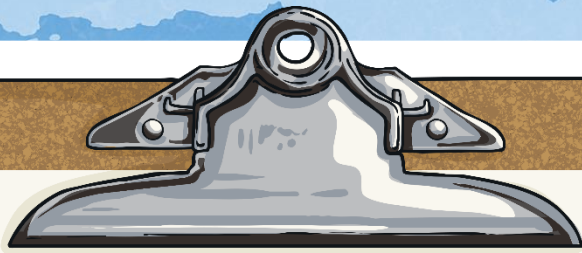


Cardiff

Cities of Wales



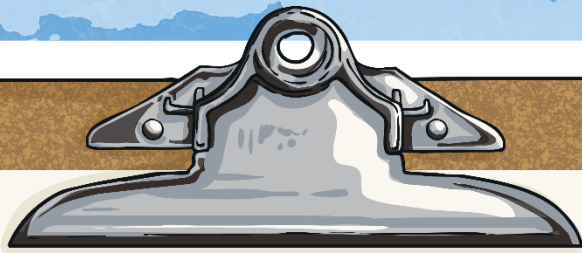
Cardiff is the capital city of Wales. It has a population of around 370,000.

Cardiff is in the area of what was the old county of Glamorgan, now Cardiff and the Vale, and lies 150 miles west of London.

Cardiff city centre is a popular destination for shopping, entertainment, creative arts and eating out.

Cardiff City

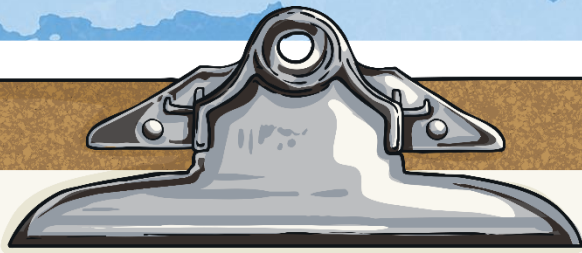




Cardiff played an important part in the Welsh Industrial Revolution, due to its ports and proximity to the valleys where coal was mined.

Cardiff City

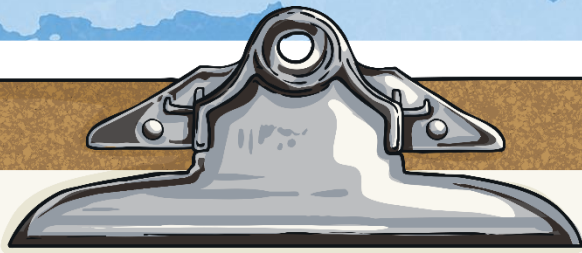




The river previously ran past Cardiff Castle and through the town. Isambard Kingdom Brunel devised the plans to divert the river in the 1840s in order to create a space that would be home to Cardiff's new railway station.

Cardiff City

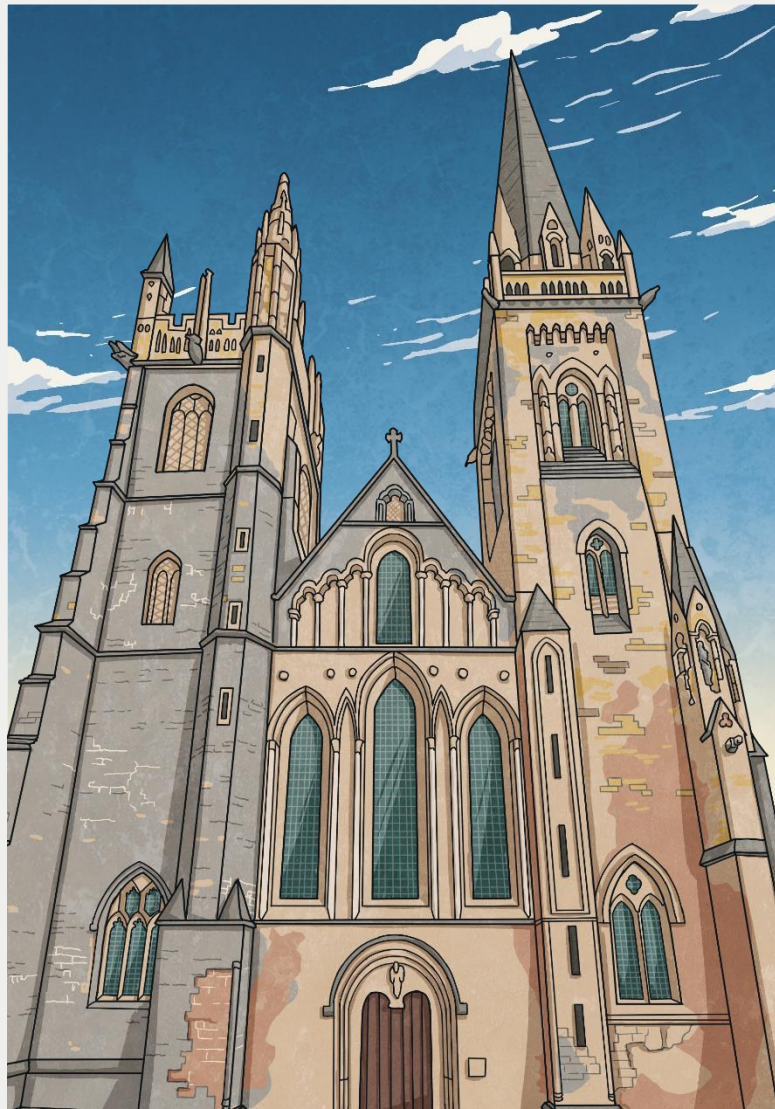




Bad Wolf, a world class production company, is located in Cardiff Bay. Many well known TV shows have been filmed here.

Cardiff City





Llandaff Cathedral

There is evidence that there's been a Christian site here since the 6th century.

The original church was built between 1120 and 1133, when the Normans occupied Wales.

The Cathedral has been restored several times.



Llandaff Cathedral

On 2nd January in 1941 a German landmine exploded, it created an enormous crater and destroyed part of the roof and some of the graves.

The roof was eventually repaired, and Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip attended a service of thanksgiving 20 years after the bombing.

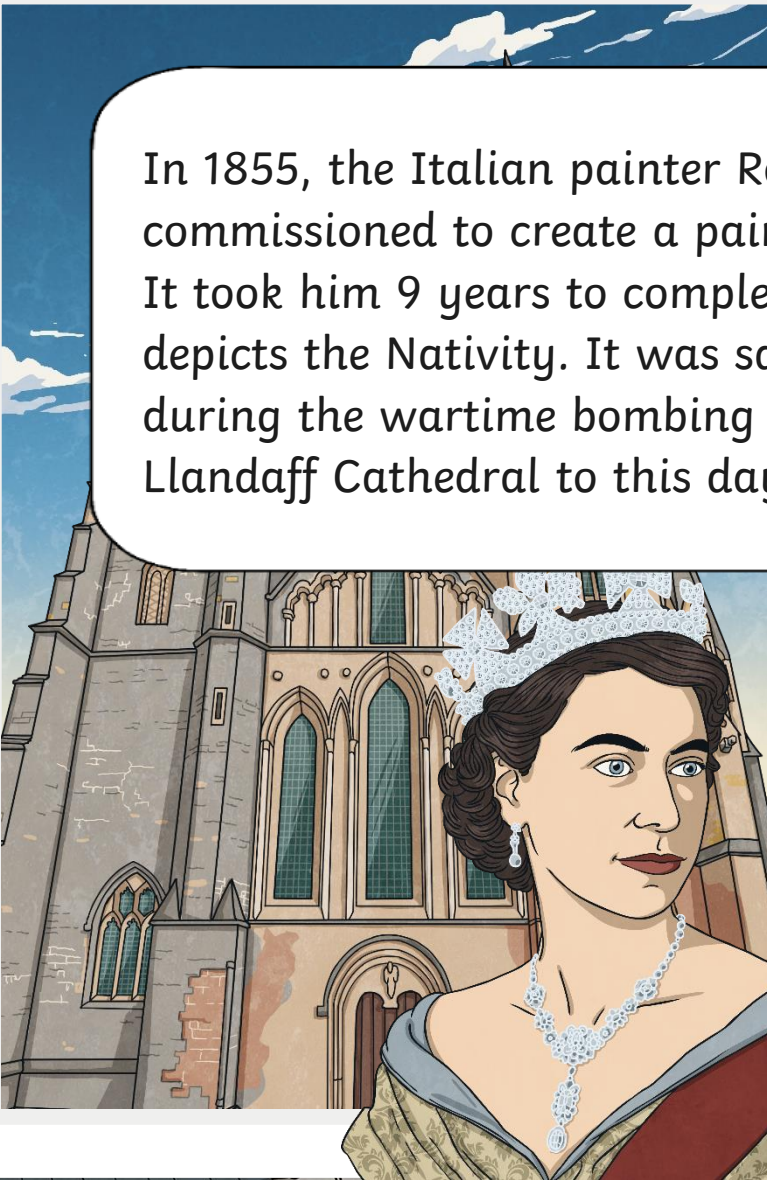
Llandaff Cathedral

In 1855, the Italian painter Rossetti was commissioned to create a painting for the altar. It took him 9 years to complete the triptych that depicts the Nativity. It was safely stored away during the wartime bombing and remains in Llandaff Cathedral to this day.

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Did You Know?

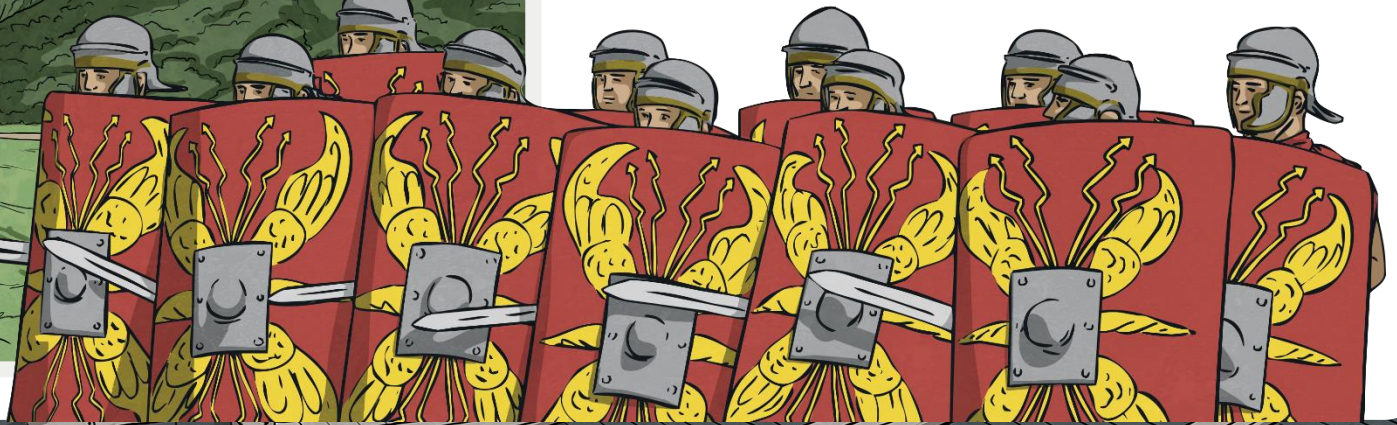




Cardiff Castle

There has been a building of some form on the Cardiff Castle site for nearly 2000 years.

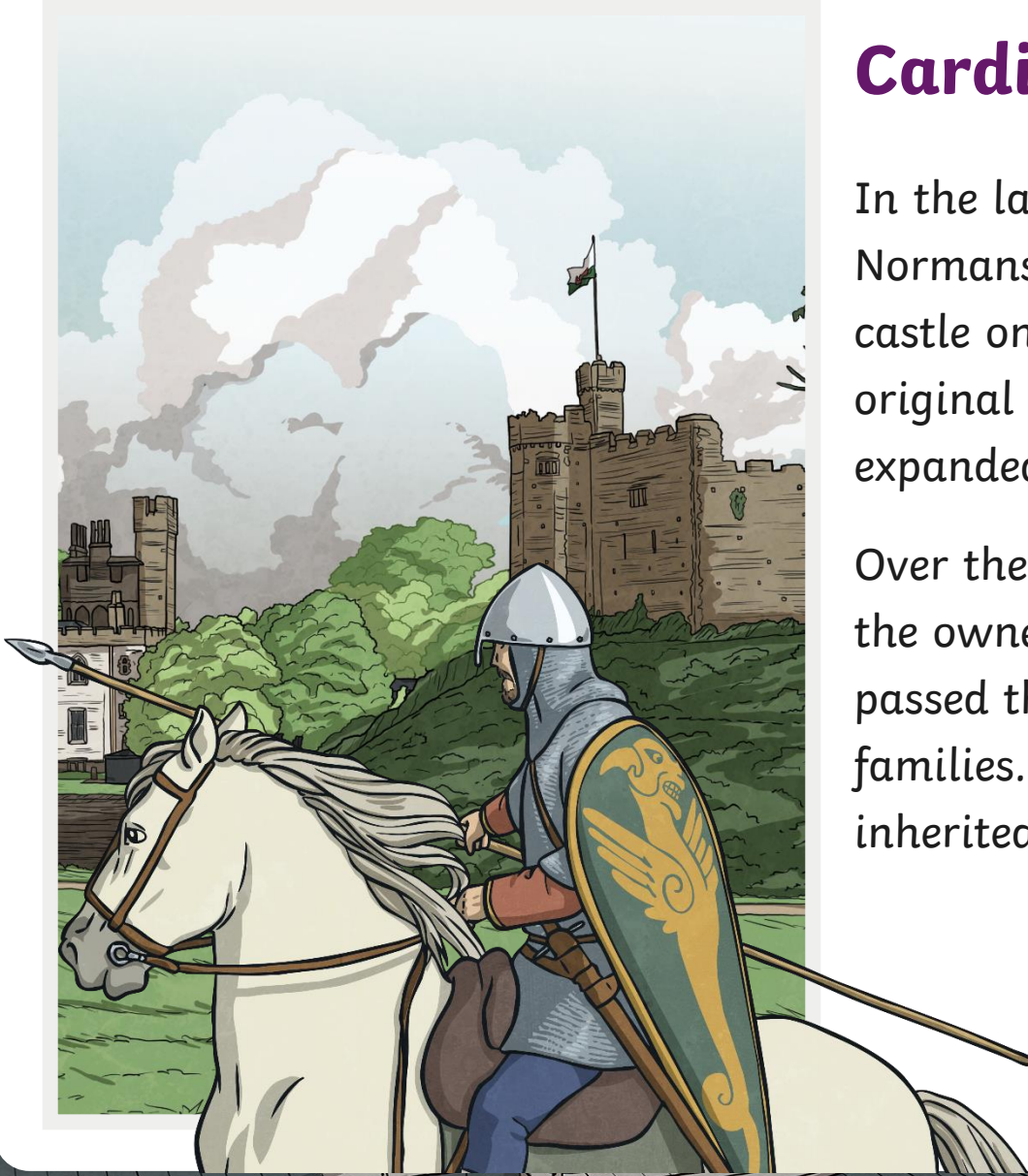
It began as a Roman fort, possibly as early as 54AD. It was a strategic place to build a fort as it's close to where the river flows into the sea.

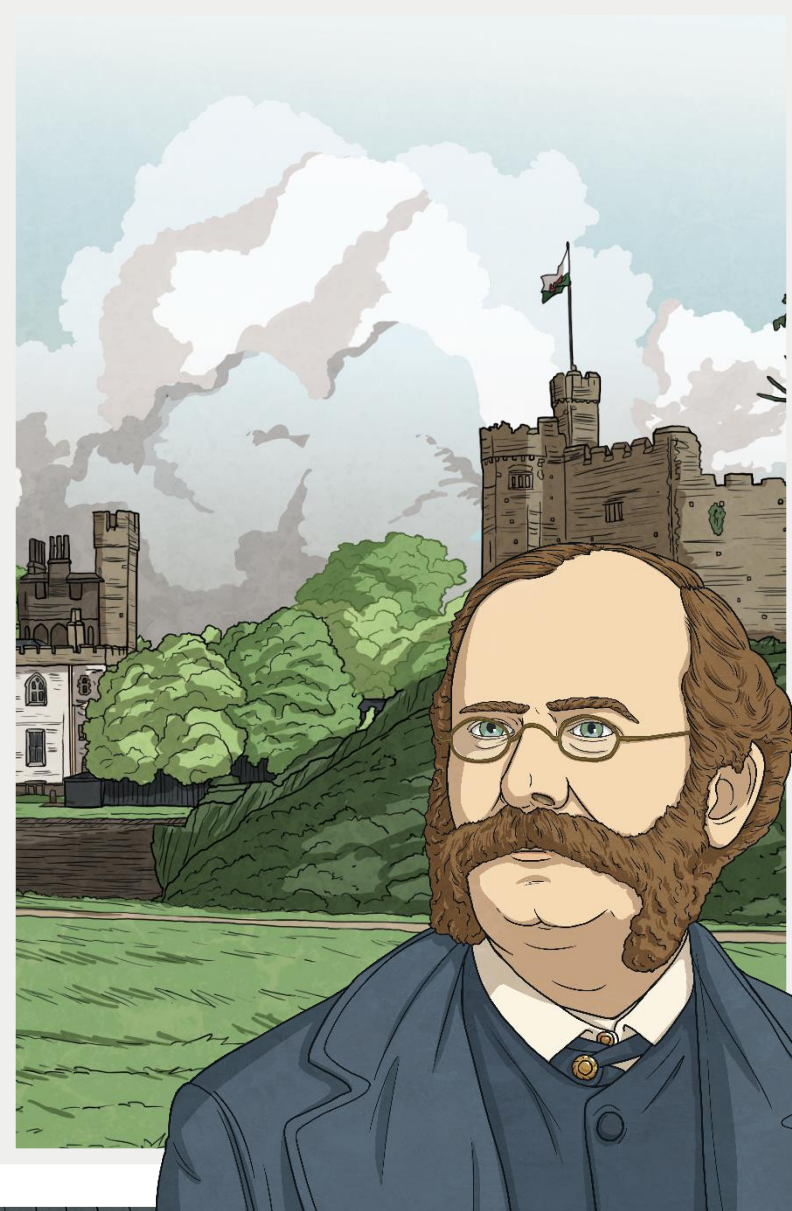


Cardiff Castle

In the late 11th century, the Normans started building a new castle on the remains of the original building, as they expanded into Wales.

Over the next few hundred years the ownership of the castle was passed through various noble families. In 1776, the Bute family inherited the castle.





Cardiff Castle

In the 1860s, the architect William Burges began working on what is the newest part of the castle. His design included neo-gothic towers and ornate wooden carvings.

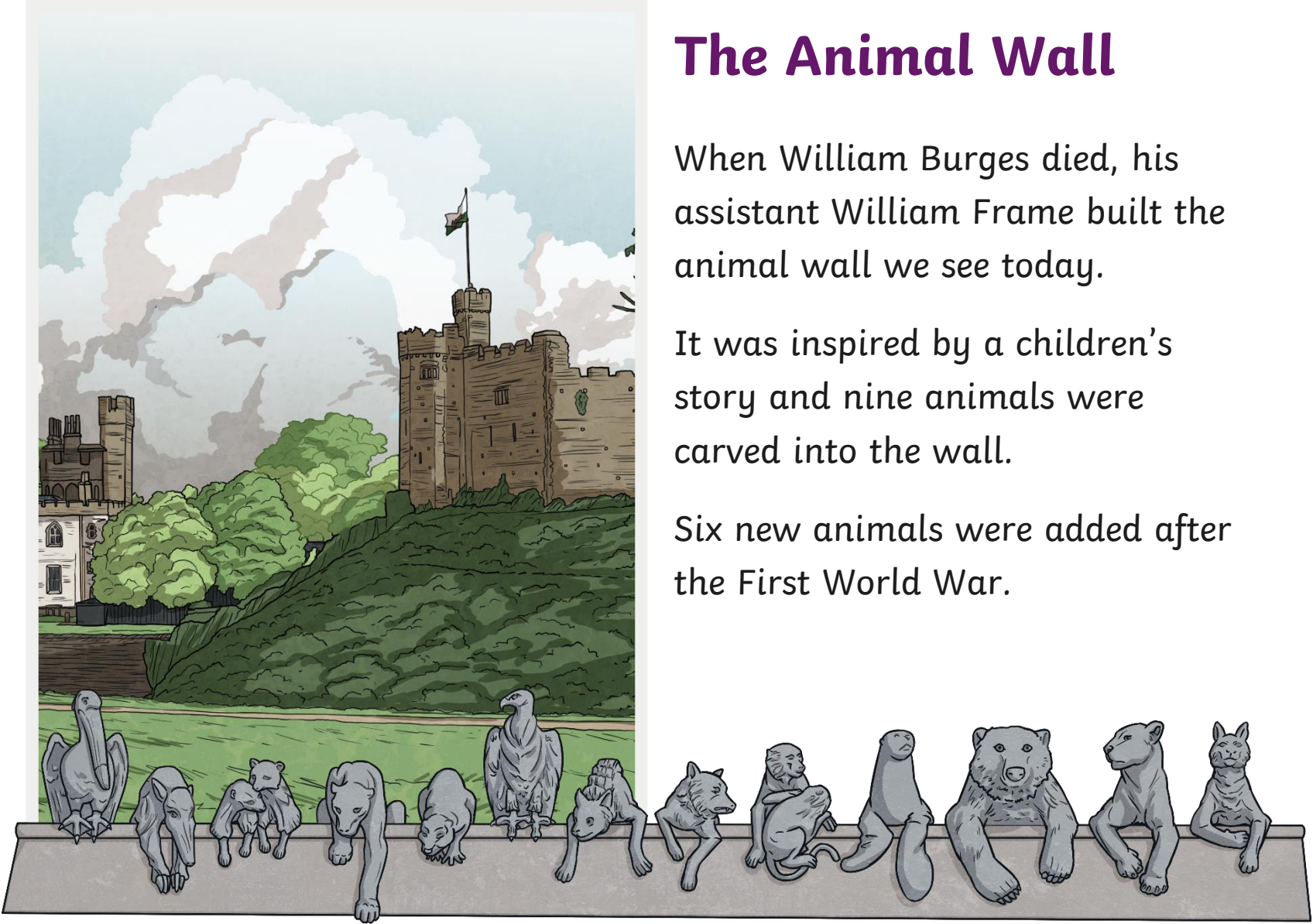
In 1947, Cardiff Castle and its grounds were given to the city by the 5th Marquess of Bute.

The Animal Wall

When William Burges died, his assistant William Frame built the animal wall we see today.

It was inspired by a children's story and nine animals were carved into the wall.

Six new animals were added after the First World War.



The Animal Wall

During the Second World War, the castle walls were used as air raid shelters for the people of the city. More than 1800 people sheltered there. You can still go into the walls now and look at how the air raid shelters were arranged.

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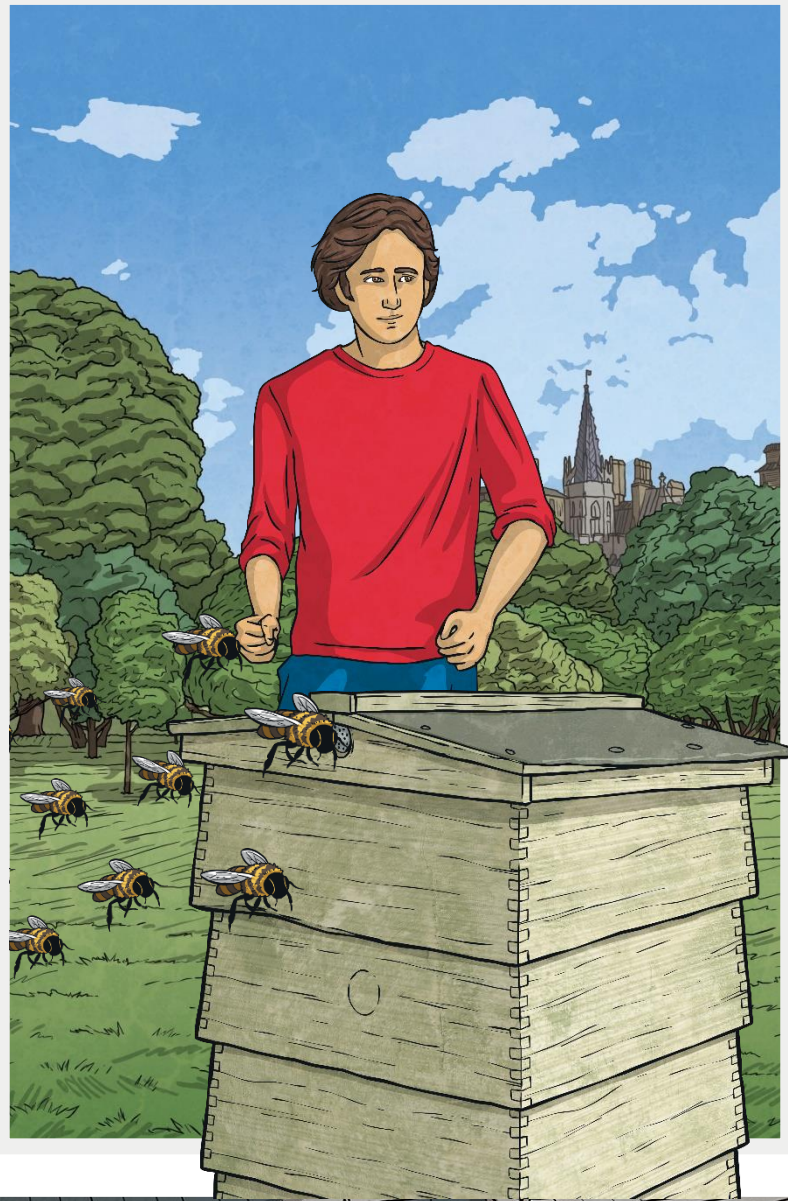




Bute Park

Bute Park is a large area of parkland within the city and lies behind the castle. The River Taff flows through it. It's a Green Flag site and an important habitat for local wildlife.

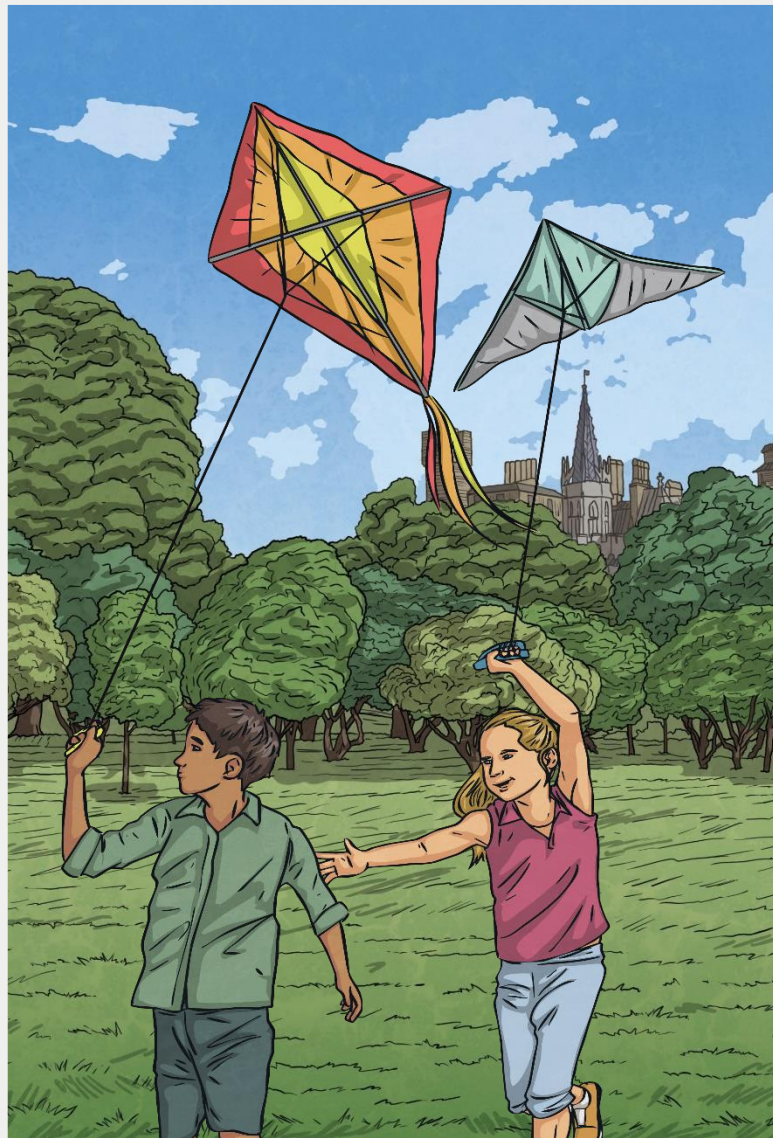
In 1947, the 5th Marquess of Bute gave the park grounds, along with Cardiff Castle, to the people and the city of Cardiff.



Bute Park

The park has a boat station that provides a service to and from Cardiff Bay. There are play areas, an explorer trail, fitness equipment and lots of open spaces for relaxation and recreation.

The Bute Park nursery has vegetable gardens and beehives which aren't open to the public but are located within stone walls in the centre of the park.



Bute Park

In 2010 the park had a £3.1 million Lottery Grant and used this money to repair the animal wall, build an education centre and restore other areas of the park as well as funding staff members to keep the park looking at its best.



National Museum Cardiff

The National Museum Cardiff has one of Europe's best collections of impressionist art, including some noteworthy Welsh artists.

There are artworks here dating back 500 years. Smaller temporary exhibits are curated and changed regularly.



National Museum Cardiff

As the museum holds shorter term exhibits too, it always has something fresh and contemporary on show. These vary in subject but are often focused on nature or significant individuals within the art and literary world.

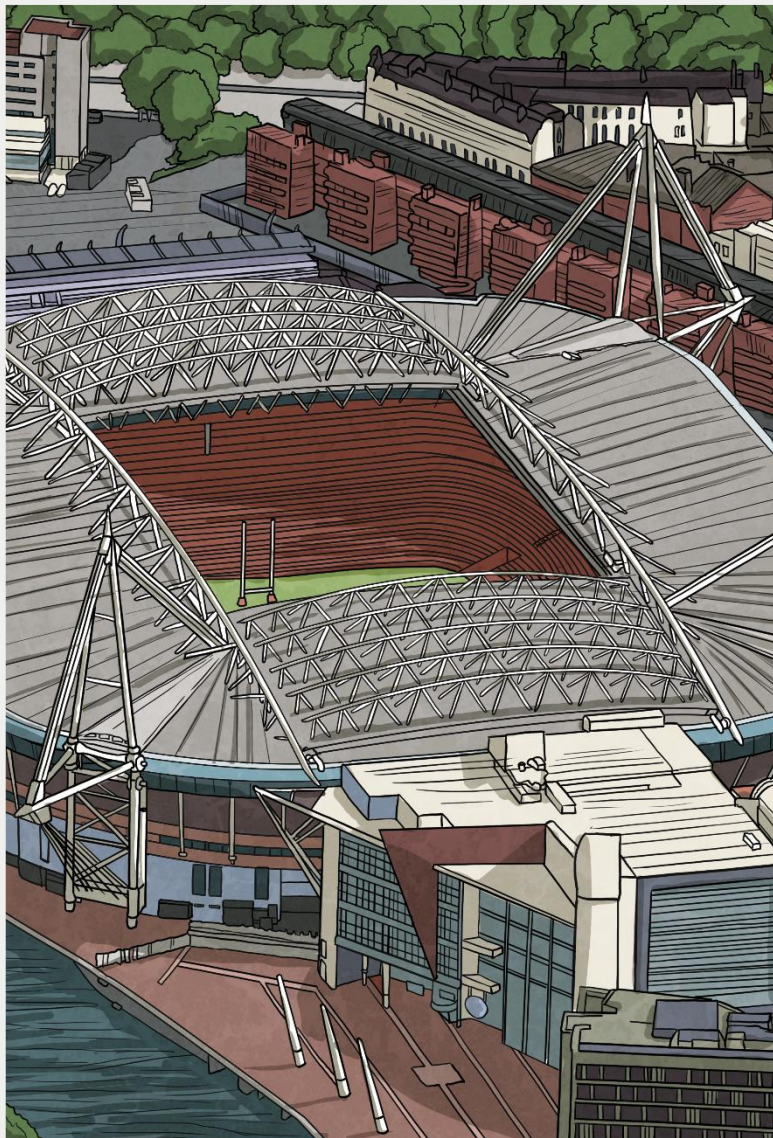
National Museum Cardiff

There is an exhibition that shows the evolution of Wales, giving information on the history of time on Earth, dinosaurs, the ice age and up to the present day.

The building also houses the skeleton of a humpback whale that was washed ashore in Wales.

It was 9 metres long!

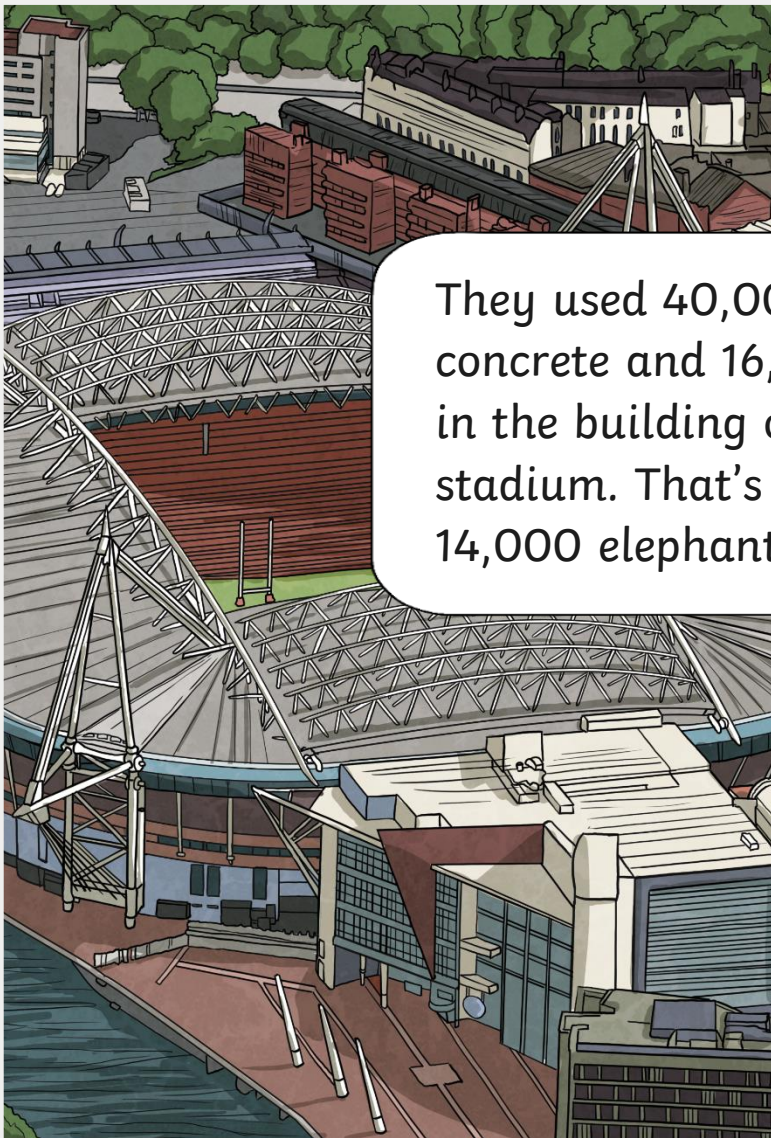




Cardiff Sports Venues

The Principality Stadium is the National Stadium of Wales and the 3rd largest stadium in Britain!

It was built to host the 1999 Rugby World Cup. It cost £121 million to build and can seat nearly 74,000 people.



Cardiff Sports Venues

The Principality Stadium is the largest stadium in Wales and the largest stadium in the world.

They used 40,000 tonnes of concrete and 16,000 tonnes of steel in the building of Principality stadium. That's the weight of about 14,000 elephants!

million people could and nearly 100,000 people could sit in the stadium.

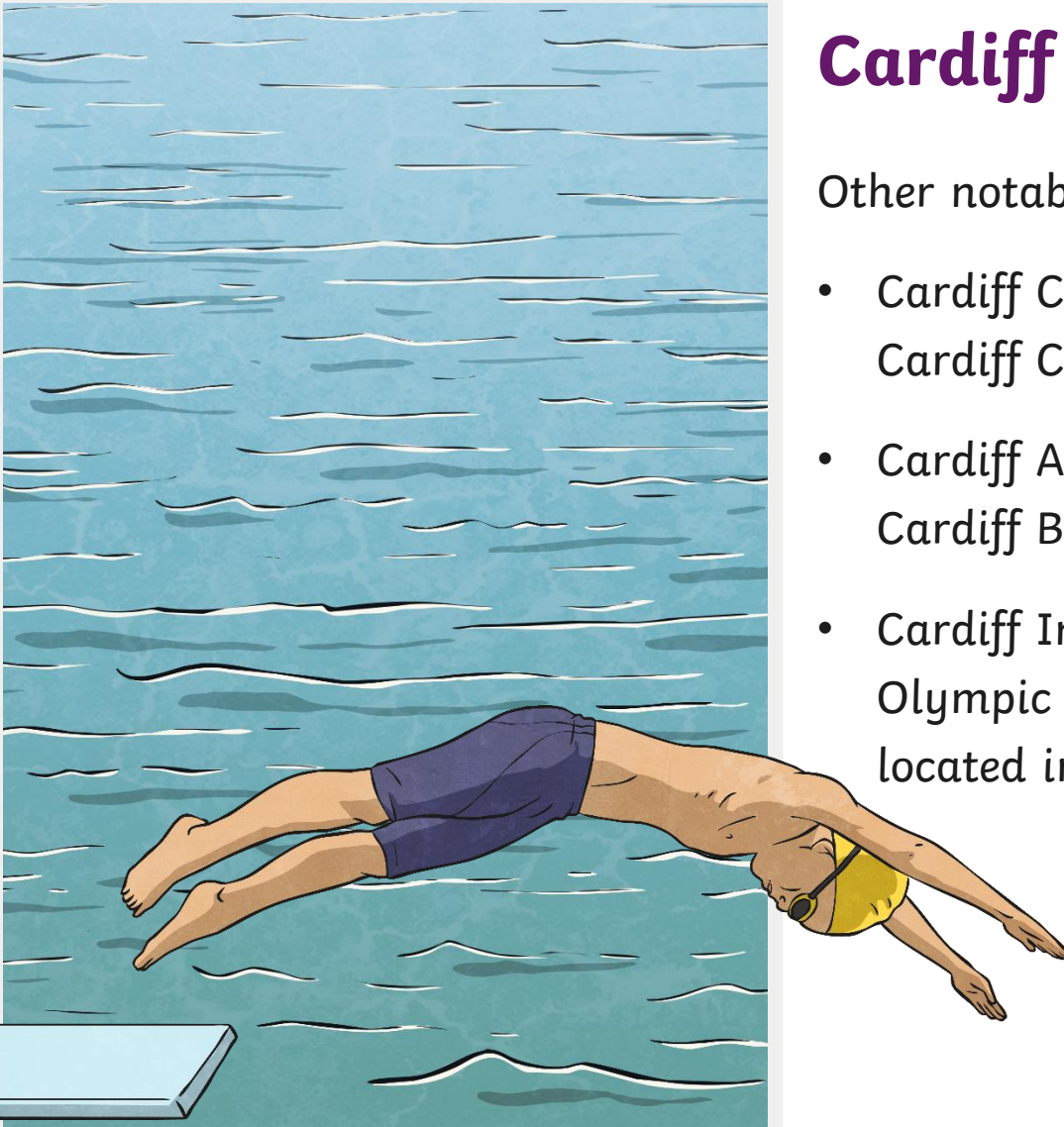
Did You Know?



Cardiff Sports Venues

Other notable venues include:

- Cardiff City Stadium, home to Cardiff City Football Club.
- Cardiff Arms Park, home to the Cardiff Blues rugby team.
- Cardiff International Pool, an Olympic sized swimming pool located in Cardiff Bay.





Cardiff Bay

Cardiff Bay was a very successful and busy port in the 1800s due to the increasing trade and transport of coal and iron.

In 1855, Bute West Dock was the first dock to be opened.

Butetown and the area around it had a growing population and a multicultural community began to settle there.



Cardiff Bay

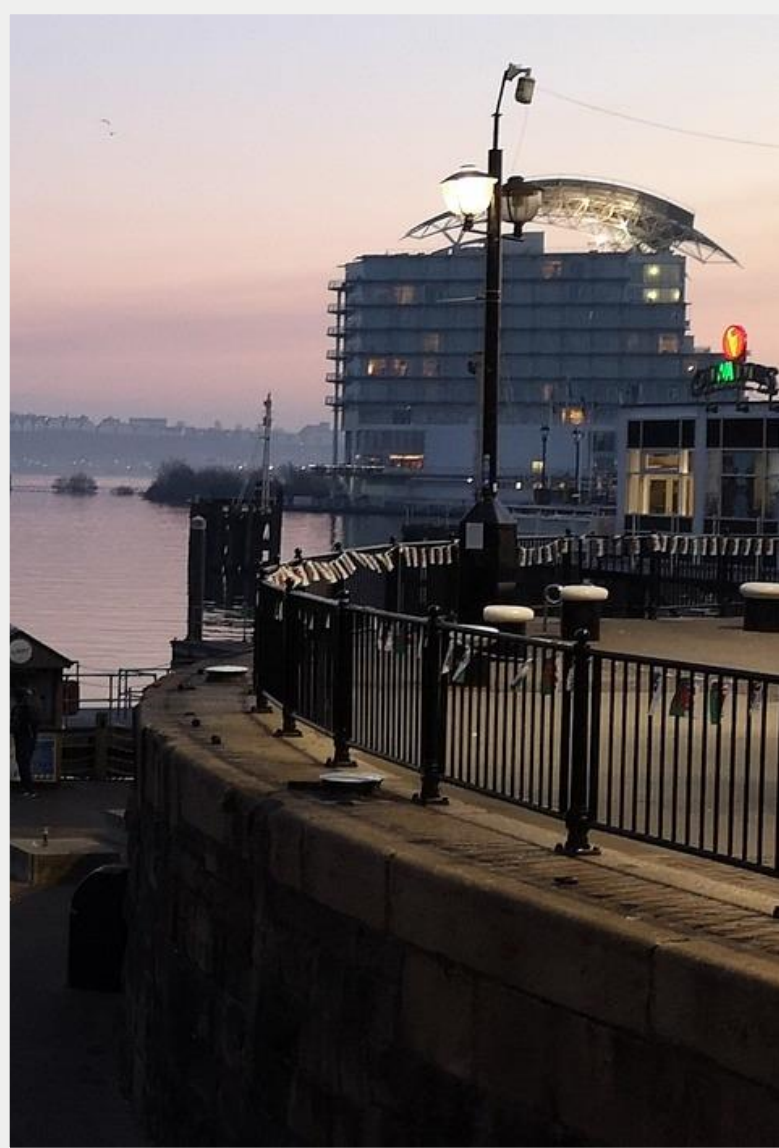
It is estimated that people of around 50 different nationalities made their home in the area and it became known as Tiger Bay.

Its cultural history is closely tied in with the building of the docks and the people who worked aboard the ships. Cardiff has a prolific history of import and export which is tied in with the multiculturalism of this area of Cardiff.



Cardiff Bay

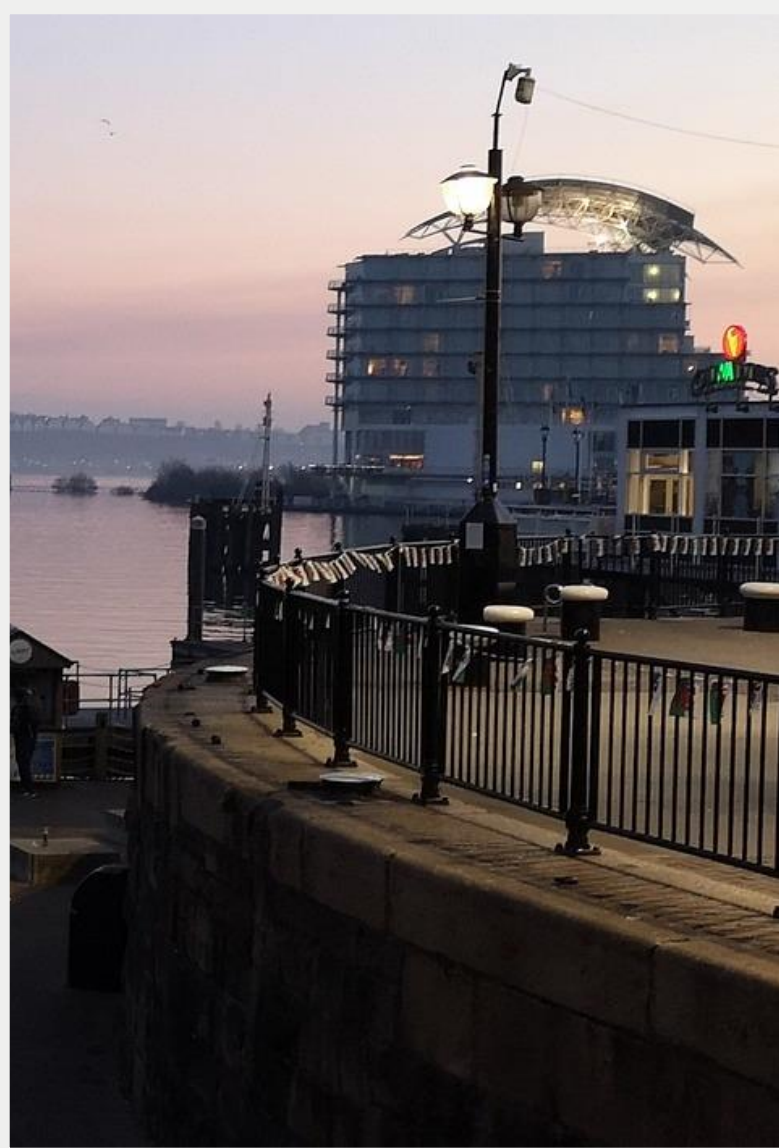
After the Second World War the demand for coal decreased, the industry in Cardiff and business in the port suffered.



Cardiff Bay Regeneration

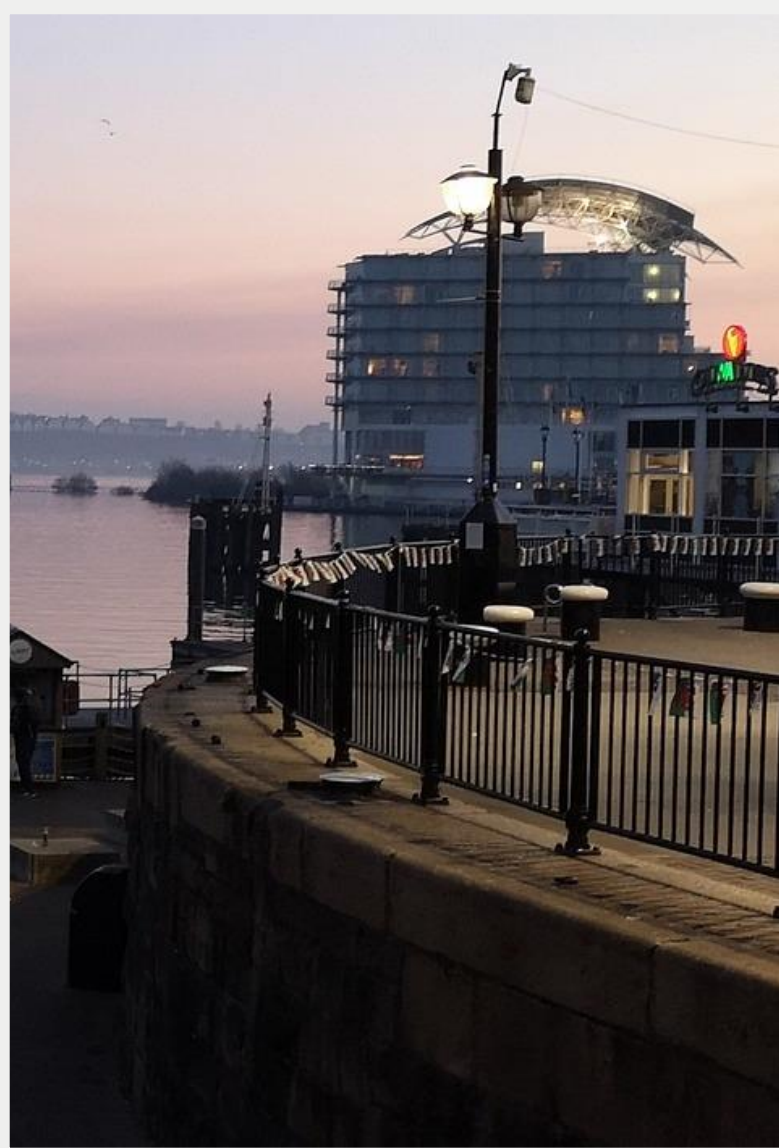
In 1987 the project to regenerate the area began, this created space for housing, industries and leisure.

The estimated cost was £2.4 billion. The Bay's appearance has changed dramatically and it has become a popular area for work, leisure and the arts.



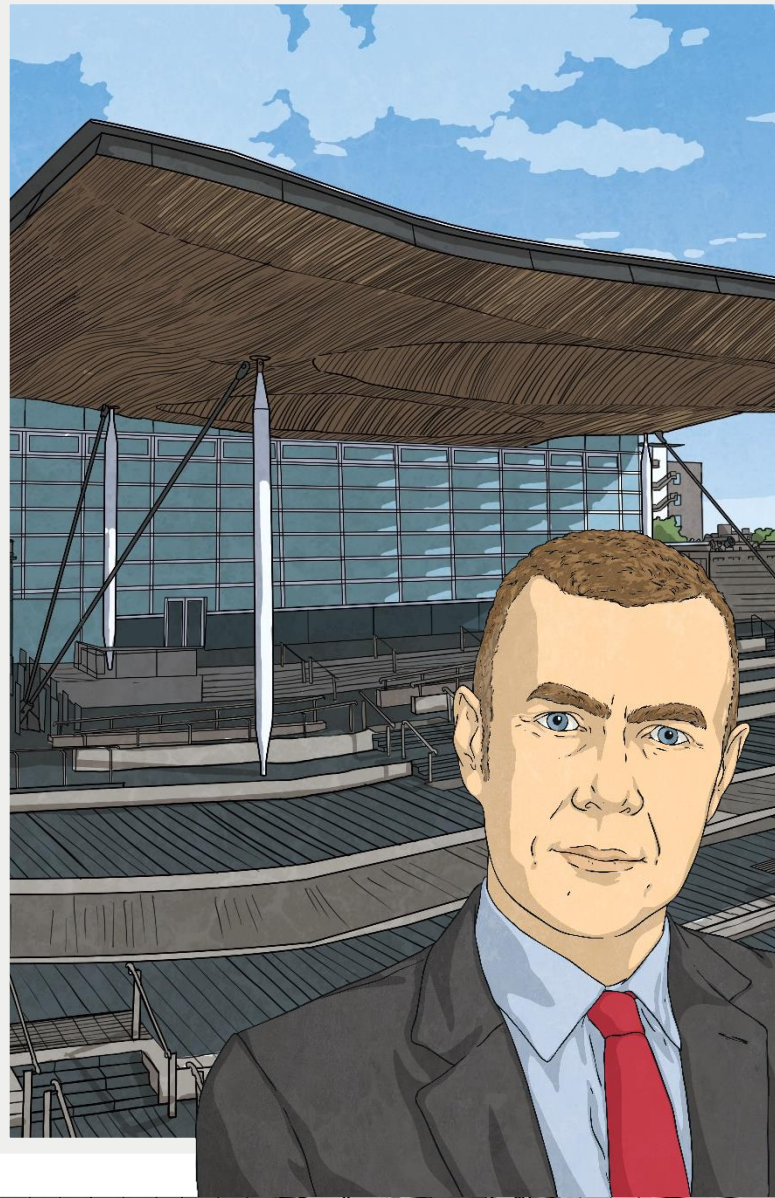
Cardiff Bay Regeneration

Cardiff Bay is now a popular tourist destination. It has many unique attractions, such as Techniquest, Wales Millennium Centre, the Senedd, galleries, cafes, shops, cinemas and more. It is also home to the TV studios where *Casualty*, *Pobol y Cwm* and other programmes are filmed.



Cardiff Bay Regeneration

The new barrage was one of the biggest engineering projects in Europe and it created a 200 hectare freshwater lake with 8 miles of waterfront.

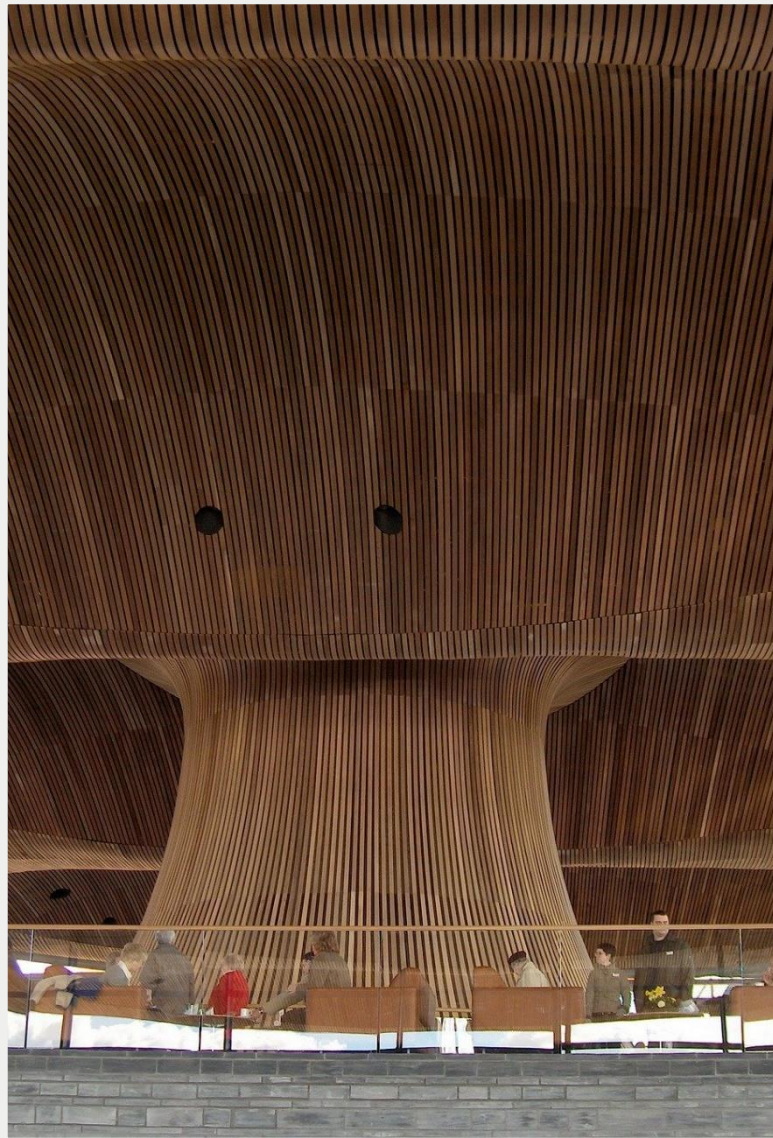


The Senedd

The Senedd is where the Welsh Parliament meet. It is where the laws that have been devolved to Wales are decided.

60 Members of the Senedd meet there.

The Senedd is one of the most environmentally friendly parliament buildings in the world.



The Senedd

It uses geothermal energy for heating. Rainwater from the roof is used to flush the toilets. The Senedd is built entirely from Welsh materials.

It took five years to build and was opened on St David's Day 2006 by the Queen.

The sculpted, curved roof spans 26 metres and the underside is made of Welsh timber.



Wales Millennium Centre

The Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay is a venue for shows, concerts and a place to socialise.

The Welsh National Opera and many other organisations also make this building their home.

The architect, Jonathan Adams stated:

"I wanted to create something unmistakably Welsh and internationally recognisable and outstanding."



Wales Millennium Centre

The Celtic lettering states:
'Creu Gwir Fel Gwydr O
Ffwrnais Awen.

In These Stones Horizons Sing.'





Wales Millennium Centre

This was written by the former National Poet of Wales, Gwyneth Lewis.





Famous People

Famous people from Cardiff include:

- Roald Dahl
- Colin Jackson
- Dame Tanni Grey Thompson
- Dame Shirley Bassey
- Gareth Bale

