**North Wales**

Wales isn’t an independent state - it is a part of the UK. It is situated in the west of Britain. It has a population of about three million people and the capital is Cardiff. Most of the population live in the industrial south of the country.

The north of Wales is one of the most beautiful parts of Britain. There are spectacular lakes, valleys and rivers. There are also wonderful mountains - including Snowdon, Britain’s second-highest mountain.

Two languages are spoken in Wales: English and Welsh. Welsh is a Celtic language and is one of the oldest languages in Europe. Only 20% of the total population of wales speak Welsh, but in the small villages and towns of west and north Wales, about 75% of people speak it as their first language.

The two main industries in the north are tourism and farming. Many people come to walk and climb in the mountains or go kayaking on the rivers. There are lots of sheep farms in the hills, but it is difficult to make money from sheep farming, and many farms are closing. Young people have difficulty finding jobs in north Wales and many of them are leaving to get jobs in the cities.

There are 3 million people in Wales and 11 million sheep!