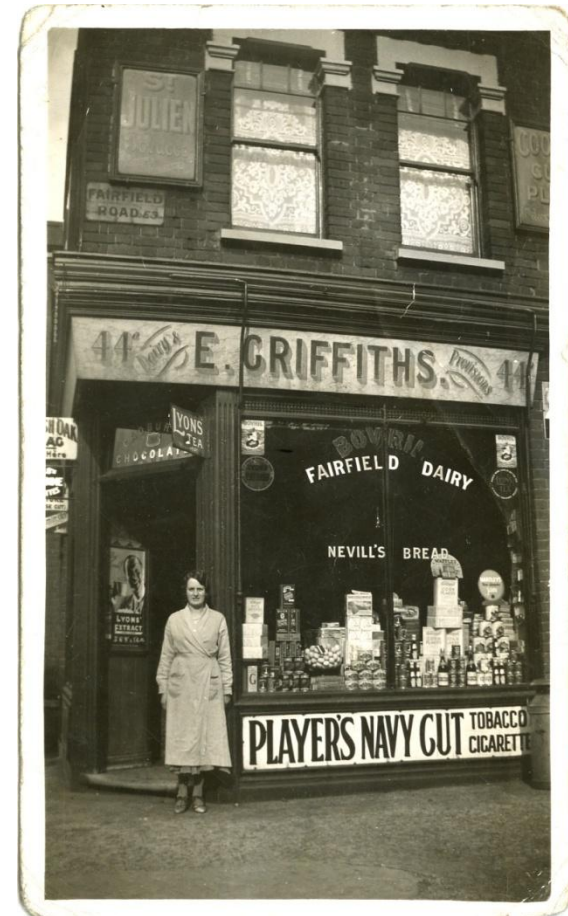
Emigration

A family from Ceredigion who established a dairy in London



© V Griffiths

Members of Dewi Sant Church
London, c. 1934



© V Griffiths

From Chapel to Pub



The Welsh Language: 1950s-1980s



Mobilising in Defence of the Language

1951: No public signs in Welsh whilst letters and forms from the local authorities were in English only

1962: Lecture on the fate of the Welsh language “Tynged yr Iaith” by Sanders Lewis

1963: The Welsh Language Society’s first protest in Aberystwyth

1977: Radio Cymru was established



© National Library of Wales

BBC | radio
cymru

1982: Establishment of S4C



© Media Wales Ltd.

S4/C

The Welsh Language: 1990s



The Impact of Tourism on the Welsh Language



© Anwen Elias

The seaside town of Aberaeron
'Welcome to Wales?' by Dylan Phillips

The Welsh Language Act (1993)

- States that the Welsh and English should be treated equally in Wales
- It is a requirement that the public sector should treat both languages equally when providing public services in Wales

The Welsh Language: 2001 to Today



2001 Census






- 457,946 (16.3%) could **speak, read and write** Welsh
- 659,301 (23.5%) had **at least** one skill in Welsh

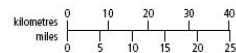
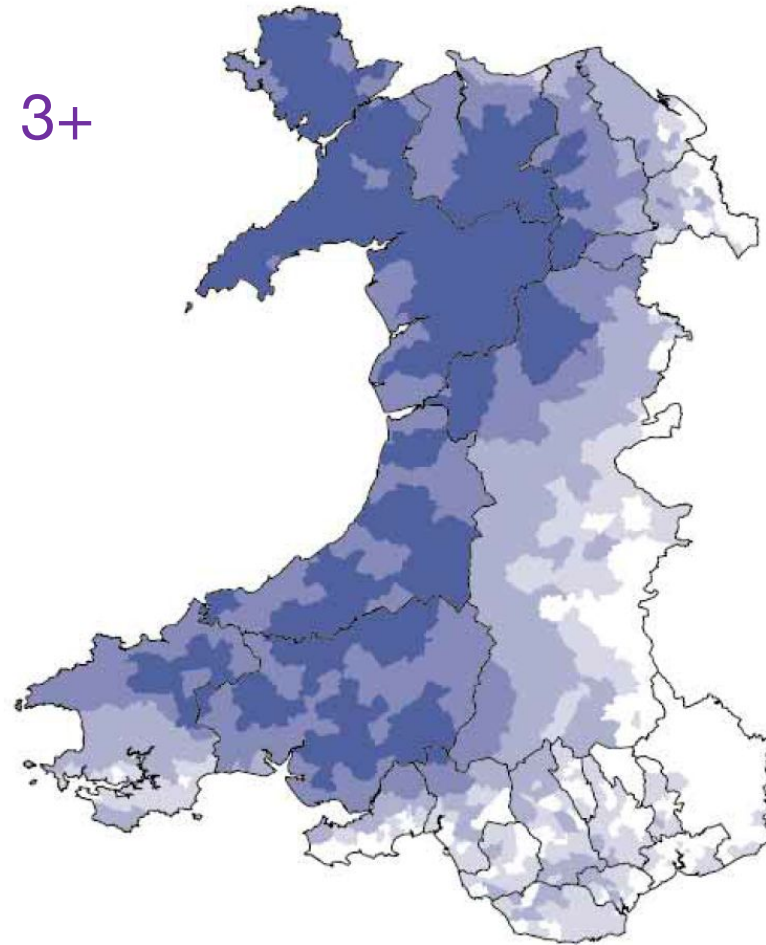
% able to speak Welsh in **Llandysul**

- 3-15 years old: 86.98%
- 16-64 years old: 64.02%
- 65+ years old: 70.02%

2001 Census

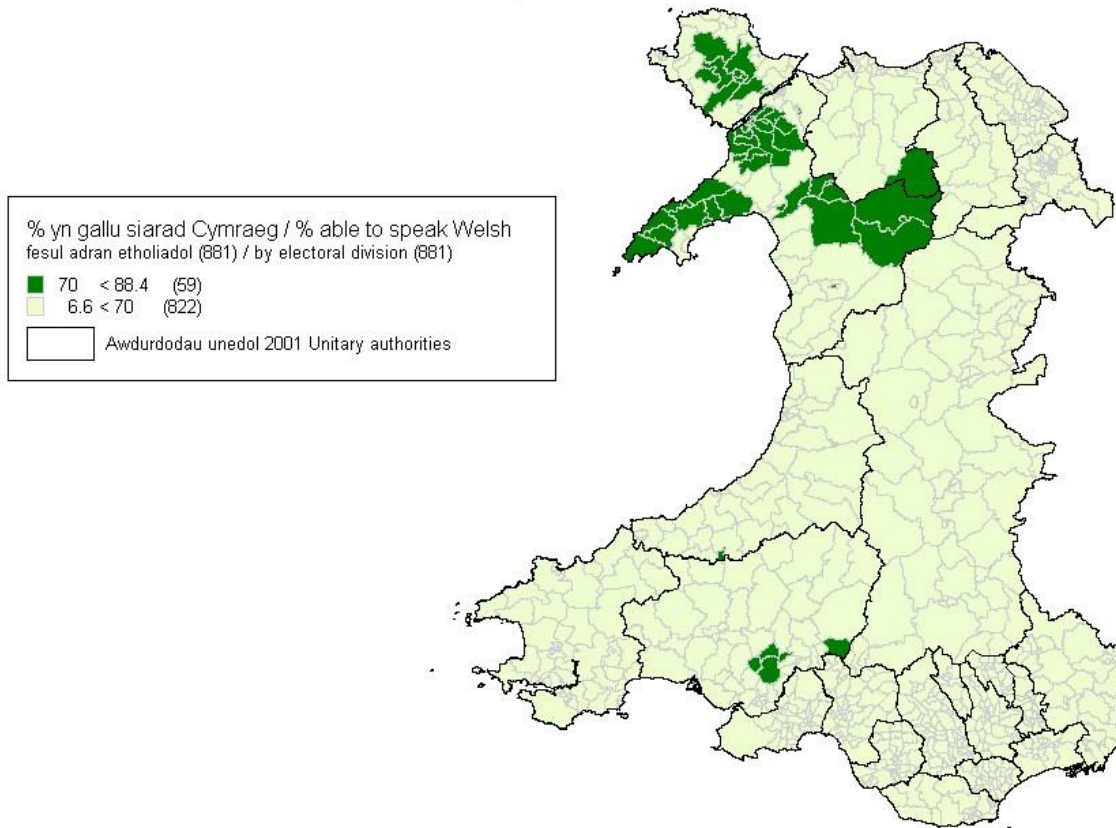
% of population aged 3+
that speaks Welsh

	56.77-86.59
	27.45-46.76
	13.27-27.77
	10.42-13.26
	5.06-10.41



2001 Census

Ardaloedd lle roedd 70% neu drosodd yn gallu siarad Cymraeg, 2001 Areas where 70% or over could speak Welsh, 2001

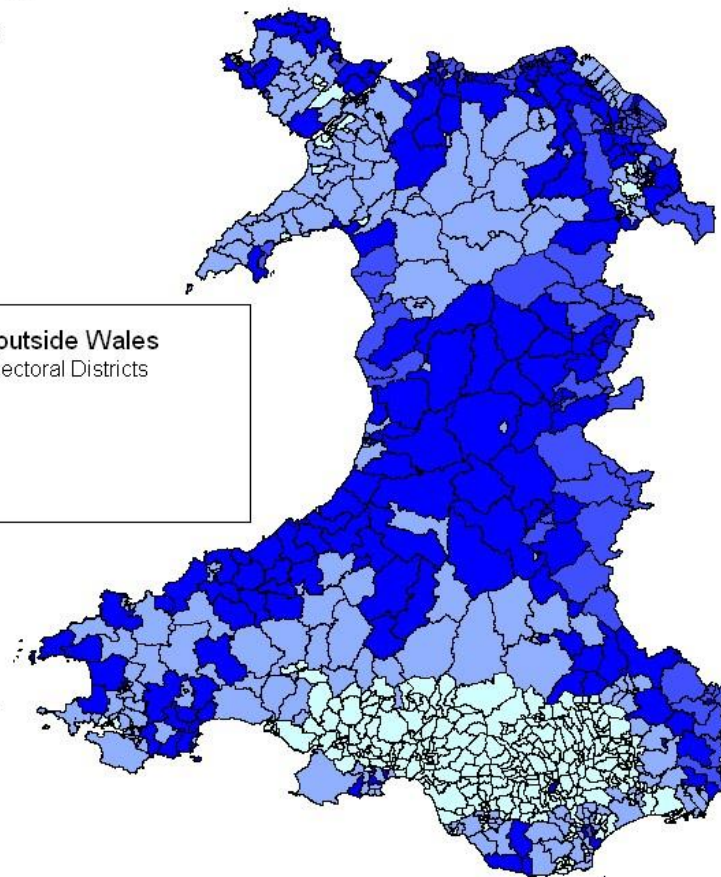


Ffynhonnell: Tabl CAS146 Cyfrifiad 2001. Hawlfraint y Goron 2005. Atgynhychir deunydd y Cyfrifiad â chaniatâd Rheolydd HMSO
Source: Table CAS146 2001 Census. Crown Copyright 2005. Census material is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO.

2001 Census

CYMRU 2001 WALES

% a anwyd y tu allan i Gymru
% born outside Wales



% a anwyd y tu allan i Gymru / % born outside Wales
Adranau etholiadol Cyfrifiad 2001 Census Electoral Districts

■	50 < 82.1	(95)
■	35 < 50	(194)
■	20 < 35	(265)
■	4.9 < 20	(327)

Ffynhonnell: Tabl UV08 Cyfrifiad 2001. Hawlfraint y Goron 2003. Atgynhychwyd deunydd y Cyfrifiad â chaniatâd Rheolydd HMSO.
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Ceredigion Statistics 2001

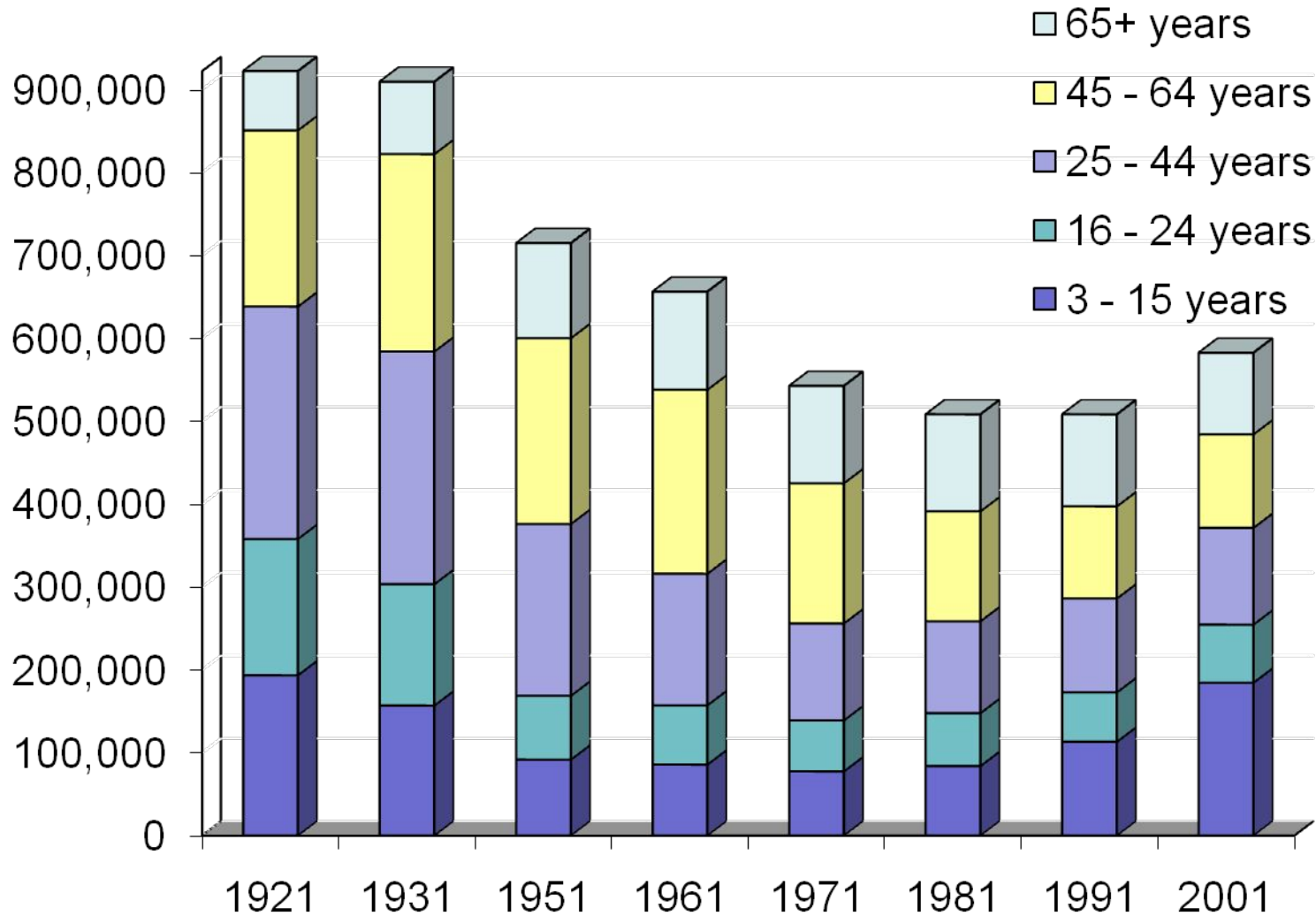
Population: 74,941

Welsh speakers: 52%

Education

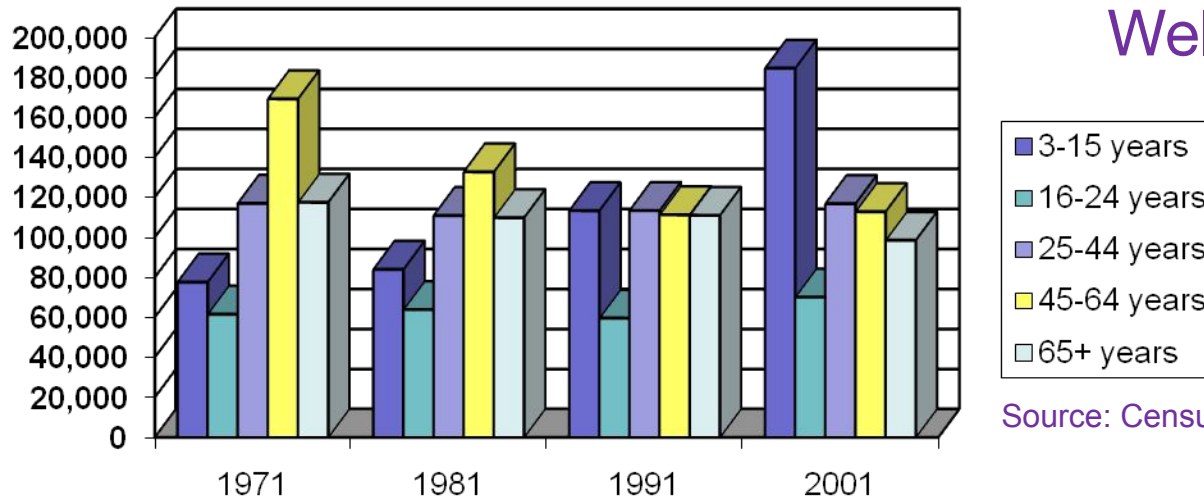
- 74% of Ceredigion primary school pupils in schools where Welsh is the main or only medium of education
- 52% of pupils fluent in Welsh by Year 6
- 56% continue to study Welsh as a first language after Year 6

Welsh Speakers by Age (1921-2001)



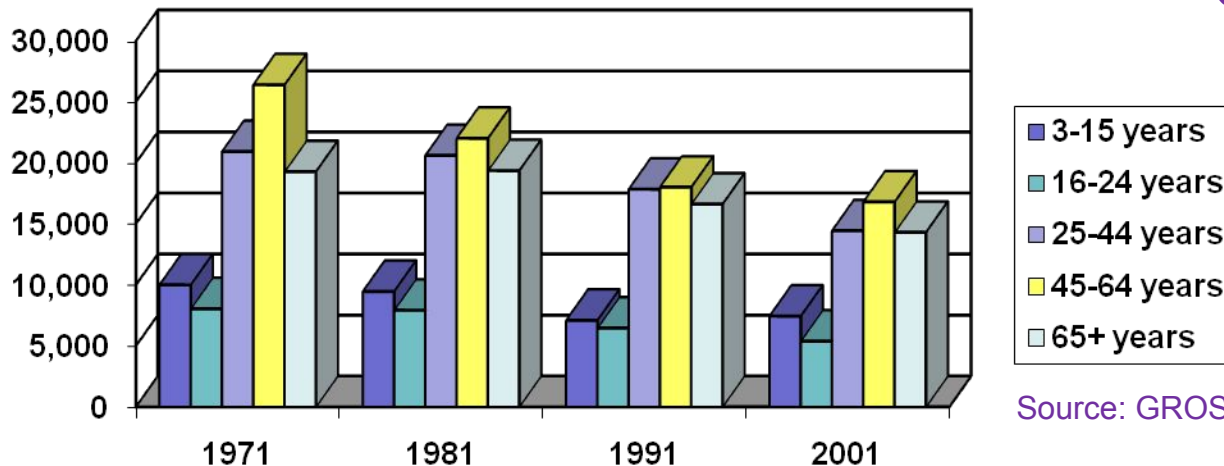
Welsh in a Comparative Context

Welsh speakers by age group



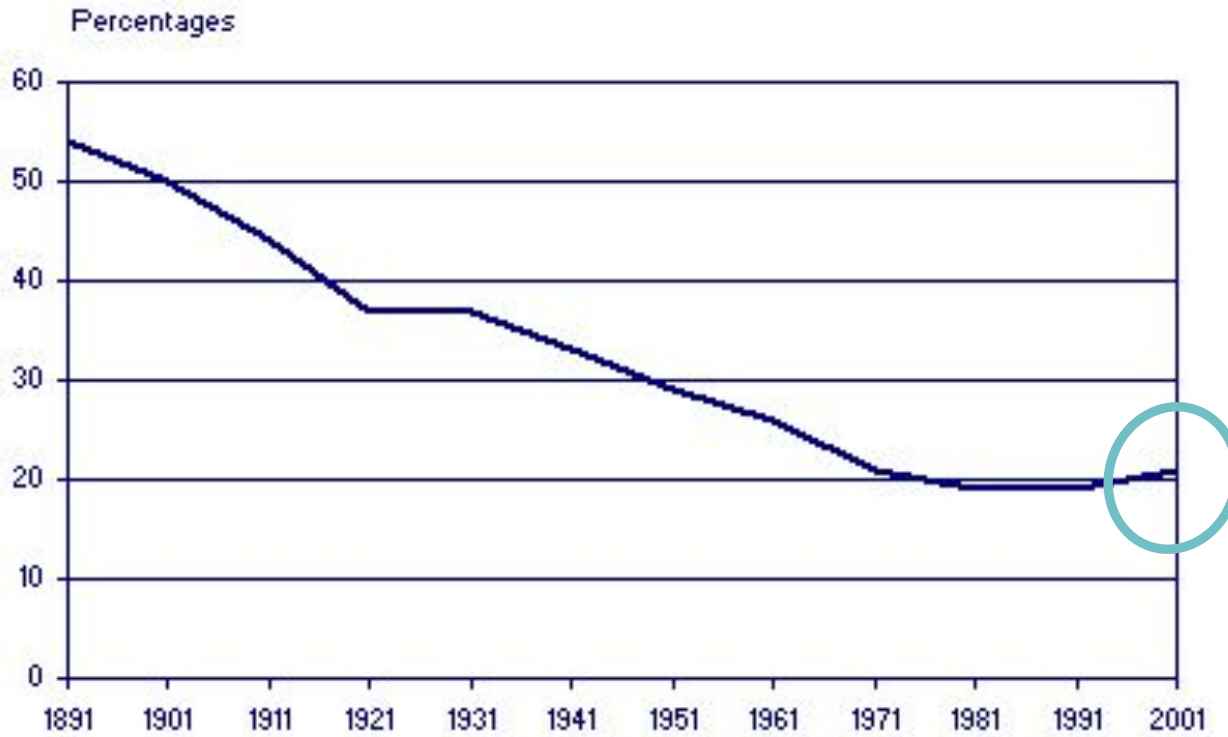
Source: Census Wales 1971-2001

Gaelic speakers (Scotland) by age group



Source: GROS Census Scotland 1971-2001

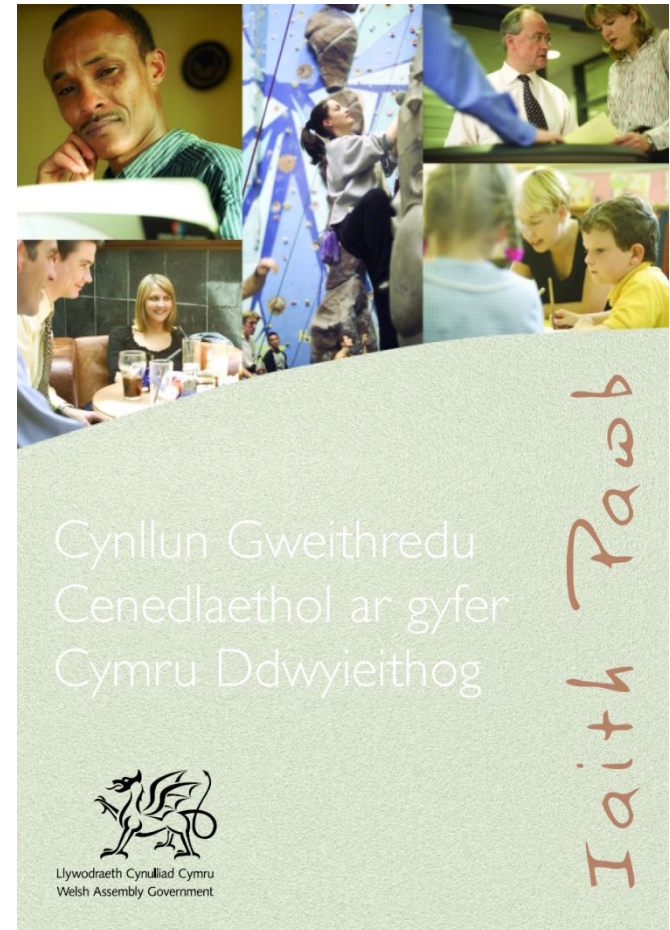
A Promising Future?



The Welsh Government and the Welsh Language

Iaith Pawb

- A National Action plan for a bilingual Wales



© Welsh Assembly Government

Welsh Beyond Wales



Census Questions

The question asked in 2001 varied from past censuses:

- 2001: **Can you speak Welsh?**
- 1991: **Do you speak Welsh?**

Many believe that this change of question is responsible for the increase in the number of Welsh speakers as shown in the 2001 results

The Inevitable Decline of the Language?

UNESCO state that 50-90% of the world's languages will have ceased by the end of the 21st century

The Challenge

