

Bridgend County Borough

CYNEFIN HISTORY QUIZ HANDOUT

awen

Bridgend County Borough – Cynefin History Quiz Handout



This handout accompanies the Bridgend County Borough History Quiz, hosted on Kahoot:

<https://bit.ly/4hHOTGN>

The History Quiz has been developed to support your Local History lessons.

The quiz provides a fun introduction to historic events and characters in our local area. And this handout provides you with a little further background information on the different topics.

A FUN AND ACCESSIBLE INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL HISTORY

The History Quiz has been developed to be accessible for a wide variety of ages, from 7 to 17 years old.

With this accompanying handout you will be able to tailor the content to your lessons and your pupils.



Ymddiriedolaeth
Ddiwylliannol
Cultural Trust

The Quiz has been created by the Local History Library team at Awen Cultural Trust.



WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK!

Has the quiz been helpful in supporting your Local History Lessons? Would you like to see more of these quizzes? Would you like to see any specific subjects or areas covered?

To send your feedback, questions or suggestions, or to enquire about local history lesson support by our team in person, please email: history@awen-wales.com

1.

TEACHER'S NOTE:

This large hillfort was created over 2000 years ago. The inner enclosure is 64 meters across, with ramparts and ditches to the outer enclosure.

The exact use of the Bulwarks is not known, but the defended camp may have been a safe place for local communities, where they could seek refuge when they felt threatened. Or it could provide a safe place for grazing/keeping livestock.

The communities were composed from the dozens of farms around these hills, numbering between 100 and 200 people around 2500 years ago.



This large enclosure is an iron age hillfort just outside Llangynwyd in the Llynfi valley, called the Bwlwarcau.
How old do you think it is:

- a. Over 5000 years old
- ✓ b. Over 2000 years old
- c. Over 1000 years old
- d. Over 500 years old

2.

TEACHER'S NOTE:

Kenfig Castle was built in the early 1100s by Robert, the Earl of Gloucester.

It was a base for the new Norman lords, but as one of the most western castles in the south Wales valleys at the time, it was frequently attacked and burned by Welsh raiders.

Kenfig Castle, and the historic town, were abandoned by 1500. This was because of the frequent sea storms, with the dunes slowly encroaching on the town, covering the land and buildings.



What is the name of this castle?

- ✓ a. Kenfig Castle
- b. Nolton Castle
- c. Llangynwyd Castle
- d. Coity Castle



In a deed of Ewenny Priory in 1303, Payn de Turberville, the Lord of Coity, granted permission to the monks "to gather firewood in the woods of excepting oak, ash and trees bearing crab apples".*

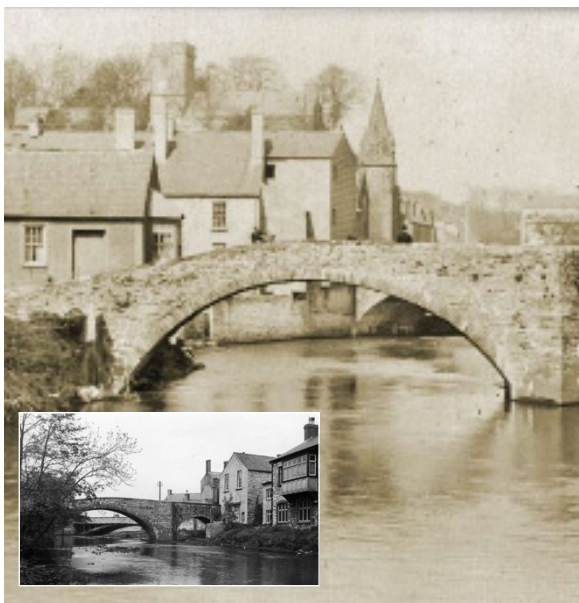
- a. Coychurch
 - b. Brynmenyn
 - c. Llangwydd
 - ✓ d. Pencoed
- * Fill in the gap with the name of the town.

TEACHER'S NOTE:

The monks had permission to chop wood in Pencoed.

The area around Pencoed was predominately wooded and many of the local names reflect the woodland surroundings. The name 'Pencoed' is generally thought to derive from the Welsh words 'pen' (meaning head or end) and Coed (meaning wood).

Religious houses, and the monks who lived there, often enjoyed exclusive benefits such as the best woods to cut, or lakes to fish in. Most of this work wouldn't have been done by the monks themselves, but by the lay people living and working on the lands of the religious houses.



How old is this historic bridge in Bridgend?

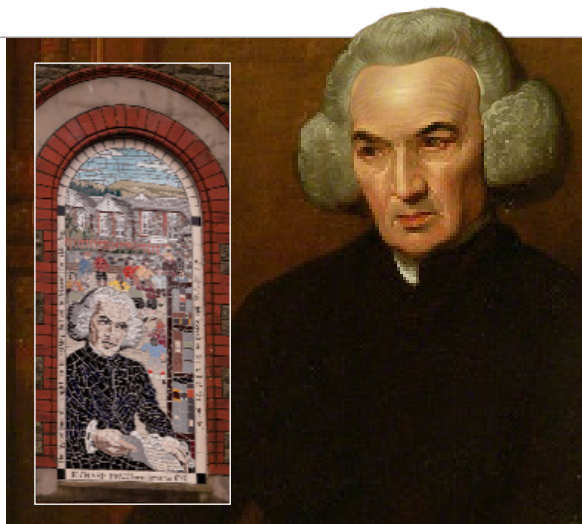
- a. 250 years old
- b. 400 years old
- ✓ c. 600 years old
- d. 800 years old

TEACHER'S NOTE:

There will be some big celebrations in 2025 as the Bridgend Bridge celebrates its 600th anniversary.

Before this bridge was built, people had to go through a ford to cross the river Ogmore. With the bridge in place, Bridgend developed as a market town as many more people travelled through or even moved to the town.

The original bridge had four arches. A flood in August 1775 destroyed the two western arches. These were replaced by a single, wider arch.



This man is called Richard Price; he was born in Llangeinor in the Garw Valley in 1723. What was he famous for?

- a. He was an author of romance novels
- ✓ b. He was a philosopher and mathematician
- c. He was an architect
- d. He was a violinist and composer



Built between 1825 and 1829, the Dyffryn Llynvi & Porthcawl Railway connected the new harbour built at Porthcawl with industries over 16 miles to the north in current day Caerau. How long would it take the horse-drawn trams to get up to Caerau from Porthcawl?

- a. Over 2 hours
- b. Over 4 hours
- c. Over 6 hours
- ✓ d. Over 8 hours

TEACHER'S NOTE:

Richard Price was a famous philosopher and mathematician. He was also a minister preaching in nonconformist churches, and a political reformer.

He worked out the costs and benefits of insurance, but he's best known for his political philosophy.

He believed that people had the right to choose their government, and he supported the American and French Revolutions. His writings were used to defend the revolutions, and he was given honorary US citizenship when the USA gained independence. Price was ahead of his time: he was humanitarian, believing in equality and he was against slavery.

TEACHER'S NOTE:

Built between 1825 and 1829, The Dyffryn Llynvi & Porthcawl Railway connected the new harbour built at Porthcawl with iron works at Cefn Cribbwr, Aberkenfig and Maesteg. The horsedrawn tramline was over 16 miles long and descended around 490 feet between its start at Caerau to the finish at Porthcawl.

It would take around 8.5 hours for the tram to get from Porthcawl to Caerau, near to the top of the Llynfi Valley. It was a bit quicker going down the hills, taking just over 6 hours. Luckily there was a changing station halfway, where the horses were changed to give them a break!

The horsedrawn trams were replaced by steam locomotives in 1861.





7.

TEACHER'S NOTE:

John Bowring was Chairman of the Llynvi Iron Company and established a large ironworks at Maesteg in Glamorgan during 1845-46.

He installed his brother, Charles, as the local Director and named the district around his ironworks 'Bowrington'. This included the area around today's Tesco and Maesteg Sports centre (where the Iron Works were), as well as the areas around Talbot Street and Commercial Street.

Bowring was thought of in the Maesteg district as an enlightened employer, who paid and treated his workers pretty fairly (for that time). A local person commented at the time that 'he gave the poor their rights and carried away their blessing'.

When Bowring's businesses started to struggle in 1849, Bowring needed a salaried job. He left for China to become a British Consul.

This is a painting of John Bowring. Around the 1840's he was the chairman of a large Ironworks, and even called the centre of the town after himself: Bowrington. Which town was this?

- a. Pyle
- b. Nantymoel
- ✓ c. Maesteg
- d. Pencoed



8.

TEACHER'S NOTE:

Parc Slip Colliery, just outside Tondy, was the location for one of the worst mining accidents in our county. The accident occurred at 8.20 am on 26 August 1892. On this morning, 146 men and boys were working within the mine.

Rescue attempts were hampered by roof falls, but by 4pm 42 miners had been brought out alive, some of whom died later of their injuries. The final death toll was 112 men and boys.

The explosion was apparently caused by a hole in one of the workers' Davy lamps.

The largest coalmining incident in our county took place at Parc Slip Colliery, just outside Tondy. What caused the explosion there which killed 112 men and boys?

- a. The lift fell down the shaft
- b. Broken drilling equipment
- c. A cigarette
- ✓ d. A broken lamp





This steamship was shipwrecked at Sker Point on 23rd April 1947. During this incident 47 people died: 39 crew members, and 9 volunteers from the RNLI who tried to rescue the crew. What was the ship called?

- ✓ a. Samtampa
- b. Lusitania
- c. Beagle
- d. Mauritania



The former World War Two Royal Ordnance Factory at Waterton, on the outskirts of Bridgend, opened in 1938. The factory made naval shells, which would be used during the Second World War. What was unusual about the factory's employees?

- a. Around 50% of the employees were under 17 years old
- ✓ b. Over 75% of the employees were women
- c. Over 60% of the employees came from Swansea
- d. Over 40% of the employees were retired pensioners

TEACHER'S NOTE:

The steamship SS Samtampa was on passage from Middlesbrough to Newport. It encountered fog in the Bristol Channel when the Samtampa developed an engine fault. Captain Sherwell anchored in Swansea Bay to investigate the problem. But with a gale blowing, the starboard and port anchor chains broke and within 20 minutes, the ship had driven ashore on the rocks near Sker Point.

The Mumbles lifeboat was launched and the Porthcawl Coastguards and Rocket Brigade attempted to pass a line to the ship from the shore. The winds had increased to over 100 mph which made this rescue impossible.

Within two hours, the Samtampa was a total wreck and had broken into three pieces. What happened to the Mumbles lifeboat is uncertain, but it was found smashed and upside down further along the beach the following morning.

TEACHER'S NOTE:

The former World War Two Royal Ordnance Factory at Waterton, on the outskirts of Bridgend, opened in 1938.

This factory complex was used for making naval shells which were filled and stored underground at the other part of the facility adjacent at Brackla. At its peak, some 40,000 people worked in the two factories - the highest ever employed in one establishment in the UK.

At its height 32,000 people were working at the Arsenal, 75% of them women. They came every day by train and by bus from all over Glamorgan: there was a specially built railway station at the factory: Tremains Halt.

Bridgend was a Filling Factory, where naval shells were filled with explosives. Most workers had no experience of factories or of ammunition, yet they had to work with these dangerous materials. Inevitably there were accidents: 22 people lost their lives, and many were terribly injured. But there were benefits to the local employment here. Women in particular built friendships and earned wages that they would not have had before the war.

TEACHER'S NOTE:

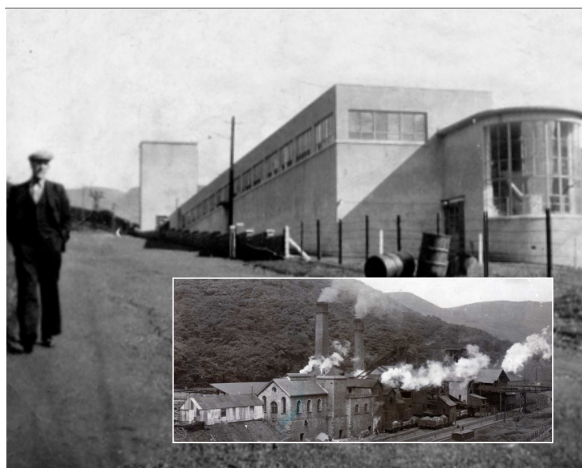
The Wyndham Colliery opened in the Ogmore Valley in 1865. In 1938, the first Pithead baths in the valley were built here in the Art Deco style, when around 1200 men worked at the Wyndham Colliery.

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth officially opened the baths on 11th December 1941. King George VI was Queen Elizabeth II's father, and King Charles III's grandfather.

Before pithead baths became widely available, most coal miners would travel home from work still filthy with coal dust. Their clothing was often soaking with sweat and mine water and they were at risk from contracting pneumonia, bronchitis or rheumatism. Once home they tried to wash off as much of the dirt as possible in a tin bath in front of the fire.

From the 1890s, social reformers, working under the banner of the 'Pithead Baths Movement', tried to convince the Government and mine owners that pithead baths were needed. It wasn't until 1926 that a special fund for the building of baths was agreed under the auspices of the Miners' Welfare Committee.

During the period the Miners' Welfare Fund was in existence, from 1921 to 1952, over 400 pithead baths were built in Britain. These buildings stood out amongst other colliery buildings with their flat roofs, clean lines and the plentiful use of glass to give a natural light and airy feel. Inside there were baths or showers, lockers and changing facilities for all the miners. Some Pithead Baths also had canteens and even medical facilities.



The building in this photo is the new Pit Head Bath for the Wyndham Colliery in Nantymoel. Although it was built in 1938, it wasn't officially opened until 11th December 1941, but by which monarch?

- a. Queen Victoria
- b. King Edward VII
- c. King George V
- ✓ d. King George VI



The Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl was opened in 1932, and has hosted countless theatrical and musical performances since then. In 1984 a performance of 'Carousel' by Porthcawl Comprehensive School featured Bridgend-born Ruth Jones, aka Nessa from Gavin and Stacey. But which other Gavin and Stacey star joined her on stage?

- ✓ a. Rob Brydon, aka uncle Bryn
- b. Steffan Rhodri, aka Dave Coaches
- c. James Corden, aka Smithy
- d. Robert Wilfort, aka Jason

TEACHER'S NOTE:

Ruth Jones was born in Bridgend and brought up in Porthcawl. She attended Porthcawl Comprehensive School, where she met Rob Brydon, who was also a pupil there. The two appeared in school musicals together, including in *Carousel* in 1984.

Actors Steffan Rhodri and Robert Wilfort also performed on the Grand Pavilion stage. In case of Robert Wilfort that is no surprise, as he is from Porthcawl.

