Cadw

History Explorers

Cadw Cymru

Minecraft World Practitioner Guide



Cadw MINECRAFT EDUCATION Hwb®

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Welcome to Cadw Cymru

Welcome to Cadw Cymru, a groundbreaking educational product designed to merge the virtual world of Minecraft with the rich history of Welsh heritage sites. It's a place where everyone can connect with the past, experiencing the historic sites of Wales that continue to play a vital role in shaping modern Wales. This platform allows learners to explore a living link to our diverse histories, fostering a deep sense of ***cynefin*** and helping them appreciate their place in a changing world.

Cadw Cymru is not just another educational tool. It's a treasure trove of features designed to elevate the teaching and learning experience. The thrill of exploring historic sites within Minecraft's immersive environment adds a layer of excitement that traditional textbooks can't match. This interactive and engaging platform is not just for learners, but also for educators looking for innovative ways to captivate their learners.

Cadw Cymru is an intricately designed Minecraft world that will eventually feature over twenty Welsh heritage sites. Each site will have its own virtual tour, providing an educational yet entertaining experience. Learners can travel in time to find these historic sites rebuilt in Minecraft, making history tangible and interactive. The range of quests adds an element of fun and challenge, encouraging active participation and ensuring a rich educational experience. This could include learners building their own historical sites and telling their stories. Maybe you have an unloved heritage site in your community that could be brought to life in Minecraft?

Cadw Cymru has been meticulously designed with direct links to the Curriculum for Wales, ensuring the material is engaging and educationally relevant. Its connections to various Areas of Learning and Experience to make it versatile across different subjects, reinforcing the value of the range of quests that learners can undertake. This ensures a truly interactive and engaging learning experience.

Cadw Cymru is more than just a collection of historical content. It's a platform that empowers learners, connecting historical content with engaging activities. The quests and virtual tours are not just additional features but integral to the learning experience. The use of Minecraft as a medium fosters a high level of interactivity that traditional educational materials lack. Learners are in control and empowered to explore, interact, and learn at their own pace. This learner-centred approach makes the interactive nature of the **Cadw Cymru** Minecraft world a powerful tool for capturing learners' attention and enhancing their learning outcomes.

Welsh Language Resource Pack

Another unique feature of **Cadw Cymru** is that for the first time, not only is the **Cadw Cymru** Minecraft world available in Welsh, but it has also included an innovative resource pack that transforms the entire Minecraft Education experience into a fully immersive Welsh-language adventure. Every element has been carefully translated from in-game language, menus, and detailed inventory descriptions. This ensures that Welsh-speaking learners can navigate and explore the game entirely in their native language, making it inclusive! See the **Cadw Cymru Minecraft Welsh Language Resource Pack** guide for more details.

Enter Cadw Cymru



When you first enter the **Cadw Cymru** world, you will be greeted by an NPC representation of Taliesin. Taliesin will invite you on a "journey *through this mystical land's most captivating landmarks. Exploring the wonders that make Wales a place of enchantment."*

The first two buttons on the Taliesin NPC will link to videos that provide more context and guidance.



The **'Find Out More'** button will allow Taliesin to introduce himself properly to learners, drawing them in with the magical story of how he came to be and the powers he holds, the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and supernatural powers. He asks learners to "*Let me use these gifts again today with you and take you on a journey of discovery. I will help you uncover your heritage and nurture your cynefin." So, buckle up, become a Cadw Time Traveler, and unlock the treasures of Wales."*



The second button, **'Cadw Cymru Galeri'**, will allow Taliesin to explain what learners will find once they enter the **Cadw Cymru Galeri**.

Enter Cadw Cymru Galeri



The Galeri is the gateway to access the many excellent Cadw sites around Wales. When learners enter the Galeri, they will see the walls lined with vibrant images, each representing a historical site from around Wales waiting to be explored.



Once a site is chosen for exploration, the learner should walk up to the image and click the button next to it. They will be filled with wonder and awe as they embark on a virtual journey and are teleported to the heart of a castle or a ruin surrounded by centuries of history.

Cadw Cymru is a live and developing Galeri, and additional Cadw sites and quests will be added at regular intervals over the academic year, so there is always something new to come back to explore! Conwy Castle is the first site to explore, but make sure you come back to see which site and quests have been released next.

Every site you visit starts with a virtual tour, a captivating journey through its rich history and cultural heritage.

Virtual Tour



Each site will have NPC Custodians located around it, eager to share their knowledge as they take you into every nook and cranny of the site. You will find that each site holds a unique charm and significance.

Most NPC Custodians will link to additional resources, like videos, to bring the virtual tour alive. Throughout the various resources, a pictorial timeline has been used, thus allowing learners to place 'time periods' chronologically, from Prehistoric Wales to Industrial Wales.



The Virtual Tour will always be the starting point of the learner's interaction with a site. The Virtual Tour provides insights into past events, cultures, and significant figures, offering a more immersive way to explore history. Furthermore, providing contextual understanding as the Virtual Tours will often include explanations about the site's significance, connecting it to the broader historical narratives of Wales and the world.

A Virtual Tour will help develop each learner's ***cynefin*** as exploring a historical site helps deepen appreciation for different cultures and their contributions to the world. It can also foster respect for cultural traditions and inspire a desire to help preserve them.

A Virtual Tour does share many of the benefits of a traditional site tour, offering a rich mix of learning, personal growth, cultural connection, and communal experience, making them an enriching activity for learners of all ages. However, a Virtual Tour has additional benefits such as:

Accessibility

- **Remote Access**: You can explore historical sites from anywhere in the world without travelling.
- **Physical Limitations**: Virtual tours allow individuals with mobility issues or other physical limitations to experience places they might not otherwise be able to visit.
- **Convenience**: Tours can be taken at any time, offering flexibility in trip scheduling.

Self-Paced Learning

- **Flexible Timing**: Learners can pause, replay, or revisit sections of the tour at their own pace, allowing for a more personalised learning experience.
- **Focus on Interests**: Learners can spend more time on the aspects of the tour that interest them most.

Interactive Experience

- **Multimedia Integration**: The virtual tours include multimedia elements such as videos, animations, 3D reconstructions, and audio commentary that enhance the learning experience.
- **In-Depth Exploration**: Many virtual tours offer additional resources like supplementary reading material and timelines to dive deeper into the history.

Tailored Educational Content

- **Language Options**: The virtual tours offer multi-language options in Welsh or English.
- **Supplementary Information**: The virtual tours may link to additional resources or research materials, enabling a deeper dive into specific topics.

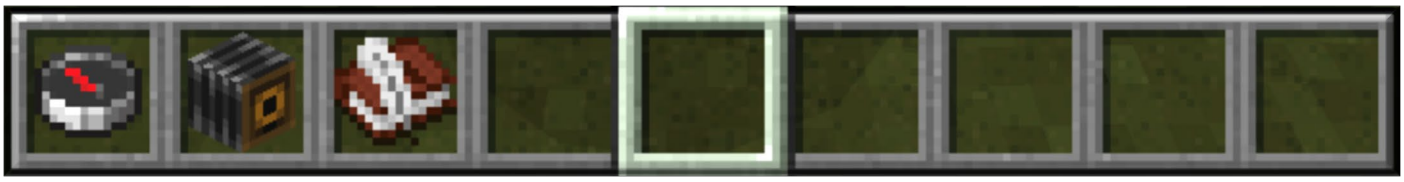
In essence, virtual tours provide a convenient way to experience Cadw sites while offering rich educational opportunities and customisable learning experiences for your learners.

Once a virtual tour is completed, Taliesin will appear again and encourage learners to undertake a quest(s) linked to the Cadw site they have just been visiting.

Additional Virtual Tour Tools

Virtual tours have huge potential to immerse learners in history; however, additional tools have been built into **Cadw Cymru** to maintain learner engagement and assess comprehension in real time.

When learners enter **Cadw Cymru**, they are automatically supplied with a **Camera** and a **Book & Quill** in their Hotbar.



Explain to learners that these tools are their virtual "field journals" where they can document their thoughts, observations, and reflections while on the virtual tour.

The Hotbar also holds a compass for the learners to use to teleport back to the Galeri at any time. Additionally, learners can speak to the first NPC Custodian they meet at a site to return to the Galeri.

To aid with orientation around a Cadw site, as learners navigate through the virtual tour, pop-up text signs will be displayed in Minecraft indicating the name of their location in the Cadw site.

Where's Lleu? Hidden at each Cadw site is 'Lleu the Dragon'. Encourage learners to seek out where this little Dragon is hiding. It boosts observation skills and attention to detail as learners shift through visual information. This type of activity also promotes patience and perseverance, as learners might need to spend some time searching.



Quests

Quests have been designed to engage learners in ways that standard assignments can't. They foster critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and creativity. Learners learn to navigate uncertainties and develop resilience. Furthermore, quests can be incredibly motivating; they add a sense of adventure and accomplishment to their learning journey.

Taliesin will provide an overview of the initial quest(s) associated with the Cadw site; learners are encouraged to revisit the Cadw site to seek out the Quest NPCs, which are dressed in crimson, to understand the quest(s) in more detail.



The Quest NPCs only appear around the Cadw site once the virtual tour has been completed. Educators are given more details about each quest in the Quest Support documents. These Quest Support documents have **not** been designed to be prescriptive but an interpretation of how the quest and subsequent lessons could be delivered. Educators should interpret the supporting documentation and apply it accordingly to the relevant age groups in terms of breadth and depth of application (and considering any other relevant AoLEs).

Furthermore, the Quest Support documents are designed to aid structure and consistency, ensuring that teaching goals align with the Curriculum for Wales. They will help educators stay organised and focus on delivering engaging and effective instruction - a safety net that frees educators to be more creative and responsive to their learners' needs.

At the heart of Cadw Cymru Quests is the development of the four core purposes of Curriculum for Wales and the underpinning integral skills of Creativity and innovation, Critical thinking and problem-solving, Personal effectiveness and Planning and organising. Thus, providing a holistic, integrated 21st Century curriculum to inspire the youth of Wales to be innovative contributors to their communities by embracing the nation's culture, geography, history, language and sense of belonging.

In developing the Cadw Cymru Quests and supporting documents, Mitchel Resnick's four P's of creative learning have been utilised:

- **Projects.** People learn best when they are actively working on meaningful projects – generating new ideas, designing prototypes, refining iteratively,

- **Peers.** Learning flourishes as a social activity, with people sharing ideas, collaborating on projects, and building on one another's work.

- **Passion.** When people work on projects they care about, they work longer and harder, persist in the face of challenges, and learn more in the process.

- **Play.** Learning involves playful experimentation - trying new things, tinkering with materials, testing boundaries, taking risks, and iterating again and again.

These four Ps are strongly aligned with (and inspired by) the Constructionist approach to education, emphasising the value of learners playfully creating personally meaningful projects in collaboration with peers.

This approach is all about learning by doing and experiencing. It places learners at the centre of their learning journey, encouraging them to construct their understanding through hands-on activities and real-world problem-solving. It will foster critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, invaluable skills in and out of the classroom.

By undertaking quest(s), learners can explore concepts more deeply and retain knowledge better. This allows for differentiated learning, catering to various learning styles and paces.

Expanding Cadw Cymru Sites

Cadw Cymru is committed to enriching the learning experiences of young learners. **Cadw Cymru** launches with Conwy Castle; however, it will continue to expand, focusing on Wales's rich historical tapestry and include approximately twenty Cadw sites. By connecting learners with significant historical sites, we aim to inspire a deeper understanding of their heritage and foster a sense of pride in their cultural identity.

The New Cadw sites



Castell Coch

Cadw Cymru will introduce a series of sites, each centred around a different historical area in Wales. For instance, learners will explore Caernarfon Castle, delving into its architectural significance and role in Welsh history. Another project will focus on Tintern Abbey, where learners can learn about the impact of the Cistercian order and the beauty of Gothic architecture. Each site will provide historical context and encourage critical thinking and creativity through various engaging quests.

Benefits of Expansion

The benefits of these new Cadw sites extend far beyond the classroom. Immersing learners in hands-on learning experiences will promote active engagement with history. Virtual 'Field Trips' to these sites will allow learners to witness history firsthand, making their learning experience more tangible and memorable. Furthermore, the virtual tours and quests will help cultivate a sense of local pride as learners discover the stories and legacies that have shaped their communities.



Castell Rhaglan

As **Cadw Cymru** expands, we remain dedicated to the importance of historical education and linking it to the whole range of Areas of Learning and Experience in the Curriculum for Wales. These new sites and quests will enhance learners' knowledge of Welsh history and instil a lasting appreciation for their cultural heritage. We invite educators and learners to join us in this exciting journey as we work together to inspire the next generation of historians, thinkers, and proud Welsh citizens.