

READING

EC2

First name _____

Last name _____

School _____

Class _____

Date of birth

Date of test

Total score (maximum 41)



117539



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Treasure in the mountain

At the beginning of the Second World War, 1800 paintings were moved from the National Gallery in London to Wales for safety from the air-raids.



The nation's treasure at risk!

In 1940, when London faced intensive nightly bombing, the Prime Minister grew worried about Britain's art treasures and ordered them to be moved to safety. Initially, it was proposed that they should be shipped to Canada. This destination was ideal but sea transportation was so open to enemy attack that the Prime Minister rejected the idea, declaring, "Hide them in caves and cellars, but not one picture shall leave this island."

From museum to mountain

Gallery officials decided that an underground store was needed to avoid stray bombs and they identified the perfect spot: a disused slate mine near Blaenau Ffestiniog. Instead of Canada, therefore, the paintings were taken by rail to Wales.

From the train, lorries took the treasure to the store. The road to the quarry entrance was a four-mile winding narrow lane – so narrow, in fact, that the drivers kept to a strict timetable to avoid coming face to face with each other on stretches where they could not pass. The entrance itself had had to be widened with explosives to allow the lorries inside.

Inside the mine, a 65-metre thick roof protected the hoard from bombing. Small brick 'bungalows' were built within the caverns to maintain constant levels of humidity and temperature and they were fitted with ventilators to keep the pictures dry and warm at 18°C.

The whole operation was conducted in secret. Though expensive, the safety precautions were justified as the National Gallery in London was hit by bombs several times.

'Picture of the Month'

When the bombing eventually decreased, it was felt that one painting could be returned to London monthly. There, it was put on show in splendid isolation.

So great was the concern for these individual artworks that they were removed from display and stored in an underground strong room, EVERY evening. The arrival of each painting was a major news event. The 'Picture of the Month' scheme exists in the Gallery to this day.

Some facts and figures

- The National Gallery was bombed **nine** times during the war.
- By the end, the Gallery's glass roof had **not one** pane of glass left.
- The tunnel in the mine was **365** metres long, leading **300** metres below the surface.
- **5000** tons of rock had to be removed to make the tunnel large enough.
- The trucks that carried the paintings were disguised as chocolate delivery lorries.

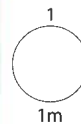
Homecoming

In May 1945, within days of the end of the war in Europe, a selection of masterpieces from the collection in Wales went straight back to London to satisfy the art-starved crowds. After years of dust and rubble, visitors marvelled at the intensity of the colours in the paintings, many of which had been cleaned during their stay in Wales and had actually benefitted from their excellent war-time storage conditions.

1 Safe storage was found for the paintings in Wales in ...

Tick **one**.

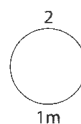
- an underground lorry park.
- a disused mine.
- an old art gallery.
- various cellars.



2 Why did the paintings have to be moved?

Tick **one**.

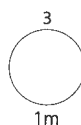
- It was the wrong temperature in London.
- They were at risk of being damaged in London.
- The paintings needed to be moved to a clean atmosphere.
- The people of Wales wanted to see them.
- The National Gallery had been bombed.



3 Why was there a timetable for the lorries?

Tick **one**.

- The entrance was not wide enough.
- The gate was not always open.
- The road was narrow.
- The operation was secret.

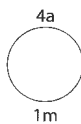


4 Look at the section called *From museum to mountain*.

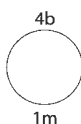
a) What does the word *hoard* refer to?

Tick **one**.

- the bungalows
- the lorries
- the visitors
- the paintings



b) **Find** and **copy** the word which shows that the effort of moving all the pictures was worthwhile.



please turn over



5 Look at the section called 'Picture of the Month'.

a) **Find** and **copy** a phrase that shows that each picture was displayed on its own.

b) The word *EVERY* is in capital letters.

This emphasises ...

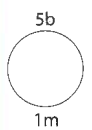
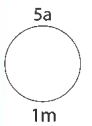
Tick **one**.

the expense of the operation.

the popularity of the event.

the special effort involved.

the secrecy of the operation.



6 Look at the *Some facts and figures* box at the bottom of page 4.

Why is the last fact (about the chocolate lorries) the 'odd one out'?

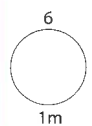
Tick **one**.

It is the only fact in the box that is true.

All the other facts in the box give historical information.

All the other facts in the box give numerical information.

It is the only fact in the box that is about the mine in Wales.



7 Number these events from 1 to 5 to show the order in which they happened.

One has been done for you.

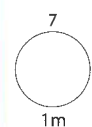
'Picture of the Month' scheme began

Canada proposed as storage site

pictures transported to the quarry

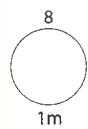
the Prime Minister decided against sea transport

underground storage location in Wales chosen



8 Draw **four** lines to match the numbers with the facts to which they belong.

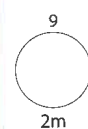
1800	length of lane to quarry in miles
365	number of times gallery bombed
9	length of tunnel in metres
4	number of pictures moved



9 Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

One has been done for you.

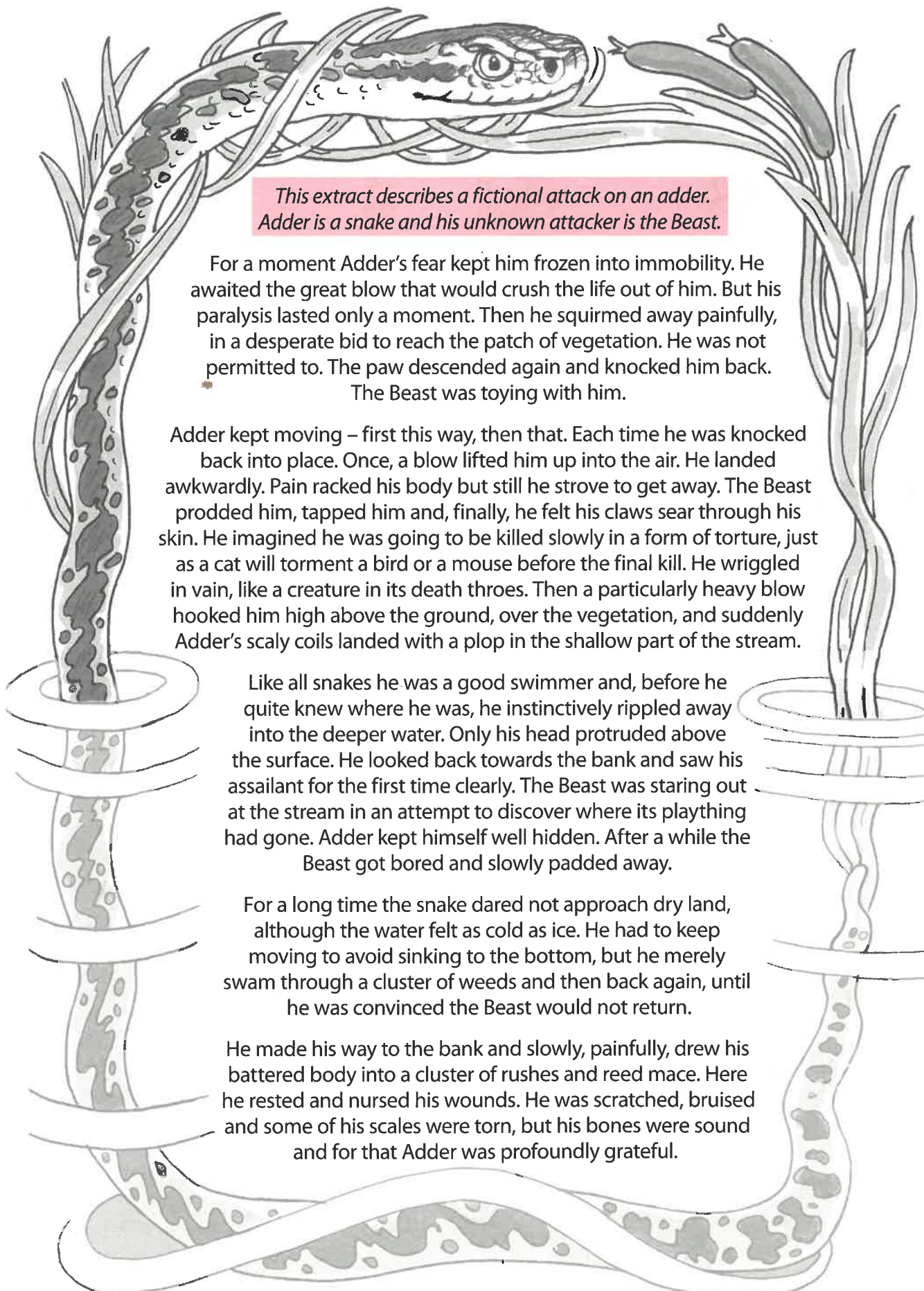
	True	False
The 'Picture of the Month' scheme stopped at the end of the war.		✓
People in London were excited by the return of the paintings.		
Many paintings were damaged in storage.		
A train took the paintings to the quarry entrance.		
Slate production had to stop when the paintings were in storage.		
Conditions in the mine were controlled.		



please turn over



Adder under attack



This extract describes a fictional attack on an adder. Adder is a snake and his unknown attacker is the Beast.

For a moment Adder's fear kept him frozen into immobility. He awaited the great blow that would crush the life out of him. But his paralysis lasted only a moment. Then he squirmed away painfully, in a desperate bid to reach the patch of vegetation. He was not permitted to. The paw descended again and knocked him back.

The Beast was toying with him.

Adder kept moving – first this way, then that. Each time he was knocked back into place. Once, a blow lifted him up into the air. He landed awkwardly. Pain racked his body but still he strove to get away. The Beast prodded him, tapped him and, finally, he felt his claws sear through his skin. He imagined he was going to be killed slowly in a form of torture, just as a cat will torment a bird or a mouse before the final kill. He wriggled in vain, like a creature in its death throes. Then a particularly heavy blow hooked him high above the ground, over the vegetation, and suddenly Adder's scaly coils landed with a plop in the shallow part of the stream.

Like all snakes he was a good swimmer and, before he quite knew where he was, he instinctively rippled away into the deeper water. Only his head protruded above the surface. He looked back towards the bank and saw his assailant for the first time clearly. The Beast was staring out at the stream in an attempt to discover where its plaything had gone. Adder kept himself well hidden. After a while the Beast got bored and slowly padded away.

For a long time the snake dared not approach dry land, although the water felt as cold as ice. He had to keep moving to avoid sinking to the bottom, but he merely swam through a cluster of weeds and then back again, until he was convinced the Beast would not return.

He made his way to the bank and slowly, painfully, drew his battered body into a cluster of rushes and reed mace. Here he rested and nursed his wounds. He was scratched, bruised and some of his scales were torn, but his bones were sound and for that Adder was profoundly grateful.

1 Look at the beginning of the text.

Why could Adder not move?

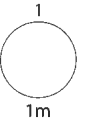
Tick **one**.

He was pinned down.

He was hiding.

He was too afraid.

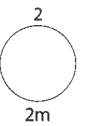
He was too cold.



2 Find and copy two words that suggest the Beast saw the attack as a game.

1. _____

2. _____



3 ... but still he strove to get away.

What does this phrase show about Adder?

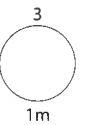
Tick **one**.

He fought back.

He was in a lot of pain.

He moved in different directions.

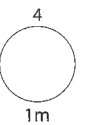
He did not give up.



4 Find and copy two animals to which Adder compared himself.

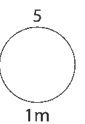
1. _____

2. _____



5 Look at the paragraph starting *Like all snakes he was a good swimmer ...*

Find and copy one word that shows that Adder reacted without thinking.



please turn over



6

The Beast was staring out at the stream in an attempt to discover where its plaything had gone.

Why could the Beast not see Adder in the stream?

Tick **two**.

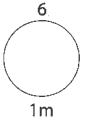
Only Adder's head was above the water.

Adder kept himself out of sight.

Adder had been knocked a long way down the stream.

Adder had sunk to the bottom of the stream.

The Beast could not see very clearly.



7

Why did Adder eventually return to the bank?

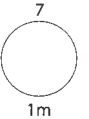
Tick **one**.

His wounds were painful.

He was tired from swimming.

The water was too cold.

The Beast was unlikely to return.



8

What made Adder feel *profoundly grateful*?

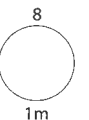
Tick **one**.

The Beast had gone away.

His bones were not broken.

He had survived the attack.

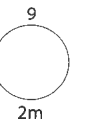
He had found a safe place to rest.



9

Tick to show which movement was made by which animal.

Movement	the Beast	Adder
prodded		
wiggled		
tapped		
hooked		
rippled		
padded		



10 Put these events in order by numbering them from 1 to 6.
One has been done for you.

- Adder tried to get away.
- The Beast looked for Adder.
- Adder was attacked.
- The Beast gave up.
- Adder fell in a stream.
- Adder was safe.

10
1m

11 Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
All snakes are good swimmers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adder did not see what the Beast looked like.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some of Adder's scales were torn.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adder hid on the bottom of the stream.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Beast followed Adder into the stream.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11
2m

please turn over

The great Welsh journey

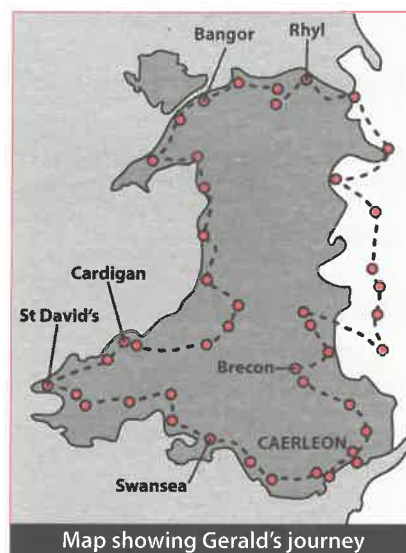
The earliest explorers of Britain, unable to write, left no record of their travels and so the first full account of a great British journey was not written until the 12th century. In 1188, 'Gerald the Welshman' – descended from a Norman knight and a Welsh princess – undertook a complete circuit of Wales and wrote it all down. Even more impressive is the fact that he did it before any maps of Great Britain existed.

Gerald did not do it all alone. He was part of a group for which he was the 'fixer' (organiser) and translator. It was a daunting mission. Gerald had estimated that Wales was about eight days' travel in length and four days' in breadth. A complete circuit should therefore have taken 24 days ...

In fact, the group spent a total of 51 days on the journey, travelling, stopping and resting, then setting off again.

The total distance they rode over the mud and stones of Wales was about 1000 miles, roughly equivalent to riding from Wales to Italy. Anyone doing this even today would find it hard. Route-finding, difficult terrain, extreme weathers, obtaining food for horse and rider: all of these were a constant concern. But Gerald seldom mentioned the problems. He was far more concerned with the land he was passing through. He called himself 'a careful investigator of natural history', an interest which allowed him to explore everything: animal life, human society, geography and history. Wherever he looked, he saw wonderful things. His 'catch-all' curiosity was interested in anything: killer-toads, Welsh history, sea-level change and God.

Below is an extract from Gerald's writings, in translation. It was written about one week into the journey, passing through Caerleon.



Map showing Gerald's journey

a rock that sticks out overhangs

High above the water, and not far from Caerleon, there stands a rocky eminence which dominates the River Severn. In the English language it is called Goldcliff, the Golden Rock. When the sun's rays strike it, the stone shines very bright and takes on a golden sheen.

*'I could not ever think that quite without intent Dame Nature had such splendour to the high rocks lent,
Or that so fair a flower could be without its fruit.'*

go deep inside the earth

If someone who was skilled in such work would only dig down into the mineral deposits and penetrate the very entrails of the earth, he might extract sweet honey from the stone and oil from the rock. Indeed, many of nature's riches still lie hidden from us, undiscovered as yet because we have given no attention to them, but the diligence and careful enquiry of later generations will no doubt reveal them.

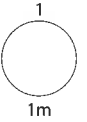
hard work



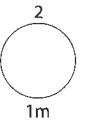
- 1 Gerald's record was the first account of a journey around Wales. Why was it the first?

Tick **one**.

- People did not travel much at that time.
- Gerald was the first person to travel all around Wales.
- Few people could write before this time.
- All other records have been lost.
- There were no maps.



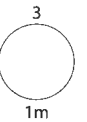
- 2 Find and copy the phrase that shows that Gerald did not come from an ordinary family background.



- 3 Why has the map been included in this text?

Tick **one**.

- It describes the places Gerald visited.
- It shows an early map of Wales.
- It shows what maps from Gerald's time looked like.
- It is an effective way of showing Gerald's route.

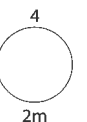


- 4 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline three other words that are used instead of 'journey'.

Gerald did not do it all alone. He was part of a group for which he was the 'fixer' (organiser) and translator. It was a daunting mission. Gerald had estimated that Wales was about eight days' travel in length and four days' in breadth. A complete circuit should therefore have taken 24 days ...

In fact, the group spent a total of 51 days on the journey, travelling, stopping and resting, then setting off again. The total distance they rode over the mud and stones of Wales was about 1000 miles, roughly equivalent to riding from Wales to Italy.



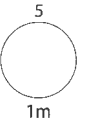
please turn over



- 5 The comparison of Gerald's journey to the distance between Wales and Italy helps the reader ...

Tick **one**.

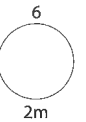
- to understand the actual distance travelled.
- to visualise the route taken.
- to understand why a translator was needed.
- to trace the journey on a map.



- 6 The journey was both a job and a pleasure for Gerald, but it also had hardships.

Tick to show which of the following were **hardships**, which were part of his **job** and which were Gerald's **interests**.

	Hardships	Job	Interests
translation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
finding out about the way people lived	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
crossing rough ground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
the weather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
planning the route	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

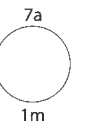


- 7 *'I could not ever think that quite without intent
Dame Nature had such splendour to the high rocks lent,
Or that so fair a flower could be without its fruit.'*

- a) This section of Gerald's writing is about ...

Tick **one**.

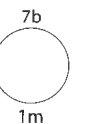
- the people of Caerleon. the rock above Caerleon.
- the river Severn. the climate of Caerleon.



- b) This section of Gerald's writing is like ...

Tick **one**.

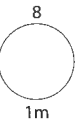
- a story. a play.
- a newspaper article. an instruction.
- a poem.



- 8 Look at the extract from Gerald's text. Some of the words have been explained separately. Why is this useful?

These words have changed in meaning since Gerald's time.
 These words are translations from the Welsh language.
 These words are uncommon and may not be understood.
 It encourages the reader to read them separately.

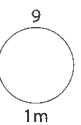
Tick **one**.



- 9 What did Gerald predict about the future?

Everyone would be able to write.
 Maps of his journey would be kept.
 The resources of the Earth would be useful.
 Travelling would become much easier.

Tick **one**.



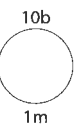
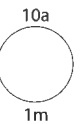
- 10 Choose the best word or group of words to complete both the sentences below and tick your choices.

The text suggests that the journey was

- a) **easier than expected.** **a failure.** **harder than expected.** **tiring and unrewarding.**

Gerald's opinion of the journey seems to be that it was

- b) **fascinating and educational.** **unrewarding hard work.** **exhausting but fun.** **long and boring.**



- 11 This is a copy of the text you read on page 12.

Label the boxes A–E to show the different parts of the text.

- A – definition
 B – map of Gerald's journey
 C – background and introduction
 D – quotation from Gerald's writing
 E – summary of Gerald's journey

The great Welsh journey

The earliest explorers of Britain, unable to write, left no record of their travels and so the first full account of a great British journey was not written until the 13th century. In 1163, 'Gerald the Welshman' – descended from a Norman knight and a Welsh princess – undertook a complete circuit of Wales and wrote it all down. Even more impressive is the fact that he did it before any maps of Great Britain existed.

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→


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→

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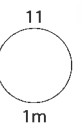
High above the wales, and not far from Caerleon, there stands a rocky eminence which the Welsh call the Swain. In the English language it is called Golden-hill, the Golden Rock. When the sun's rays strike it, the stone shines very bright and takes on a golden sheen.

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If someone who was skilled in such work would only dig down into the narrow deposits and penetrate the very entrails of the earth, he might extract sweet honey from the stone and oil from the rock. Indeed, many of nature's riches still lie hidden from us, undiscovered as yet because we have given no attention to them, but the diligent and careful enquiry of later generations will no doubt reveal them.





End of test. Please check your work.