

# The Welsh Seal of the National Assembly for Wales

The Great Seal of the Realm is the chief seal of the Crown, used to show the Monarch's approval of important state documents. The practice of using this seal began in the reign of Edward the Confessor in the eleventh century, when a double-sided metal matrix with an image of the Sovereign was used to make an impression in wax for attachment by ribbon or cord to Royal documents. The seal meant that the monarch did not need to sign every official document in person; authorisation could be carried out instead by an appointed officer.



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Between 2007 and 2011 proposed Measures passed by the National Assembly for Wales were subject to “Royal Approval”.

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Separate Great Seals exist for Scotland and Northern Ireland and, from 2011, a Seal for Wales now exists.

## Royal Assent

Royal Assent is the Monarch's agreement to make a Bill into an Act of the National Assembly for Wales. Royal Assent is conferred by the Monarch signing Letters Patent under the Welsh Seal. The Monarch's agreement to give her assent to a Bill is automatic.



## Student Research

Look for examples of Seals using your school library, local library and the internet. Also research Signet Rings which were worn as jewellery and used by individuals to seal their initials or coat of arms into wax seals on important documents and letters.

## Form of Letters Patent

“ELIZABETH THE SECOND by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen Head of the Commonwealth Defender of the Faith To Our Trusty and well beloved the members of the National Assembly for Wales GREETING: FORASMUCH as one or more Bills have been passed by the National Assembly for Wales and have been submitted to Us for Our Royal Assent by the Clerk of the National Assembly for Wales in accordance with the Government of Wales Act 2006 the short Titles of which Bills are set forth in the Schedule hereto but those Bills by virtue of the Government of Wales Act 2006 do not become Acts of the National Assembly for Wales nor have effect in the Law without Our Royal Assent signified by Letters Patent under Our Welsh Seal signed with Our own hand We have therefore caused these Our Letters Patent to be made and have signed them and by them do give Our Royal Assent to those Bills which shall be taken and accepted as good and perfect Acts of the Assembly and be put in due execution accordingly COMMANDING ALSO the Keeper of Our Welsh Seal to seal these Our Letters with that Seal. IN WITNESS WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent WITNESS Ourselves at . . . the . . . day of. . . in the . . . year of Our Reign By The Queen Herself Signed with Her Own Hand.”



## 2011 New Welsh Seal

On 3 March 2011 Wales voted Yes in the Referendum on whether the National Assembly for Wales should gain further law making power. This meant that Wales needed a new Welsh Seal. The new Welsh Seal in keeping with the seal of a progressive country, is a modern one-sided seal representing the monarch and Wales. This Welsh Seal is used for new laws called Acts of the Assembly after a Bill is given Royal Assent by Her Majesty the Queen. The Government of Wales Act 2006 states that the First Minister of Wales is made Keeper of the Welsh Seal.



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2011 – New Welsh Seal There has not been a Welsh Seal since the time of Owain Glyndŵr, Prince of Wales.

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# The Great Seal of Owain Glyndŵr, Prince of Wales

Front and back of the Great Seal



Historical Wax Seals were made using a choice of three colours of wax



## Task:

Make your own seal for a person of your choice.

The seal must tell us something about the person who it belongs to

Make a list of the information you want to include on their Seal

- What is their job?
- Where do they live?
- Are they important?
- Try to use emblems or symbols.
- If the seal belongs to a film star, television star or a pop star, a family relation, someone important in your life or a special friend, how would you show this?

You must also think of a motto to put on the seal – a few words or short phrase about the person.

Write about your seal, explaining what you have drawn – and why.

Remember to make a back and a front to your individual Seal.

## Possible materials required for the task:

- Paper
- Modelling clay/compound/Plaster of Paris
- Scissors
- Mixing bowls
- Felt tip colouring pens/crayons
- Protective covering for tables etc.
- Paints
- Computer – Computer generated graphics/design
- Paintbrushes

