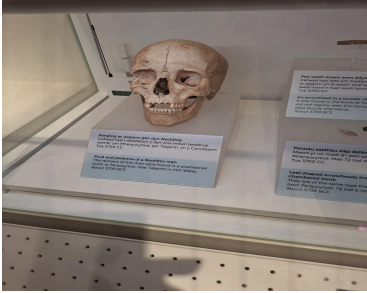


St Fagans personal reflection

<i>Description</i>		On the 5 October, my class went on a uni trip to St Fagans. We had about 4.5 hours to explore the museum, this included getting food. I went around St Fagans with a friend who had not been there before. This meant that he didn't know what to expect. I, however, have visited lots of times, even as recent as this summer. This meant that I already knew what to expect. It was a windy day, making it quite cold when walking. It rained for a while and we sheltered in the Farm House. The weather negatively impacted the trip slightly. The museum consists of lots of buildings that have been relocated from other parts of Wales. They are spread out across large grounds. This meant that there was a lot of walking. There was some maintenance being done which blocked some pathways further increasing the walks. The museum is also home to some traditional style galleries.
<i>Feelings</i>		I always enjoy visiting St Fagans and I was particularly excited to introduce it to my friend. I was happy that everytime I go to the museum I see something different, since this time I spent more time in the gallery than I usually would as well as going to the Manor House for the first

	(own photo)  (own photo) 	time. When we went inside, I found it quite creepy. Some of the pictures had eyes which seemed to follow us around the room. Despite its creepiness, I enjoyed exploring the rooms. I would have loved to have been able to explore more but maintenance work prevented us from doing so. The gallery exhibited an ancient skull from 3700BC which left me surprised as I did not think that something so old would still be intact. The Roman artifacts that were there piqued my interest as it is an era that I am fascinated with.
Evaluate	(own photo)  (own photo) 	The Manor was beautiful from the outside due to its intricate designs as well as the gorgeous lakes that surround it. St Fagan's takes care to include plants and trees relevant to the time periods, which adds to the museum experience. Inside the manor house, the decor added to the ambience and indeed to its creepiness. Each of the rooms had its own character and one of them was decorated exquisitely, this helped me focus on what life would have been like for those that lived there. The museum exhibits an old skull. This particular skull interested me as I was not aware that something quite fragile could survive so well. I particularly enjoyed the Roman artifacts, including a carved stone. When I learned that it was

	(own photo)  (own photo) 	found in Wales, it allowed me to think about how much Wales was impacted by the Romans. Unfortunately the written information provided was quite limited. Whilst this was likely due to providing children with quick information, it would have been nice to have more details provided. The Iron Age huts have always been my favourite part. I like the atmosphere inside them. On this trip the curator explained how these were built around the time the Romans were in Wales but before they colonised. This meant that our sources about these huts come from Roman historians. He also told me the funny fact that the Romans thought the Welsh were barbarians because we wore trousers. The curator adding this little bit of humour to the information he provided me with made the visit more enjoyable.
Analysis		I always enjoy a trip to St Fagan's but this trip was made more special by getting to share it with a new visitor. I was able to think a lot about Welsh life and the impact of history on how we live our lives today. Having visited as a child, I noticed how my focus had shifted from running around the buildings to wanting to know more about the historical significance of the buildings and artifacts. In some ways this led to a bit of disappointment as I would like to have had more written information. The curators were extremely

		helpful in providing more information and I appreciate that this also brings the museum alive for visitors. It would have been helpful to have a guide in the galleries as the limited information made it difficult to understand the importance to Welsh culture. One of the most confusing exhibits was the hip hop display, which was at the entrance to the gallery. Whilst this will have had some significance I couldn't understand how it fit the narrative of the museum. I found that the day in St Fagans was worthwhile since I was able to learn things that I didn't know while being able to discuss history with Dan. As always the Iron Age huts always made me think about how people lived since it shows the difference between modern lives and the lives of the people back then. I was able to find out some extra information about how the Romans perceived us and how we would have lived during that period.
Conclusion		I split my time between the gallery and the outside museum and spent more time outside since that's where the majority of the information was. Next time I go to St Fagans I would take more photographs since it would allow me to continue researching each building. I really enjoyed exploring with my friend as it helped me to see new things and share my knowledge. It was

		<i>particularly interesting to see how both of us shared some thoughts but also were touched by different buildings. Whilst the Iron Age Huts were my favourite, my friend was touched by the chapel. Chapels in Wales are very important and it was nice to see someone recognise their historical significance. Although I wasn't as interested as my friend in the chapel, probably because we see so many of them. However we both recognised the importance of being able to bring old buildings back to life and uncovering artefacts long hidden.</i>
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