

# me, my Area, my Voice.



The Welsh Parliament is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people. Commonly known as the Senedd, it makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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# Information about the resource for teachers/parents:

Within this pack you will find a variety of tasks that can take place at home/ out of an educational setting. The resource is aimed at educating those between 11-14 about the work of the Welsh Parliament, commonly known as the Senedd, in a creative and new way.

You can choose one task, one section or decide to use the whole resource booklet to complete over the next weeks. Some activities within the pack can also be completed as class groups or as a family.

## **Breakdown of resource pack:**

### **Section A: History of the Senedd**

Task 1. Timeline video (watch the video to answer the quiz)

Task 2: Kahoot quiz

### **Section B: Powers of the Senedd**

Task 1. Did you know?

Task 2. Map my area

### **Section C: Members of the Senedd**

Task 1. Contact your Senedd Member

Task 2. Write a petition

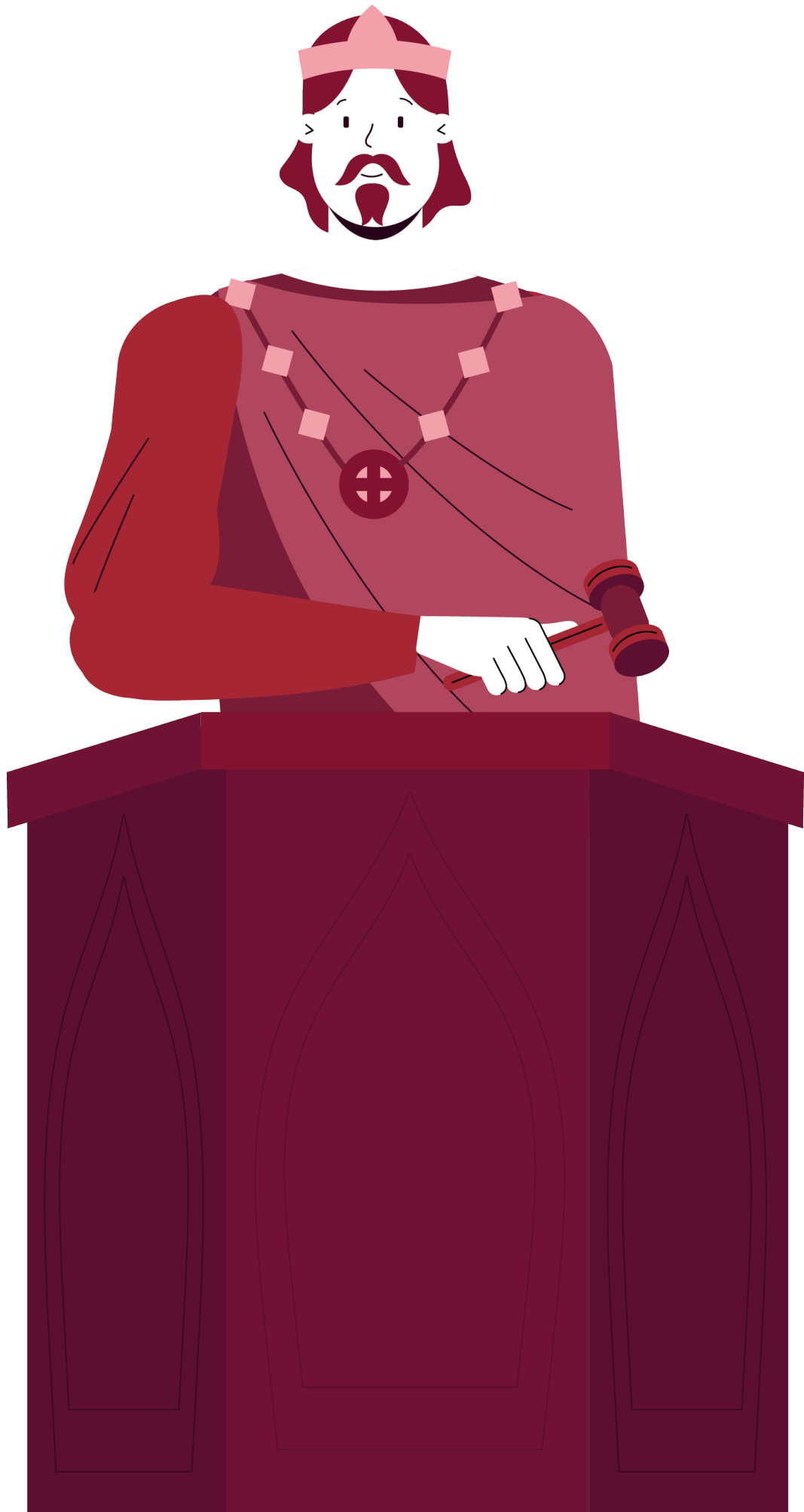
### **Section D: Use your voice**

Task 1. Make your petition live!

Task 2. Find out more



**You may see many of these icons throughout the booklet. Whenever you see this, it means that there's a fun fact to be read!**



# Section A:

## History of the Senedd

Over the last 20 years, devolution has changed in Wales. More decisions that impact on people's day to day lives are now being made in Wales, at the Senedd, which is why we changed our name from the National Assembly for Wales, to the Welsh Parliament, commonly known as the Senedd as of May 6th 2020.

### Task 1: Timeline video



**Did you know?** Devolution means the transfer of powers. For example the UK Parliament makes laws in specific areas that affects the 4 nations of the UK such as immigration, police, benefits, and more. Decisions about most other things like Health, Education, and the Environment are made in the Senedd, which are specific to Wales. See Section B in this booklet

Let's travel back in time to learn more about the history of democracy in Wales. Our fully animated video explaining the history of the Senedd and how it works is part of the Our Senedd online resources which are available on Hwb. You can watch this as a class, individually, with friends or family and take part in Task 2 of this section to put your knowledge to the test in a Kahoot! Quiz.

You can find the video by searching 'Our Senedd' on YouTube. Enjoy!

Using what you have learnt from watching the video, move on to Task 2 in this section to challenge yourself on how much you can remember about the history of the Senedd.



**Did you know?** The Senedd was built in 2006. Before this, Members used to debate in Siambr Hywel which is located behind the Senedd today and is named after Hywel Dda - who you'll learn more about at the start of the video.



# Section A:

## History of the Senedd

### Task 2: Kahoot quiz

Using what you have learned from watching our animated video in Task 1, take part in our Kahoot quiz by copying the link below into your browser. All you will need is an electronic device such as a phone, tablet or laptop which is connected to the internet.

- [bit.ly/our-senedd-quiz](https://bit.ly/our-senedd-quiz)

- [bit.ly/cwis-ein-senedd-ni](https://bit.ly/cwis-ein-senedd-ni)

You can take part in this quiz as a class, individually, with friends or family. Remember, the quicker you input your answer, the higher your score!



**Did you know?** Before the Law changed on May 6th 2020, Members of the Senedd used to be known as Assembly Members and the Welsh Parliament was known as the National Assembly for Wales.

# Section B:

## Powers of the Senedd

### Task 1: Did you know?

The Senedd is responsible for making laws for Wales on many issues that affect the lives of its people - ideas for new laws usually come from the Welsh Government, and a majority of Members of the Senedd need to vote in favour for it to become law in Wales.



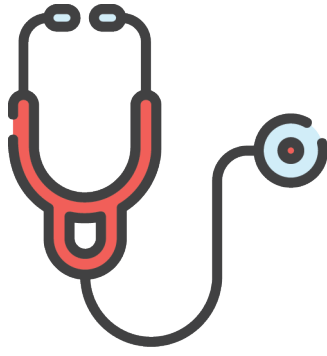
**Did you know?** Devolution means the transfer of powers. For example the UK Parliament makes laws in some areas while the Senedd can make its own decisions and create laws that are specific to Wales.

**Activity:** The Senedd can make laws on the issues listed in the table below. Using the icons, write below what issue you think they represent. For each correct icon, you earn 5 points! How many points can you get out of 45? Why not have a competition at home!





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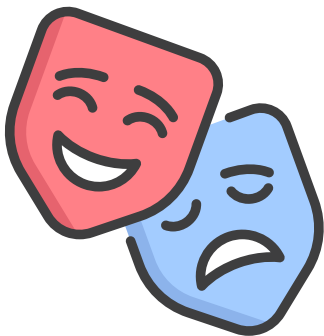
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# Section B:

## Powers of the Senedd

### Task 2: Map my area

If you have completed Task 1 in Section A, you will now know that the Senedd can make laws on many issues that affect our day to day lives such as:

 <b>Agriculture</b>	 <b>Environment</b>	 <b>Sport and Recreation</b>
 <b>Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings</b>	 <b>Fire and Rescue Services and Fire Safety</b>	 <b>Food</b>
 <b>Culture</b>	 <b>Food</b>	 <b>Town and Country Planning</b>
 <b>Education</b>	 <b>Health</b>	 <b>Welsh Language</b>



For Senedd Elections, Wales is split up into 40 small areas called constituencies and 5 larger areas called regions. People who live in constituencies are known as constituents.

**Activity:** Think about the area where you live, what is your favourite thing about your local area? Is there anything that could be improved? Maybe there is an issue in your local area that you would like to see tackled? Follow this step by step guide to help you map out your area!

- **Get together some paper, coloured pens and pencils and sticky notes if you have them**
- **Mark where you live on the map**
- **Think about what is around where you live such as schools, shops, sport centres, religious buildings, theatres, cinemas, beaches, housing estates, hospitals, transport such as buses or trains, recycling bins and much more. Why not use your phone or tablet to search what is in your area, you might be surprised!**
- **Start to map your local area by drawing or marking out where things are in your area (don't forget to colour this in)**
- **Once you have done this, pick another colour pen/pencil or sticky note to mark out the below on your map.**

**1.** Circle your favourite things about your local area

**2.** Draw or write down what could be improved to make your local area a better place for those who live or visit there [such as more green spaces, skate board park, better transport links like a railway station, more recycling bins in the streets]

**3.** Are there any issues in your local area which you would like to see tackled? Where do these issues happen? [such as rubbish in the parks, gangs of people hanging around shops, not enough cycling lanes, fast cars on a long road with no speed bumps]

**Share your ideas with your friends or family! Is there anything they could add to your map?**



**Did you know?** You can contact your Member of the Senedd about your local area. If this is something you would like to do then continue to Section C.

You can find out who your Senedd Member is by clicking on the link: **[Senedd.wales/members](https://www.senedd.wales/members)**

# Section C:

## Members of the Senedd

Members of the Senedd are there to represent the interests of Wales and its people, make laws for Wales and hold the Welsh Government to account. The Welsh Government is made up of Ministers who are responsible for areas such as schools, the environment, sport, and housing, and the First Minister who is the leader of the Government.



The Senedd is made up of 60 **Members of the Senedd**. Everyone in Wales has 5 Members that represent them. 1 constituency member and 4 regional members.

**Constituency:** Your local area

**Regional:** The larger area that your constituency sits in (such as North Wales)

### Task 1: Contact your Member of the Senedd

Members of the Senedd consider, debate, and vote on laws proposed, and money spent by Welsh Government. They also make suggestions on steps that could be taken to make Wales a better place to live and work. You can contact your Member of the Senedd about issues that you care about. These could be things that affect the whole of the country, or things in your local area, whether it is about a skate park closing or too many houses being built on green spaces which is effecting your local environment and wildlife.

You can find out who your Member is by clicking on the link as mentioned in Section B: **[Senedd.wales/members](https://www.senedd.wales/members)**



**Senedd Cymru** is a democratically elected body that represents the interests Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

**Welsh Government** is the devolved government for Wales. It is formed after an election and is made up of a single or coalition of political parties represented in the Senedd. They propose ideas for laws, and make decisions on how to spend around £17bn a year on issues like education, healthcare, the environment, culture and language and transport .

As well as having Members of the Senedd, there are also a variety of roles at the Senedd and the Welsh Government including:

**Presiding Officer/Llywydd:** chair of the Senedd and Plenary meetings

**First Minister:** the leader of the Welsh Government

**12 Ministers including:** Health, Education, Environment, Welsh Language, Finance, Culture, Sport and Tourism.

As a constituent, you can contact Members of the Senedd about issues that are decided in Wales, for Wales. Why not use your map to tell your local Members of the Senedd about what you think about your area!

If you haven't created a map you can still contact your Senedd Member to let them know about your local area.

**Activity:** If you have access to a computer/laptop, you can now go ahead and create a PowerPoint presentation explaining what you like, and what you think should change in your local area to your Members of the Senedd. Each Member of the Senedd has their very own e-mail address which you can find online. Don't forget to include an introductory to your e-mail when you send your map to your local Members.



**To: [Insert Member of the Senedd e-mail address]**

**Subject: Constituent of Port Talbot**

Good Morning/Afternoon [insert name of Member of the Senedd],

I am contacting you as a constituent of Port Talbot. Recently, I have pulled together a list of things about the local area which are positive and some things that could be improved. As you are the Member of the Senedd for my area I wanted to bring this to your attention.

At the moment, there is a lot of rubbish on the beach front of Aberavon which is not good for the environment or local wildlife. After mapping out the area, I have noticed that there are not enough bins on the beach front which could help resolve this issue. I think it would be a good idea to have more bins to help with plastic pollution at the local attraction.

Also, although there are enough cycle paths in Port Talbot, the markings of the paths are not as clear as what they were. As a cyclist myself, I think that it would be a good idea to have some cycle paths in the area re-painted especially by Baglan shops to help with the safety of the cyclist.

Margam Park is a very good attraction to draw visitors into the area and I enjoy visiting with my family in the holidays. They also have a discovery centre which my school Ysgol Bae Baglan visit for outdoor learning.

I look forward to hearing from you about the issues I have brought to your attention.

Kindest regards,  
Bethan Williams

# Section C:

## Members of the Senedd

### Task 2: Write a Petition

As a constituent of an area in Wales, you can write to the Senedd and start a petition on issues which the Senedd can pass laws for Wales. There is a committee called the 'Petitions Committee' which is made up of four Members of the Senedd who consider petitions submitted.



**Did you know?** All Petitions with more than 250 signatures are discussed by the Petitions Committee. Petitions with more than 10,000 signatures will be considered for a debate in the Senedd.

### How do I write a petition?

Good petitions say clearly what they want the Senedd or Welsh Government to do.

#### Good examples:

- **Ban the use of wild animals in circuses**
- **Lower the voting age to 16 for Senedd elections in Wales**

These examples tell us what you want us to do

#### Bad examples:

- **Help young people**
- **Trains**

These examples do not tell us what you want us to do







# Section D:

## Use your voice

### Task 1: Make your petition live

Using your petition you have written in Task 2, Section C of this booklet – why not take the next step on making this petition live.

You can have a look at current live petitions on our website:

**[petitions.senedd.wales](https://petitions.senedd.wales)**

#### How do I make my petition live?

- Visit our ‘start a petition’ page on our website:  
**[petitions.senedd.wales](https://petitions.senedd.wales)**
- Using the ‘tell us what you want us to do’ box, insert your text of a maximum of 100 characters. Make sure that you have explained clearly what you would like to see changed in Wales to make it a better place.
- The petition website will check to see if there is a similar petition that already exists. If this is the case, you may not be able to go on to the next stage, but **why not sign a similar petition to help get it debated by the Petitions Committee or in the Senedd?**
- You will now move on to the ‘background’ section. Use this section to back up why you want action. Some people include a personal story here.
- The ‘additional details’ box gives you the space and opportunity to write more background information, evidence and references. This is a good way of making your petition more powerful.
- Decide how long you would like to collect signatures for – between 30 days and 6 months.
- Sign your petition, and click ‘continue’ to finalize your petition.
- Your petition will be live shortly! When your petition is live you will be able to share a link on your social media to encourage people to sign your petition.

**Don’t forget that petitions with more than 50 signatures are discussed by the Petitions Committee. Petitions with more than 5,000 signatures will be considered for a debate in the Senedd.**

**WELSH  
YOUTH  
PARLIAMENT**

**SENEDD  
IEUENCTID  
CYMRU**

# Section D:

## Use your voice

### Task 2: The Welsh Youth Parliament

While it's possible for young people to have their say on the work of the Senedd by contacting their Members, or by starting or signing a petition, the Welsh Youth Parliament has been launched to give young people in Wales more opportunities to have their say.

Like Members of the Senedd, 40 Welsh Youth Parliament Members represent constituencies, however, the remaining 20 are elected in a different way. Every term, the Welsh Youth Parliament partners with charities and organisations that work with and support young people. 20 Welsh Youth Parliament Members come from those partner organisations, making sure that Members are diverse, and representative of as many young people in Wales as possible.

Take a look at our website or follow us on social media. You'll be able to find out:

- **Who represents you**
- **What the Members who represent you stand for**
- **What the Welsh Youth Parliament's priorities are this term**
- **What work the Welsh Youth Parliament Members and Committees are doing**

#### **Take part**

You can have your say in the Welsh Youth Parliament's work by taking part in consultations or attend events – both online and in the community.

Why not take a look online and learn more about any consultations that are open at the moment, or learn more and register for Welsh Youth Parliament events.

#### **It could be you!**

Are you between 11-18? Are you interested in making a difference? Welsh Youth Parliament elections are held every 2 years. Information on registering, voting, or standing as a candidate can be found online beforehand. Keep your eyes peeled for the latest information.

