

## RUGBY

Rugby is arguably the national sport of Wales, with the Welsh team dominating the game for a number of years in the 1970s, and most recently winning four Six Nations Grand Slams between 2005-2019. To many, rugby is more than 'just a game', it is a part of Wales's national identity.

### Before the match

The build-up to a match can be a real experience, the streets bustling with the sound of thousands of people coming together for one reason. For many, match days are as good as any reason to dress up and show your national pride. Look at these two fans before a match in a photo by David Hurn.



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### Questions:

*Did you have any pre-match rituals?*

*Did you enjoy dressing up for a match?*

*What food or drink would you enjoy on match day?*

### Sensory activity:

*With any crowd coming together in Wales, singing is never far away. Some of Wales's most famous hymns have been linked with rugby over the years, songs like Calon Lân and Cwm Rhondda. Can you name any other songs that are sung at rugby matches?*

# OBJECTS OF COMFORT

#OBJECTSOFCOMFORT

Can you name these famous singers, whose songs have been linked to the sport over the years?

Play Max Boyce, 'Hymns and Arias'

Play Harry Secombe / Bryn Terfel, 'We'll Keep a Welcome (in the Hillside)'

## The team

Rugby is a very physical sport and isn't for the faint-hearted. Because of this, bonds between team-mates are made on the pitch as all 15 players come together as one. See this photo of the 1924-25 team at South Church Street School in Butetown, Cardiff



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### Questions:

*Did you, or do you still play rugby?*

*If you did or do, what memories do you have of your team-mates and the bonds*

*What team do you or did you support?*

### The stadium

Stadiums vary across the country, with some having been built for the local community and others for thousands. More often than not, these will offer some form of seating. See these seats from Cardiff's Arms Park, removed from the South Stand before demolition in 1997.



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#### **Questions:**

***Did you have a rugby pitch close to you when you were growing up? What was it like? Were there seats or was it all standing?***

***Have you been to a match or visited the larger stadiums, like the Principality Stadium in Cardiff (formerly known as the Millennium Stadium)?***



### The match

The material and shape of rugby balls has changed over the years. The first rugby balls used a pig's bladder, with leather being used up until the 1980s. This leather ball was used in a match between France and Wales in Newport in 1912. Wales beat France 14 – 3.



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As well as the ball, an important piece of kit is the jersey itself. Wales famously wear red, but have been known to wear yellow and black when playing away. The symbol embroidered on this jersey is the famous three-feathers, still worn and used today.

This jersey belonged to Horace Sampson Lyne who, between 1883 and 1885 was capped five times for Wales.

#### Questions:

*What symbols and colours are famously used by other teams?*

*What other items are important to a game of rugby?*

#### Sensory activity:

*Bring in pieces of kit for people to experience holding / touching: a ball, pair of boots, shorts or socks, a jersey.*



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