



Learning Activity - Progression Step 4

This resource provides learning activities for your students using People's Collection Wales. It is one of a series of nine relating to Patagonia for PS4.

Establishment of the Welsh Settlement in Patagonia

The Voyage of the Mimosa, 1865

The Native Patagonians and the Welsh Settlers

Early days in Patagonia

'Crossing the Patagonian plains': from the Camwy Valley to Cwm Hyfryd

Dark times – Floods and Emigration

Early Schools in the Welsh Settlement - Patagonia

History of the Welsh Language in Patagonia

Chapels and Churches in Patagonia



The voyage of the 'Mimosa', 1865



By Culturenet Cymru

Introduction

'... May 28 [1865], the anchor was raised and we bade farewell to the land of our birth.' Thomas Jones, Glan Camwy

Tasks and learning objectives

1. First emigrants' places of origin
2. Reasons for emigrating
3. The voyage and its difficulties
4. Write a script - The Migration
5. Landing on the beaches
6. Skills to establish a settlement
7. Richard Ellis's Journal
8. The first months in Patagonia

[Download the Collection of images and worksheets for this activity from People's Collection Wales](#)

The voyage of the 'Mimosa', 1865

' ... May 28 [1865], the anchor was raised and we bade farewell to the land of our birth.'
Thomas Jones, Glan Camwy

On 28 May 1865, the first group of Welsh emigrants began its long journey from Liverpool to Patagonia. Although many of the 150 passengers aboard the 'Mimosa' would probably have been anxious about the voyage ahead, they would also have been relieved that the waiting was over and that they were starting on their journey to South America.

No. 4
CAMBRIAN EMIGRATION OFFICE, 41, UNION STREET, LIVERPOOL.
PASSENGERS' CONTRACT TICKET.

Ship *Mimosa* of *412* tons register, is taken in Passengers at Liverpool,
for *New York* on the *15th* day of *May* 1865.

NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION
<i>Abraham Matthews</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
<i>Mary D. Jones</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Servant</i>
<i>Mary Jones</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Servant</i>
<i>John Jones</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Servant</i>

On behalf of JAMES LAMB, of Liverpool.
LIVERPOOL, *15th* day of *May* 1865.

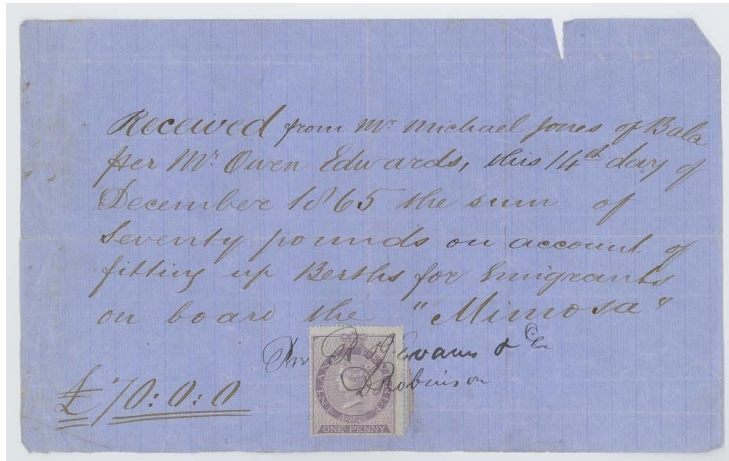
Ticket of the Rev. Abraham Matthews, a passenger on the 'Mimosa', 15 May 1865

Many of the passengers had spent over four weeks in Liverpool. The original intention had been for the 'Halton Castle' to set sail on 25 April 1865. However, at the last minute, the organisers were informed that the 'Halton Castle' had not returned from its previous voyage, and that it would not be ready to depart for Patagonia on the arranged date. Upon hearing this news, many of the passengers withdrew from the venture. Several families who waited for alternative arrangements to be made could not afford to stay in Liverpool, and they borrowed money from Michael D. Jones and his wife Anne in order to pay for food and lodging. In the meantime, the Emigration Committee hired the 'Mimosa', a small tea-clipper, to make the journey to Patagonia.

On 24 May 1865, the passengers were granted permission to board the ship. Many of them hailed from the industrial areas of Mountain Ash and Aberdare, and only a minority came from agricultural communities. As well as a number of coal miners and quarrymen, the first contingent included a schoolmaster, preachers, a builder and a doctor. Before leaving, a Council ('Cyngor y Wladychfa') was elected to govern the Settlement. The Council consisted of twelve members, and a president, secretary, treasurer and auditor were also elected. On 25 May, the captain of the 'Mimosa', a 25-year-old man named George Pepperrell, announced that the anchor was about to be lifted. Hundreds of people, including Michael D. Jones and his wife Anne, gathered on the dock to bid farewell to the passengers.

The voyage of the 'Mimosa', 1865

The Welsh banner was raised, and the passengers sung an anthem composed especially for the occasion, to the tune of 'God Save the Queen'. However, after leaving the docks, the 'Mimosa' remained on the River Mersey for three days until the wind was favourable. Finally, at four o'clock in the afternoon on 28 May, the anchor was raised and the 'Mimosa' began its voyage to Patagonia.



Receipt from Evans & Robinson, Liverpool, to the Rev. Michael D. Jones, 14 December 1865

The passengers had an eventful start to their voyage - strong winds and huge waves came crashing down on the ship soon after it left the River Mersey. The weather remained relatively calm while they crossed the Atlantic Ocean and until they reached the shores of Brazil, where the ship was caught in another storm. In addition to the bad weather, the passengers had to cope with the humdrum of life at sea, as well as the poor standard of food and accommodation. Trouble brewed on one occasion after the captain ordered that the females should all have their hair washed and shaved. Little is known of the conditions aboard the ship, but several passengers were struck ill and four children died before reaching Patagonia.



Catherine Davies and her children, who emigrated to Patagonia on the 'Mimosa', c. 1865

Occasionally, there would also be a cause for celebration on the 'Mimosa'.

On 11 June, Mary Jones, the wife of John Jones of Mountain Ash, gave birth to a son named John. On 15 June, a few days after the death of their 2-year-old son James, Aaron and Rachel Jenkins had a baby daughter named Rachel. Also on the voyage, William and Anne Lewis of Abergynolwyn were married in a ceremony officiated by the Rev. Lewis Humphreys.

Some entertainment and games were also to be had aboard the 'Mimosa'. The passengers would often share stories and sing.

As the ship crossed the equator on 28 June, many of them watched members of the crew as they celebrated this important milestone. John Seth Jones wrote an account of this event in his diary: 'Two sailors wore long fake beards, made from bits of rope; fireworks were thrown in the air; the sailors threw buckets of water over each other, &c. This practice took place tonight. Water was poured over almost all the emigrants, apart from the women and children. I had some three bucketfuls over my head as well as some water splashed here and there. I went down before they finished, this all took place before nine. I waited until dawn before going to bed, and I then stayed in bed throughout the morning. After they had thrown water, they sent rockets up in the air, and many were sent up. Then many of the more respectable members went to have drinks with the captain in the cabin, and it is said that many of them were rather drunk, but none of those whose names appear in this book.' [Translated from Welsh]

On 26 July, after almost two months at sea, a member of the crew announced that land was in sight. The ship arrived at New Bay that night and the passengers climbed to the deck to catch their first glimpse of land in the morning. The following day, another ship called 'Juno' was seen nearby, and the captain and Watkin P. Williams took a small boat to meet it. They returned to the 'Mimosa' before long, accompanied by Lewis Jones. He was immediately called upon to address the passengers, and there was much celebration. He later returned to his ship, and the 'Mimosa' sailed on before dropping anchor in the bay. A small crew of men went ashore that evening, but the remainder of the passengers waited another day for an opportunity to set foot on Patagonian soil.

Sources

R. Bryn Williams, *Y Wladfa* (Caerydd, 1962)

E. MacDonald, *Dyddiadur Mimosa* (Llanrwst, 2002)

The voyage of the 'Mimosa', 1865

Task 1. First emigrants' places of origin

Place small flags on a map of Wales to show the first emigrants' places of origin. Do you see a pattern? Try to explain.

Complete the worksheet - The First Emigrants

Task 2. Reasons for emigrating

Choose two individuals from the photograph. Write captions to explain their reasons for emigrating.

Complete the worksheet - Emigration

Task 3. The voyage and it's difficulties

What difficulties would the travellers have faced during their voyage to Patagonia?

Task 4. Write a script - The Migration

Use the fruit of your research to write a script entitled 'The Migration'.

Complete the worksheet - Script - The Migration

Task 5. Landing on the beaches

Imagine being on the first voyage to Patagonia and landing on the beaches of New Bay on the 28th July 1865. What would be your first priorities when you arrived?

Complete the worksheet - 'The Old Fort', 28 July 1890

Task 6. Skills to establish a settlement

What skills would the emigrants need in order to establish a settlement in Patagonia?

Complete the worksheet - 28 July 1865

Task 7. Richard Ellis's Journal

Read the selected entries from Richard Ellis's Journal 1865 - 1867.

Read - Richard Ellis's Journal (part 1)

Task 8. The first months in Patagonia

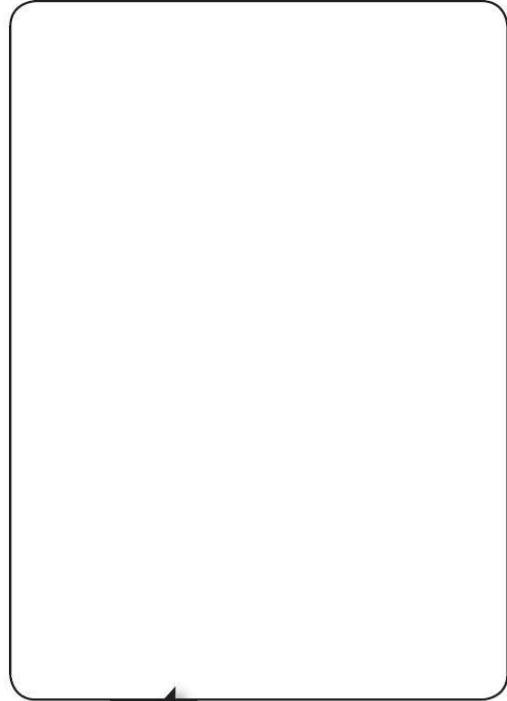
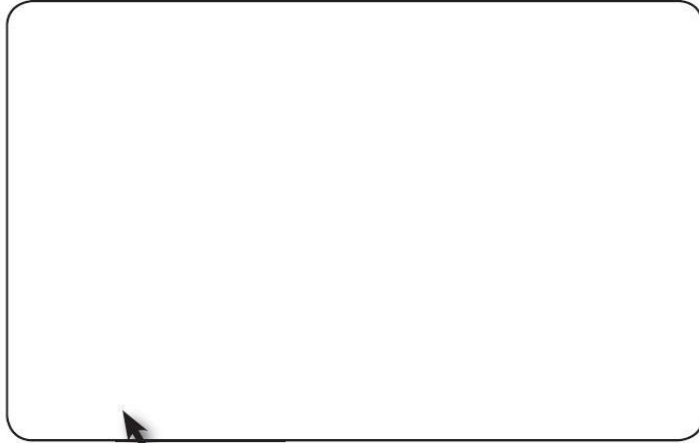
Suggest how they might have clothed and fed themselves during their first months in Patagonia.

Read - Richard Ellis's Journal (part 2)

The First Emigrants



Emigration



Choose two individuals from the picture. Write captions to explain their reasons for emigrating.

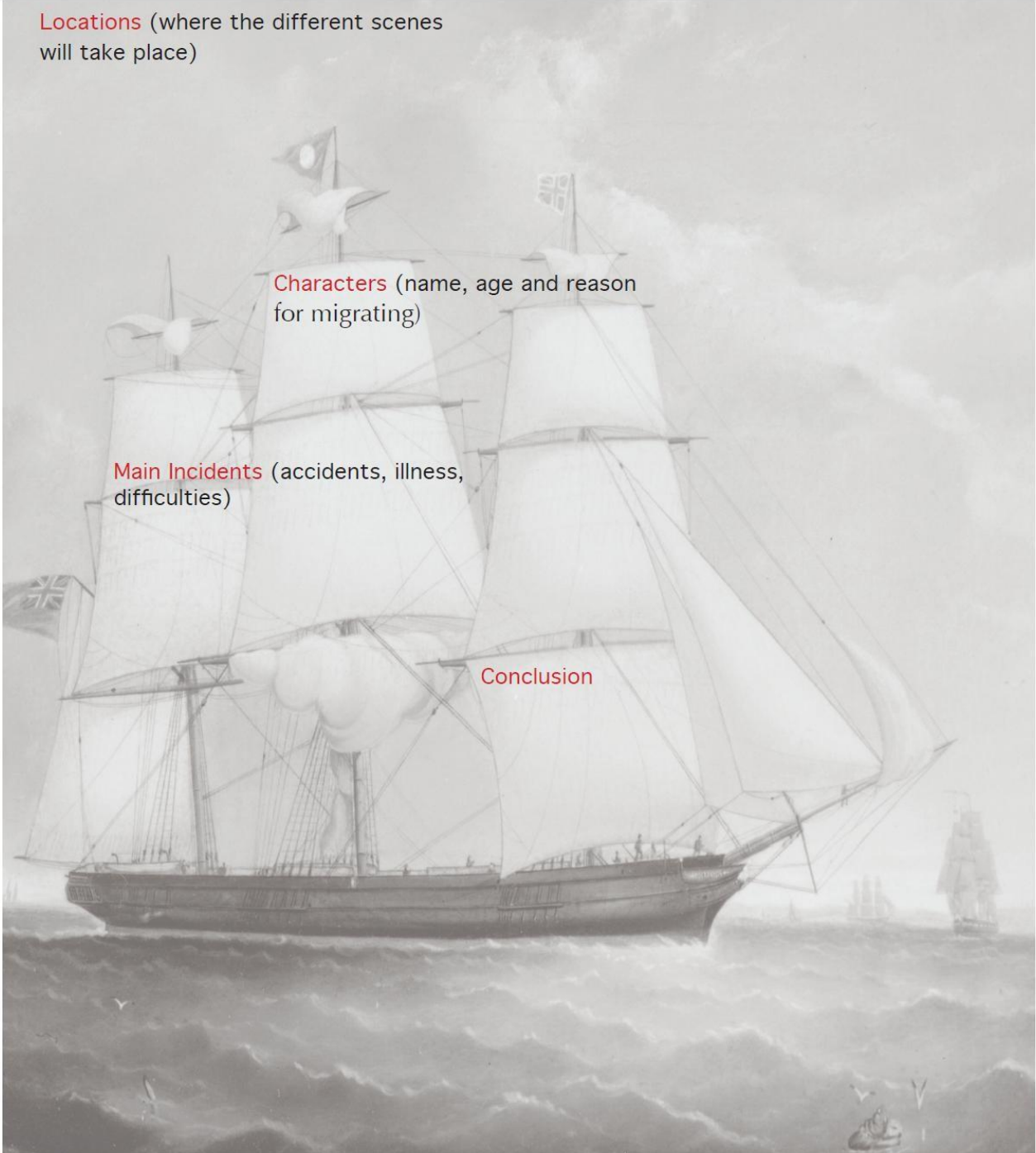
Script – The Migration

Locations (where the different scenes will take place)

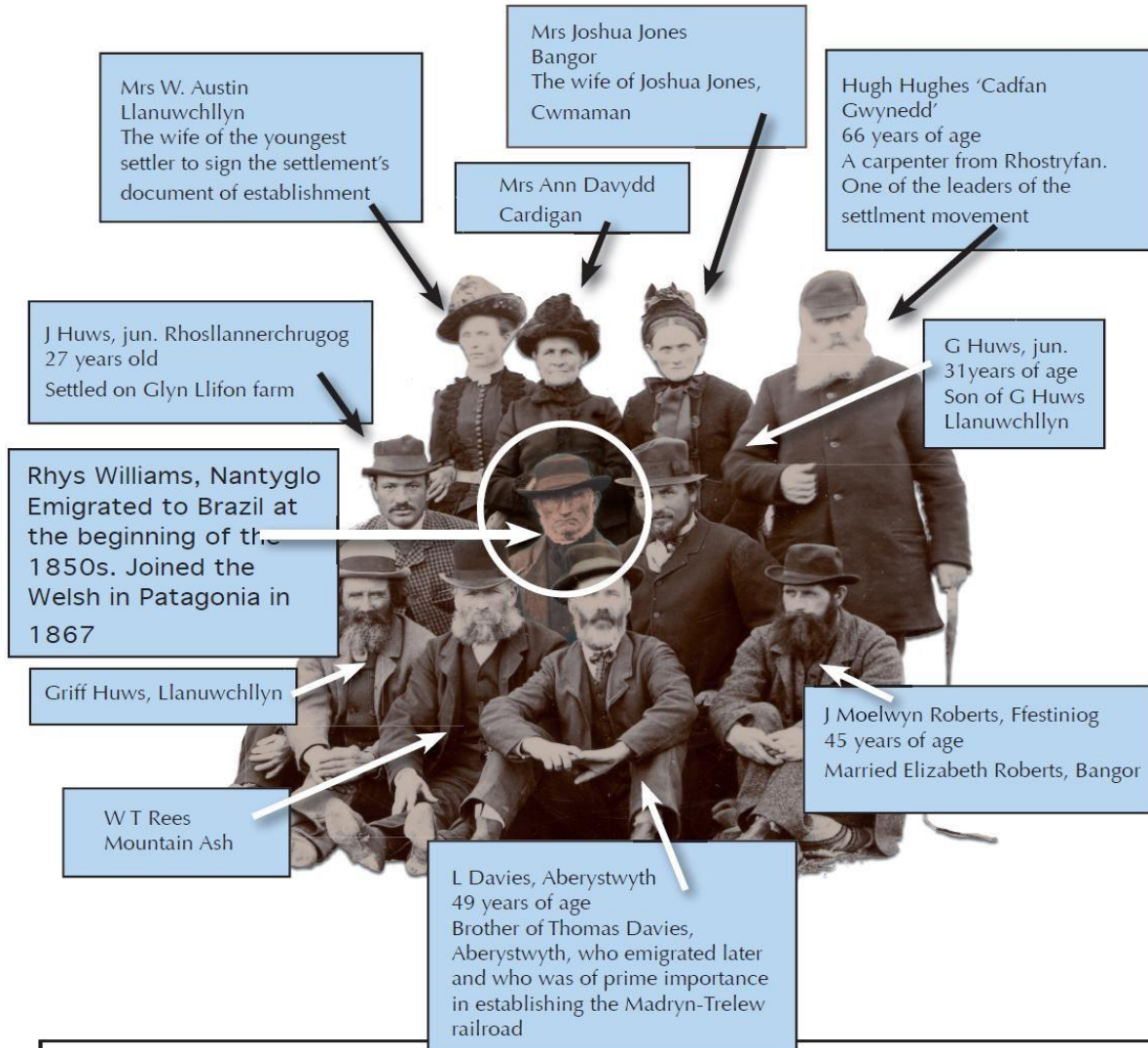
Characters (name, age and reason for migrating)

Main Incidents (accidents, illness, difficulties)

Conclusion



Some members of the first group of emigrants near 'The Old Fort', 28 July 1890



Your priorities:

28 July 1865

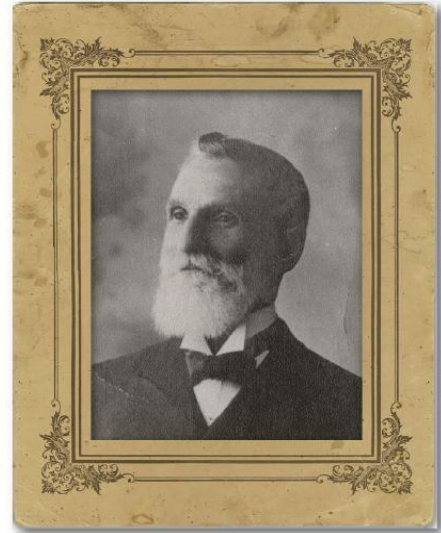
What skills would a group need to establish a settlement in Patagonia?



Skills	For what?

Richard Ellis's Journal

Richard Ellis kept this journal for 51 years, from 1865 to 1916. Though the diary contains very few details, Ellis's entries offer a glimpse of the daily life of the Welsh settlers. Some important events in the history of the Settlement are mentioned, such as the landing of the 'Mimosa' on 28 July 1865, the first visit by the indigenous people in April 1866, and the constant struggle to raise crops.



Richard Ellis's Journal

1865		Richard Ellis
13 th April	Got married	
28 th May	Left River Mersey for Patagonia for per Bark [sic] Mimosa	
28 th July	Dropped ancere [Dropped anchor] New Bay	
30 th July	Landed in Patagonia	
9 th Aug	First journey for Chupat	
12 th Aug	Came across [sic] sandstone at top of lower valley.	
14 th Aug	On 14 th reached the fort Returned on the 16 th aug reached the fort	
16 th	Aug returned	
17 th Aug	reached New Bay	
29 th Sept	Mrs Ellis and Hannah arrived at Chubut by Captain Woods schooner	
8 th Nov	Managed to get one cow	
15 th Nov	Churned the first time	
17 th Nov	Mr Wm Davies started for B. Aires	
1866 28 th Feb	Mr Wm Davies returned from B.A. with small schooner	
7 th March	Received. A nice present of a daughter Mary Anne. Baptised April 1 st by Rev Abraham Matthews	
19 th April	First visit by two Indians	
24 th April	the family encamped by Plas Heddwch	
2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th March	planted seeds	
12 th March	brother J. and self killed a puma	
17 th Aug	First tribe of Indians on south side of river	
20 th Aug	second tribe of Indians came down north side	
17 th October	J Ellis and others going on an exploring expedition	
21 st October	The frost scorching the pottatoes [sic], little trees and pomkins [pumpkins]	
9 th Dec	A Frenchman came to the colony over camp	
1867 7 th Aug	Mrs Ellis and self left New bay by small schooner for Patagones. Reached there on 11 th	

Got married on 13th Apr 1865.

Left river Mersey for Patagonia per Bark Mimosa May 28th /65

28th July Dropped Ancere in New Bay July 30th Landed in Patagonia

Aug 9th first journey for Chupat - 12 came across sandstone at top of lower valley