

AMGUEDDFA CYMRU



Life is...

Gallery Teaching Resource

museum.wales/learn/

In this gallery you can satisfy your natural curiosity about other people's everyday lives, across a thousand generations. We tell people's stories through their own words – wherever possible – and through the objects they treasured.

There is no one way to explore the gallery so be sure to match up the title of each page in this resource with the title on the specific display you are exploring.





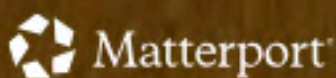
This gallery has a 360 tour available online free of charge. This means this resource can be used online rather or in-person.

The link to the 360 tour is below.

Oriel Byw a Bod | Life is...



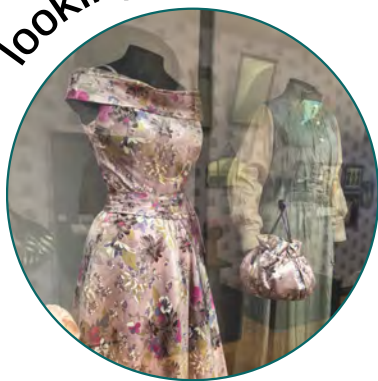
POWERED BY



Select the display

Life is...

looking good



food



work



fun



bed



death



Life is...

looking good



Human beings enjoy looking good. Since prehistoric times, we have used jewellery, clothing and grooming to express ourselves and our place in society. Explore this section to see how fashion and style have evolved over time, and what these items can tell us about the individuals who wore them.

Clothing

From memories of childhood to special going-out dresses, clothes often remind us of key moments in our lives. Whether positive or negative, emotional ties often dictate that we keep hold of these clothes – they are markers of the lives we have lived.



© Amgueddfa Cymru

*June Tiley's first
'going out' dress*

Life is...

looking good



*Middle Bronze
Age gold torc*

Jewellery

Wearing jewellery is not a modern trend. The earliest modern human graves contained shell beads and pierced animal teeth, suggesting that decorating clothing was a fashionable way of expressing people's individuality and perhaps status within their group. Jewellery from early Wales not only reveals how social standing was expressed and displayed but also clues to changing styles of clothing.

Grooming

Trimmed, straightened, combed or curled, humans have been cutting and styling their hair for decoration and self-expression throughout history. Hairstyles are markers and signifiers of social class, age, marital status, racial identification, political beliefs and attitudes about gender.



Late Bronze Age gold hair rings

© Amgueddfa Cymru



*Llandysul
Collar*

Discussion...

- *What is your morning routine?*
- *What is your favourite outfit?*
- *Is looking good for yourself or for other people?*
- *Do you wear different clothes for different occasions or times of day/year?*
- *What are your clothes made from?*
- *What does your hairstyle say about you?*
- *Do you wear any jewellery?*
- *Are there differences between what boys and girls wear? Should there be?*

Also visit...

*Tailor Shop
(seasonal)*



Related resources...

Fleece to Fabric



Life is...

food

In this section of the gallery explore how food and drink have been prepared and eaten in the past, from cooking in medieval times, eating supper in the 18th century to the cafe culture of the 1920s. Consider just how much you can learn about someone's life from what food they had, and what your food might tell someone about you.



Consider the stories behind some foods and the people who served and ate them from written and oral accounts. Explore the family history of Italian immigrants who came to Wales during the 20th century and how they served the communities they were a part of. Take a look at related objects, both beautiful and practical, such as the large coffee machine which came all the way from Italy in 1921 to be used in Swansea.



This coffee machine arrived from Italy in 1921

Life is...

food

See how food has always been used to bring people together through the theme of feasting. Learn about how food was involved in special events from over 2,000 years ago and take a closer look at the special equipment used for these gatherings. See how important food has been in human life.



Crochan efydd
Roedd y crochan gwledda yma'n gallu dal tua 50 litr
o gawl, digon i fwydo dros 100 o bobl.
Tua 700 CC

Bronze cauldron
This impressive feasting vessel could hold about 50
litres of stew, enough to feed over 100 people.
About 700 BCE

Pig bones
The remains of feasts eaten at Llanmaes, site of
Camaron
800-400 BCE

Discussion...

- *What is your favourite meal?*
- *What food is grown in Wales?*
- *What food is imported/bought into Wales?*
- *Where do you buy your food?*
- *Who makes your food?*
- *Do you eat at a table?*
- *Does food play a part during special occasions?*

Also visit...

Gwalia Stores



Also visit...

Melin Bompren Flour Mill



Life is...

work



Until the Industrial Revolution, most people lived off the land, first by gathering and hunting and then by farming. Discover how working the land was hard physical work, dictated by the seasons and harsh climate.

Mechanisation came late to Wales as new technology was more expensive than people's wages. The tractor only became widely used during the Second World War, to increase food production and reduce imports at risk from attacks by German submarines.

The Industrial Revolution brought with it a shift in the working lives of many people in Wales. It led to the development of towns, rapid population growth and the first experience of modern unemployment. Life down the mines was hard, unpleasant and dangerous. And it wasn't only adults who worked in the mines.



Life is...

work



*Universal
Colliery,
Senghenydd,
memorial plate*

The mining industries caused the death of many workers through ill health and accidents at work. The worst mining disaster in British history was at Senghenydd. It cost the lives of 439 men and boys.

Discover how, before the state pension in 1909 and the welfare state in 1948, people had to rely on help from charities, societies and their communities when they couldn't find work.

For a long time women were the hidden workforce. From childcare and housework to the tin industry and the munition factories during the Second World War, discover how women have always contributed to working life but how their contributions have not always been fairly recognised.

Discussion...

- *What is work?*
- *What do the adults in your life do?*
- *What job would you like when you grow up?*
- *Why do we work?*
- *Is work safe? Should work be safe?*
- *Is work important?*

Also visit...

Llawr-y-glyn Smithy



Related resources...

Coal and Wales



Life is...

fun

In this part of the gallery explore the fun side of life in Wales. Revel as we explore how fun life can be and just how people enjoyed life in the past from over 2,000 years ago right up to recent history.



Explore the theme of home entertainment and see just how the people of Wales relaxed in their homes. See the variety of toys from all over Welsh history, from the Romans playing board games to Lego in the 20th century. Take a look at the changes in technology for listening to music in the home, from the phonograph and the gramophone in the late 19th century to the boom of the home radio in the 1930s. Find out about the campaign for Welsh-language television and how campaigners succeeded with S4C launching in 1982.



© Amgueddfa Cymru

Utility wireless set



© Amgueddfa Cymru

Portable radio



© Amgueddfa Cymru

Portable television



Caravan, 1950

Discover how people enjoyed their holidays in Wales, such as the Dodds family in their caravan. Take a peek at how we remember our holidays as well seeing examples of postcards sent by people across Wales and consider what your favourite part of Wales might be.

Discussion...

- *What do you do for fun?*
- *Where do you go for fun?*
- *Who do you have fun with?*
- *Where do you go on holiday?*
- *Does everyone get to have fun?*

Also visit...

Oakdale Workmen's Institute



Related resources...

Traditional Toys from Wales



Life is...

bed

Beds are not only used for sleeping. Beds can play an important role in health, death, status and leisure.

Take a look at the Tudor bed of Sir Rhys ap Thomas, a wealthy lord whose exploits can be seen carved across the bed's frame. Can you spot the ones depicting the Battle of Bosworth? The bed itself shows not only Rhys's achievements but his family connections, something that was really important in Tudor times.





*This is Sir Rhys ap
Thomas's bed*

Life is...

bed

When exploring this space in the gallery take a look at the objects that have been used to make sleeping a more comfortable experience. See how people at different times in the past attempted to stay warm through new technology such as hot water bottles and electric blankets.





Bed warmers

Discussion...

- *When do you go to bed?*
- *Is sleep important?*
- *How important is your bed?*
- *Do you have your own bedroom?*
- *What else do you use your bedroom for?*
- *Does everyone have a bed?*
- *What kinds of beds are there?*

Also visit...

*Kennixton
Farmhouse*



Also visit...

*Llwyn-yr-eos
Farmhouse*

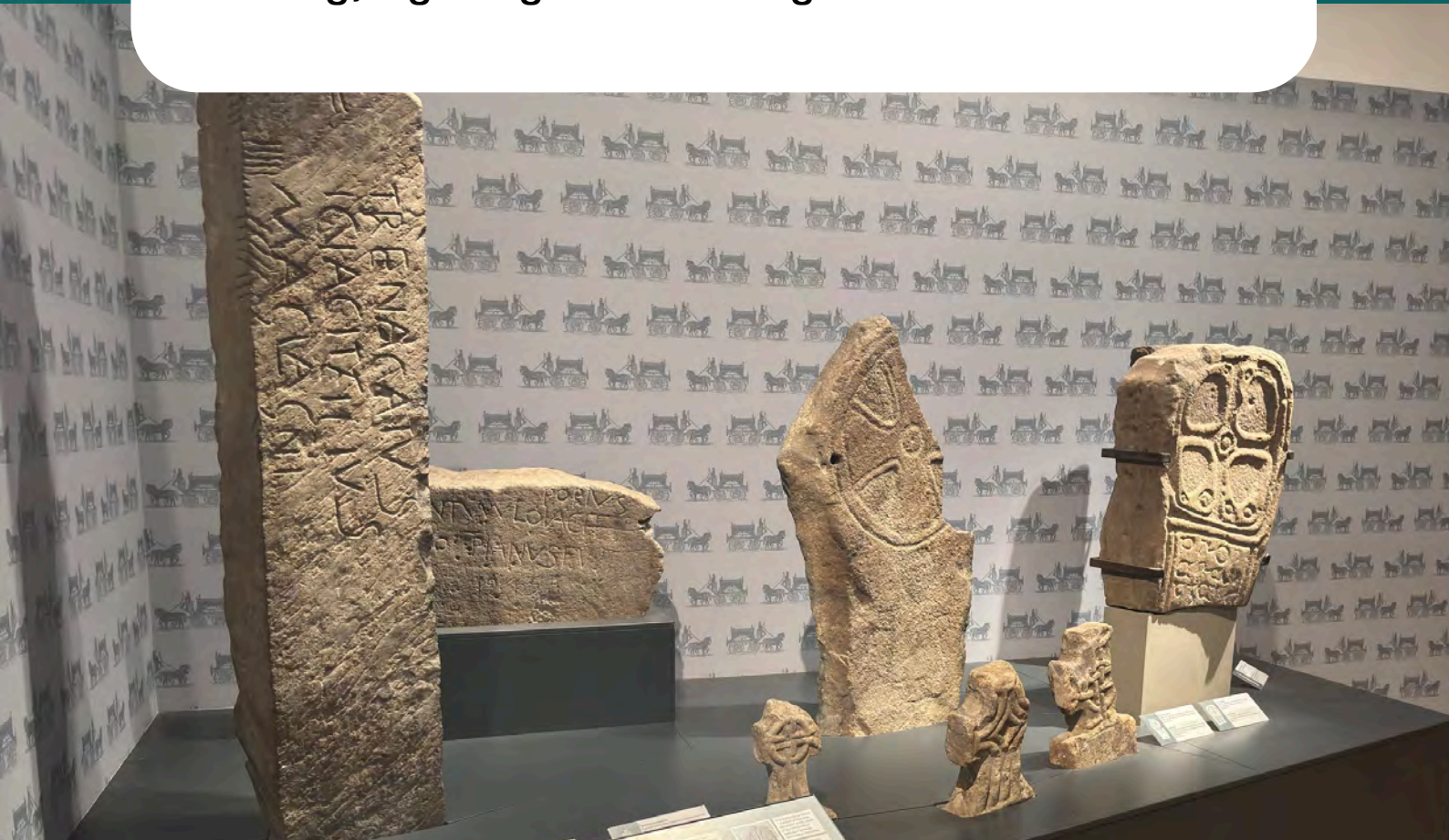


Life is...

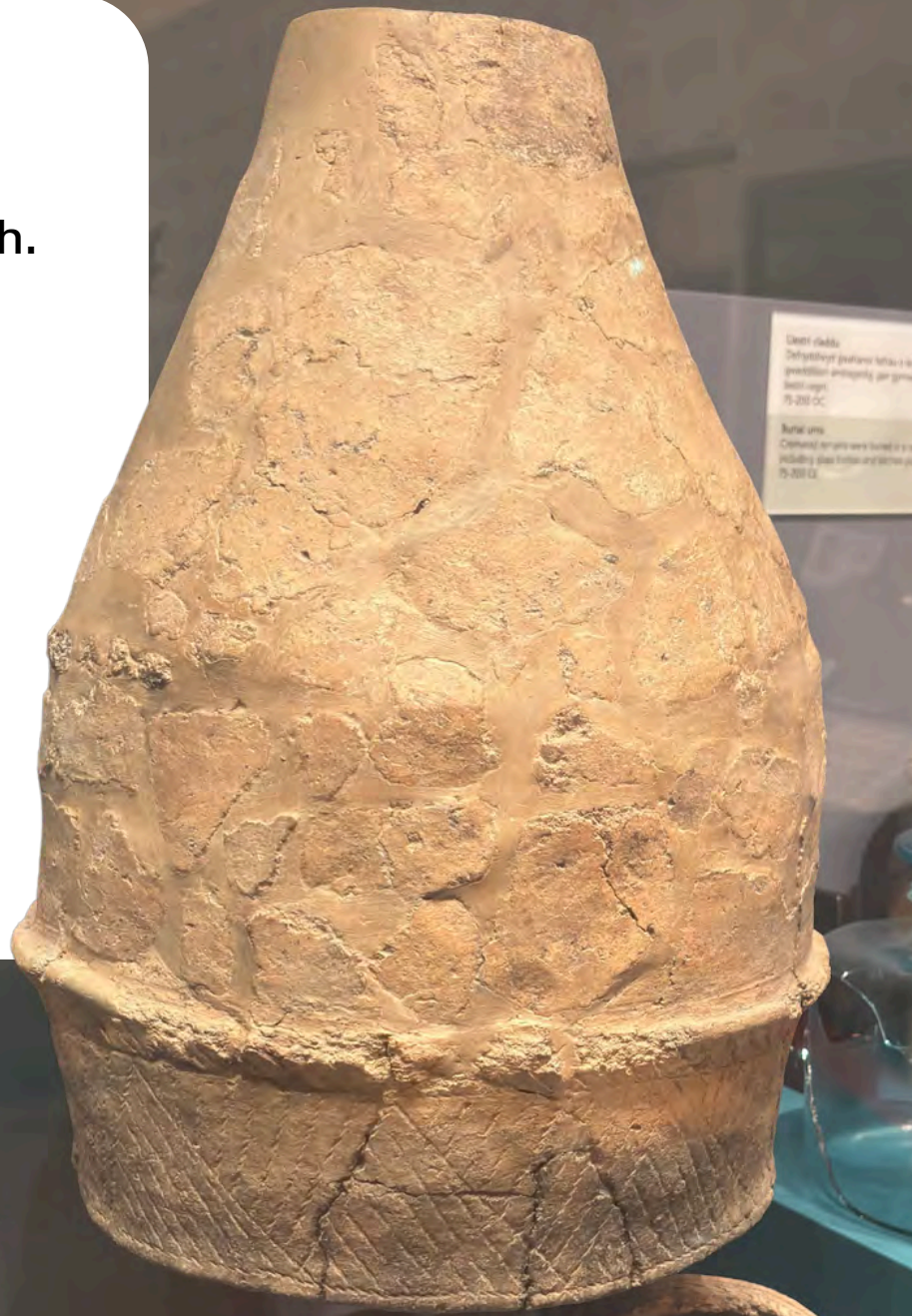
death

This section explores death and burial over 32,000 years, and the stories they tell us about the lives of those who have died.

Burial sites can provide us with clues about a person's status, wealth and religion as well as that of the community or society they were a part of. If the individual was buried with belongings, they can show evidence of what they did in life. For example, knives and spears suggest a life of hunting, fighting and farming.



Mourning and remembrance are also a part of death. The traditions and ceremonies with which we bury our dead have evolved over time along with our changing beliefs and attitudes towards death and dying.



Gwrthrychau a gladdwyd yn Kilpaison ger Doc Penfro
Rhoddwyd y llestr mawr dros ben yr un bach, oedd
yn dal gweddillion esgryn amlogedig plentyn rhwng
7 ac 11 oed.
1700-1500 CC

Burial from Kilpaison Burrows in Pembrokeshire
The large urn was placed over the small urn containing
the cremated bones of a child aged 7-11 years.
c. 1500 BCE

Life is...

death

During the second half of the 1800s mourning was big business as poor living conditions and limited healthcare meant that many people died young. Mourning had complex rules and etiquette. It became customary for families to go through elaborate rituals to commemorate their dead. This included wearing mourning clothes, having a lavish and often expensive funeral, curtailing social behaviour for a set period of time and placing an ornate monument on the grave.



Horse-drawn hearse



*Coffin for a
wealthy woman*

Discussion...

- *What do the objects on display tell us about the individuals who were buried?*
- *What objects are important to you and what would you like to be buried with?*
- *How do we remember people who have died?*
- *What do you think happens to people when they die?*

Also visit...

Pen-rhiw Chapel



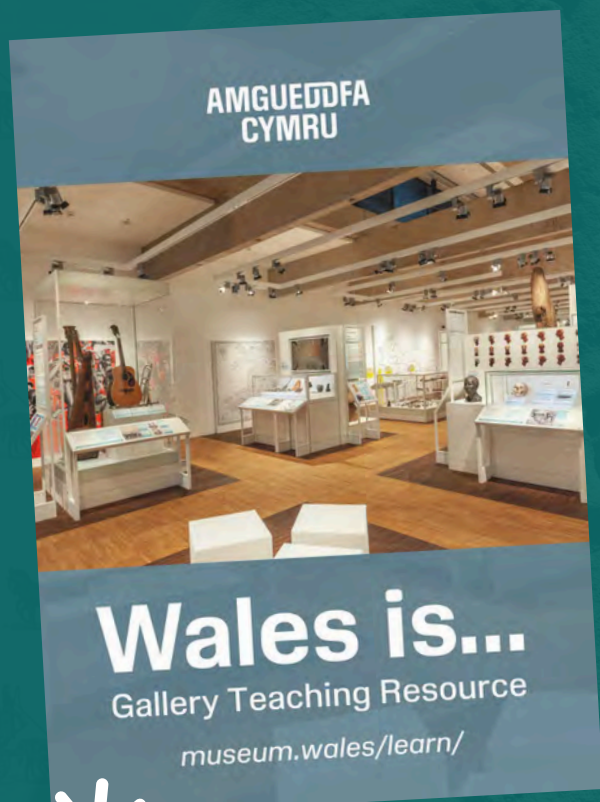
Related sessions...

Celtic Warrior Grave (Virtual Workshop)



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More Gallery Teaching Resources...



museum.wales/learn/