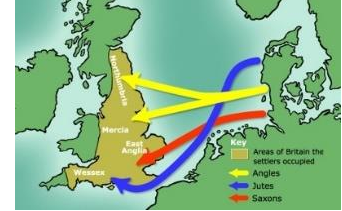
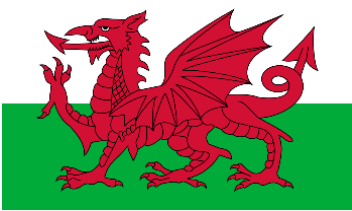


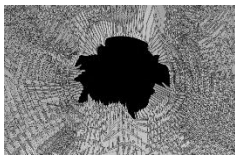


THE HISTORY OF THE WELSH DRAGON



The Welsh Dragon – which features on the green-and-white flag of Wales – has represented the Welsh national identity since Roman Britain, that is, since as far back as the 5th century CE. In those days Britain saw a **void**¹ left by the authorities of the Roman Empire, which had **crumbled down**² after conquering some of the Celtic tribes that had been inhabiting those territories for centuries. These tribes had a mythology of their own close to that of their 'French' counterparts – the Gauls. The famous King Arthur from Camelot (imagined to be somewhere in Cornwall) belongs to this **lore**³ of Celtic myths and legends in which the Welsh Dragon has its origins. The earliest record of this Dragon (red, as tradition has it) is in a collection of prose stories written in Middle Welsh in the 13th century, which narrates of a fight between this red dragon and a white one.

This fight actually was a mythologization of the clashes between the Celtic tribes native to Britain and the invading Germanic tribes arriving all the way from Northern Germany and Denmark in the 5th century – the Angles and the Saxons. The red Dragon would stand for the Celts, whereas the white one would stand for the Germanic invaders. The English (the descendants of the Angles) have been henceforth associated with the color white in national flags. The difference between the two groups is not only cultural, as it also shows in people's looks: **freckled**⁴, red- and black-haired individuals are likely to have descended from the Celts, whereas **fair-haired**⁵ and blue-eyed individuals may trace back their origins to the Angles.



1. Void



2. Crumble down



3. Lore



4. Freckles



5. Fair hair



PRONUNCIATION FUN FACT

Why is Celtic pronounced both /keltik/ and /seltic/?

Read here to learn more:

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/77222/why-there-are-two-ways-pronounce-celtic>