Discovering Eryri (Snowdonia)
What is a National Park?
A National Park’s purpose is to:
• conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and culture of the area
• promote opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the things that make the Park special

Following the Second World War, the British Government decided to establish National Parks to encourage people to go out to enjoy the countryside. The first National Parks in Britain were created in 1951.

Fun facts about Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park
Eryri National Park (1) is the largest National Park in Wales. The area of the Park is 823 square miles or 1,324km². This is:
• Twice the size of Anglesey (2)
• Slightly smaller than Pembrokeshire (3)
• The same size as Cardiff (4), Merthyr Tydfil (5), Rhondda Cynon Taf (6), Newport (7), Caerphilly (8) and Torfaen (9) all together.

Fun Facts about British National Parks
There are 15 National Parks in Britain, and here’s a list of them according to the date they were established:
1951 Peak District, Lake District, Eryri (Snowdonia) and Dartmoor
1952 Arfordir Penfro (Pembrokeshire Coast) and North York Moors
1954 Yorkshire Dales & Exmoor
1956 Northumberland
1957 Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons)
1989 The Broads
2002 Loch Laomainn is nan Tròisichean (Loch Lomond and the Trossachs)
2003 A’ Mhonaidh Ruaidh (Cairngorms)
2005 New Forest
2009 South Downs

The largest National Park in the UK is Pàirc Nàiseanta a’ Mhonaidh Ruaidh in Scotland. It is 1,467 square miles which is larger than the country of Luxemburg.

Fun Facts about National Parks of the World

Yellowstone National Park
In 1872 the first National Park was established, Yellowstone National Park in America. Here you’ll see:

John Muir, a Scottish-born American was very prominent in establishing national parks in America.

In America, the state owns all the land in the parks, which is very different to us. Less than 1% of Eryri National Park is owned by the Authority.

There are 6,555 National Parks across the world! 359 of these are in Europe.
The landscape of Eryri is very diverse. 'Yr Wyddfa' or Snowdon is here - the highest mountain in Wales (and the highest in Britain to the south of Scotland) - along with miles of beaches, hundreds of lakes, and moorlands of international importance such as Y Migneint.

**Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa)**
- **Height**: 1,085m
- **Size (area)**: 75.3km²
- **Meaning of the name**: The Welsh name ‘Yr Wyddfa’ means grave and it is believed that the giant Rhita Gawr was buried on the mountain. “Snowdon” comes from Saxon “snow dun” meaning “snow hill”.
- **Land use**: Agriculture / leisure.
- **Plants / animals**: Snowdon lilly, chough, raven, wheatear, goats, sheep.
- **Threats**: Path erosion, rubbish, wild goats.

**Y Migneint**
- **Height**: 479m
- **Size (area)**: 142.35km²
- **Meaning of the name**: It’s derives from the Welsh name for a plant that lives on wet land, called ‘mignen’ (‘bog’).
- **Land use**: Agriculture.
- **Plants / animals**: Sheep, heather, cotton grass, hen harrier, golden plover, black grouse.
- **Threats**: Path erosion, rubbish, wild goats.

**Llyn Tegid**
- **Height**: 163m
- **Size (area)**: 10.24km²
- **Meaning of the name**: According to the tale, Tegid Foel lived on the shore of the lake at Penllyn (lake’s end).
- **Land use**: Leisure.
- **Plants / animals**: Gwyniad, otter, coot, gluttonous snail, ruffe.
- **Threats**: The effects of foreign species and people on the lake’s habitat.

**Morfa Harlech**
- **Height**: 0m
- **Size (area)**: 6km²
- **Meaning of the name**: ‘Harlech’ means high steep rock.
- **Land use**: Agriculture / leisure / forestry plantation.
- **Plants / animals**: Sea-grass, sea couch, lyme-grass, orchid.
- **Threats**: Erosion of dunes, rubbish from the sea, rubbish from people, fire.

**Fun Fact** – Did you know that oak woodlands used to cover Eryri’s valleys? Only a small part of these old woodlands are left today. These are Nature Reserves within Eryri National Park.

**Fun Fact** – Marsh-land such as Y Migneint are being acknowledged as an environment that is rarer than tropical rain forests. 10-15% of the world’s marsh-land is in Britain.

Climate change is a threat to all of the above!
Ceri meets the people of Eryri

“Did you know that 25,682* people live in Eryri. These would all fit into the lower level of the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff if all the little children sat on someone’s lap.”

These people live in villages and towns in Eryri. Let us meet some of them:

**Iwan Arnold**
- **Age:** 33
- **Number of children:** 2
- **Main language:** Welsh
- **Area:** Beddgelert
- **Job:** Estate Assistant

I chose to work in Eryri because I was born here. I love roaming around, talking to interesting characters, and discovering the history of the small communities. In my work for Eryri National Park I maintain walls, paths, car parks, gates and stiles. I use a van to go to work. My hobbies are walking and climbing in Eryri.

**Bernhard Lanz**
- **Age:** 47
- **Number of children:** 3
- **Main language:** German
- **Area:** Dolgellau
- **Job:** Hotel Manager

I have lived in Eryri for seven years and I’m a Hotel Manager in one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. From day to day I supervise the work of the hotel, working in the kitchen, and offering service to the customers. When I have time, my hobbies are sports, reading and travelling.

**Siwan Hywel**
- **Age:** 26
- **Main language:** Welsh
- **Area:** Ysbyty Ifan
- **Job:** Welsh for Adults Co-ordinator

Although I lived away for a few years, I am now back where I grew up. I work with Welsh learners at the Welsh for Adults Centre in Bangor. I share a car with three others to go to work which is better for the environment and for my pocket! I am a member of Eryri Young Farmers Club, and I enjoy socialising with friends. When I get the time, I like walking in Eryri and enjoying the glorious views.

**Mari Wyn Lloyd**
- **Age:** 12
- **Main language:** Welsh
- **Area:** Llanbedr
- **Job:** School pupil

I go to Ysgol Ardudwy in Harlech and there’s about 300 pupils there. Every morning, the mini bus picks me up at 7.30 to go to Llanbedr where I catch the school bus to Harlech. Our school hours is from 8.15 to 2.20 because that is when the train comes from Penrhynodfaeth and Barmouth to Harlech. My favourite subjects are My, Welsh and PE. In my spare time, I like to help on the farm and ride my bike. On Monday evenings, I go to the local Young Farmers Club. I love living here because there’s not a lot of cars here, and it’s quiet and safe.

**Joe Roberts**
- **Age:** 60
- **Number of children:** 3
- **Main language:** Welsh
- **Area:** Y Bala
- **Job:** Butcher

I have lived in Eryri all my life, and I run a butcher’s shop which has been in our family for over 150 years. My son and daughter are part of the business as well, and there are 10 people working in the shop. My job is to cut the meat and serve by the counter. I use the van to go to my work. In my spare time I enjoy watching football, spend some time in the garden, and meet up with friends.
Ceri investigates visitors

“Did you know that there’s 10 million day visits to Eryri every year?”

Where do the visitors come from? - The visitors come from every part of the world. 3.4 million visitors come from the United Kingdom, especially from different parts of Wales and England. Let us look at the charts below.

What do visitors do in Eryri? A lot of people come to enjoy the countryside, many to take part in outdoor activities, and others to travel around the area and visit the small towns and villages.

62% of all the day visitors visit Betws y Coed.

94% of all visitors have been to Eryri before.

Look at the chart below to see what visitors do when they visit Eryri.

Fun Fact! – Did you know that the word used for the most popular villages and towns for visitors is ‘honeypots’? Like bees around honey pots people are attracted to them.

When do they come here?

Number of walkers every month on Snowdon in 2007

Fun Facts! – A number of Hollywood stars have filmed here in Eryri such as Angelina Jolie (Tomb Raider 2), Richard Gere and Sean Connery (First Knight), and Uma Thurman (Robin Hood).
**Farming**

Thousands of years of farming have given us the following:
- Traditional fields with interesting shapes and names
- Field boundaries (hedges, fences, stone walls)
- Old and new farm buildings
- Open terrain with no trees and no apparent boundaries

There are lots of sheep in Eryri. Most of them graze the uplands. The landscape and the weather in Eryri do not favour growing many crops.

**Fun Fact**

Did you know that wool was a very important industry in Bala and Dolgellau in the 19th century? To this day, you can see the old tracks used to carry wool from Bala down to Bermo.

**Mining**

In the 19th century the mining industry was very important in Eryri. Copper, gold, lead, iron and slate were all, in their turn, mined in Eryri.

You can see evidence of the old industry on Eryri’s landscape to this day – old ruins, slate waste, and inclines.

Some of the quarrymen who used to work in the quarries would live in barracks during the week. They would only go home on Saturday night and return yearly Monday morning.

**Fun Fact**

Did you know that slate is compressed and heated mudstone?

**Tourism**

By today, the main industry in Eryri is tourism. Thousands and thousands of visitors visit Eryri to do all kinds of activities such as walking, cycling, climbing and much more! The effects of tourism can be seen everywhere.

**Fun Fact**

There are more small railways in Eryri than in any other National Park in the world.

**Graph to show what work the people of Snowdonia do today**

*Graph data from 2001*
But Eryri National Park Authority would like to see more people using public transport to travel around the area. Therefore, the Authority is contributing towards supporting the ‘Snowdon Sherpa’ bus service. The bus connects all the main car parks and villages around Snowdon. People can leave their car and relax on a bus to start on their journey. The bus is also very useful for those people who live and work in the area. Few rural areas have a regular bus service like this.

Thema 6: Ceri goes travelling

“Did you know that 92% of the visitors travel to Eryri in a car and that most of them use their car to travel around Eryri? As there are only limited car park spaces in some places, people tend to park where they shouldn’t do so.”

The map shows the routes taken by the bus service. Are Eryri’s roads as straight as this? I wonder how it would look on the map opposite?

Fun Fact! – The name ‘Sherpa’ comes from Nepal. This is the name given on the people who carry equipment and goods to ‘base camp’ at the foot of Everest before the mountaineers walk up to the summit. The first team to reach the summit of Everest practised in Eryri and you can view some of their equipment at the Pen y Gwryd Hotel.
**Thema 7: Ceri maps Eryri**

"I really like reading maps. Join me in the fun of finding locations on the map."

### 1. Address

Trawsfynydd is in grid reference 7030.

Can you name the town/village to the North, South, East and West of Trawsfynydd?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direction</th>
<th>Town/Village</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2. In or Out?

Which villages/towns are within Eryri National Park, and which are outside the boundary?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village/Town</th>
<th>Grid Ref</th>
<th>In</th>
<th>Out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conwy</td>
<td>7070</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machynlleth</td>
<td>7000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y Dala</td>
<td>9030</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Llanberis</td>
<td>5060</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harlech</td>
<td>5030</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betws y Coed</td>
<td>7050</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolgellau</td>
<td>7010</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. Puzzles

3.1 This town is right in the middle of Eryri National Park, but it’s not within the Park. Can you name it?

3.2 How many ‘Morfa’ (‘coastal marsh’) are there in Eryri? What are their grid references?

3.3 In which grids can you see the following features?

3.4 There are eight youth hostels in Eryri. Which one is the most...

### 4. Going on a journey

Ceri wishes to travel from Betws y Coed (7050) to Dolgellau (7010).

On the journey he wishes to have a picnic by a castle and visit an abbey.

4.1 What are the road numbers that Ceri will be travelling along?

4.2 Where will Ceri have a picnic?

4.3 What is the name of the Abbey?

“When travelling through Eryri, Ceri wishes to visit every attraction listed in the key on the map! Can you arrange a journey for Ceri that visits these attractions? You should write down the attraction’s grid reference and note by which town/village the attraction can be seen so that Ceri can find it.”
For further information, contact the Education Officers on 01766 772600 or email addysg@eryri-npa.gov.uk

For further information on Snowdonia National Park visit or website: www.eryri-npa.gov.uk