

Activity 1: Geological Drama

KS2



Curriculum Links Wales:

- Languages, Literacy & Communication
- Humanities
- Expressive Arts
- Health & Well-being
- Mathematics & Numeracy

Curriculum Links England:

History (establishing clear narratives across periods, changes in Britain); English (comprehension, spoken language); Maths (number and place value)

Time: 1-2 hours

Resources to download: scene cards (could be double sided)

Other resources required: props (optional!)

Group size:
2-6 learners in each group.
Max 9 groups in total.

Outline Plan for Activity:

- Find a wide, flat, open area in the reserve. There are several spots around the banks of the lake, at the lookout point, or near the visitor centre which would work well.
- Hand out the drama cards, one to each group of learners. If you have a small class, you may prefer to give some groups 2 cards rather than have smaller groups.
- Also give each group an appropriate prop (if using). Suggestions for props are given on each card.
- Give the learners a set amount of time (approx. 15 mins) to read their part of the story and plan how they will act it out. Allow them space to practice their sketch. One person in each group should be the narrator.
- Ask the learners to sit in a semi-circle. You could start by asking them to get in the correct order for the story, using the numbers to help.
- The groups take it in turns to act out their part in the history of Cwm Idwal.

Classroom activity ideas you could try before or after your visit:

- Practice reading large numbers, saying numbers aloud.
- draw or write the entire geological story of Cwm Idwal

Activity 1 worksheet:

Geological Drama Drama (front)

Four hundred million years ago.

Volcanoes were erupting violently. The lava cooled down and formed into the solid rock of the mountains.

Three hundred million years ago.

This was a tropical swampy forest, where dinosaurs were roaming. Little did they know they would all become extinct.

One million years ago.

During the last Ice Age it was so cold that the mountains were worn down by huge masses of ice, called glaciers. Mammoths were living here at that time.

Ten thousand years ago.

When the Earth became warmer, the ice melted and the forests could grow again. Bears and wolves started to live here.

Six thousand years ago.

Now there were plants and animals, humans could start living here. They were hunters, living in small tribes in the forest.

One thousand years ago.

Humans cut down the trees to create fields for sheep farming. Farms, villages, roads and schools started to be built.

One hundred and fifty years ago.

Charles Darwin visited Cwm Idwal in 1831. He discovered fossils in the rocks and came up with his ice age theory of the Snowdonia Ice Sheet.

Fifty to one hundred years ago.

Cwm Idwal was named the first Nature Reserve in Wales in 1954. There are a lot of rare plants here which scientists want to protect.

Now.

Thousands of visitors come to Cwm Idwal Nature Reserve every year. They like to enjoy the scenery, walk their dogs, go climbing and relax by the lake.

Activity 1 worksheet:

Geological Drama (back & prop suggestions)

**1,000,000
years ago**

Ice age
Mammoth toy

**300,000,
000 years
ago**

Dinosaurs
Dinosaur toy

**400,000,
000 years
ago**

Volcanoes
Red/ orange cloth

**1,000
years ago**

Sheep Farming
Sheep toy

**6,000
years ago**

Humans start living in
Snowdonia
Leopard skin fabric / fake fur

**10,000
years ago**

Growth of Forests
Wolf / bear toy

Now

Thousands of Visitors
Walking map

**50-100
years ago**

First NNR in Wales
Binoculars

**150 years
ago**

Charles Darwin
Magnifying glass