

IN BRIEF

Merlin and the Red Dragon is a legend about the early days of the famous magician Merlin. The story is set in Wales, and this pack is full of fun activities and cool facts about that wonderful country!



1 LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- Reading stories is a great way to learn new words! Check out the **Glossary** section to find out the meanings of any words you don't know...
- What is a symbol, and what makes Myrddin special? Check out the questions on the **Class Discussion Sheet** to start talking about this month's legend.
- The **Reading Comprehension Sheet** challenges you to spot the adjectives, verbs and adverbs in a particularly exciting extract from the story of Myrddin's adventure!
- Legends are stories that have been told and retold many times over hundreds of years. Using the **Storyboard**, have a go at writing your own version of this month's story!
- Who are the most important characters in Myrddin's tale, and what are the main conflicts that make it exciting? Work it out with the handy **Story Structure Sheet**!
- Myrddin's magic spell has mixed up this month's legend! Put the events back in the right order on the **Story Sequencing Sheet**.
- The story of 'Merlin and the Red Dragon' was the young hero's first adventure! Why not make up your own story about what happened to him next, using the **Story Cards**? Cut out the cards and start telling your new story... and draw a card whenever you want to find out who (or what!) he encounters next!
- Want to add a new twist to a story? Try telling it from another point of view! Imagine that you are Myrddin and you are writing a letter to your mum about your latest adventure on the **Myrddin's Letter Home** page! Think of how the boy would describe what happened!

2

GEOGRAPHY LESSON IDEAS

- Test your knowledge of wonderful Wales with our **Wales: True or False?** quiz! Don't worry if you don't get everything right, you can still learn a lot by reading the answers.
- Wales is one of the four countries that make up the UK! Can you match the names, capitals and flags to the countries on the **Match the Map** sheet?
- Wales is full of amazing places, and many of them have amazing legends associated with them! Find out about six of the coolest on the **Legendary Places to Visit** cards!
- Wales has its own language! Learn a few handy phrases on the **Let's Talk Welsh!** page.

3

MATHS LESSON IDEAS

- The **Myrddin Maths!** page has some sums for you to do – and you have to answer in *Welsh*! Don't worry, there is a handy table that shows you how to count to ten.

4

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY LESSON IDEAS

- One of the most famous Welsh dishes is **Welsh Rarebit** – it's a kind of extra-tasty cheese toastie! Learn how to make this delicious dinner with our recipe. Don't forget to ask a grown-up for help with the tricky bits!

5

ART LESSON IDEAS

- Make your own **dragon masks** so you can act out the great battle between the red and white dragons!
- Add a splash of colour to the Welsh dragon on the **Colour the Flag** worksheet.
- The daffodil is the flowery symbol of Wales! Learn how to create a picture of this unique blossom by following the steps on the **Draw a Daffodil** page.

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

Looking for the meanings of words you don't know? Find them all here!

Strength in Unity! (Page 6)

- ▷ **Flock** – group of birds
- ▷ **Leader** – person (or bird) in charge
- ▷ **Whir** – sound of things moving through air
- ▷ **Banyan tree** – kind of tropical tree
- ▷ **Tripwire** – wire used to set off a trap
- ▷ **Cooed** – said in a gentle birdlike way
- ▷ **Peeped out** – looked out
- ▷ **Relations** – members of his family
- ▷ **Modest** – not proud or boastful

Star Boy (Page 9)

- ▷ **Rubble** – bits of destroyed buildings
- ▷ **Encouraged** – asked in a helpful way
- ▷ **Slick** – smooth and shiny
- ▷ **Strumming** – playing by striking strings of a musical instrument
- ▷ **Gramophone** – device for playing records
- ▷ **Pestered** – asked in an annoying way
- ▷ **Jealous** – envious
- ▷ **Clumsy** – awkward and rough
- ▷ **Cheering** – shouting in excitement
- ▷ **Blown away** – very impressed
- ▷ **Generations** – different age groups

Billy Gets a Haircut (Page 14)

- ▷ **Sticky** – humid
- ▷ **Flicked** – quickly moved
- ▷ **Spin** – make thread with spinning wheel
- ▷ **Weave** – make cloth from thread or yarn
- ▷ **Yarn** – thread spun from wool or hair

Merlin and the Red Dragon (Page 16)

- ▷ **Invaders** – people who attacked
- ▷ **Gathered** – brought together
- ▷ **Wisest** – most sensible and smart
- ▷ **Stonemasons** – builders who carve stone
- ▷ **Timber** – wood for building
- ▷ **Foundation** – base of a building
- ▷ **Granite** – kind of strong stone
- ▷ **Collapsed** – fell down
- ▷ **Ceremony** – special ritual
- ▷ **Scatter** – spread
- ▷ **Amazement** – great surprise
- ▷ **Restless** – unable to stop or relax
- ▷ **Clawed** – attacked with their claws
- ▷ **Displayed** – shown

Hans-My-Hedgehog (Page 20)

- ▷ **Dwelt** – lived
- ▷ **Bundled** – wrapped
- ▷ **Crib** – bed for a baby
- ▷ **Stockings** – tight leg-coverings
- ▷ **Bagpipes** – kind of musical instrument
- ▷ **Finest** – best
- ▷ **Clearing** – open area in a forest
- ▷ **Burrow** – underground den
- ▷ **Acorns** – nuts from oak trees
- ▷ **Truffles** – fungi that grow on tree roots
- ▷ **Herd** – group of animals
- ▷ **Ninepins** – pins knocked over in bowling
- ▷ **Baron** – kind of lord
- ▷ **Thorns** – spikes on plants

Continued on page 2...

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 2

- ▷ **Your majesty** – polite way to address a king
- ▷ **Polite** – having good manners
- ▷ **Bowing** – bending over to show respect
- ▷ **Charmed** – impressed
- ▷ **Oppose** – disagree with
- ▷ **Poking** – stabbing with a pointy object

Gemma Levels Up (Page 28)

- ▷ **Wiggled** – moved like a worm or snake
- ▷ **Grind** – earn
- ▷ **Yawning** – breathing out from tiredness
- ▷ **Mumps** – virus that makes glands swell up
- ▷ **Motorway** – many-laned high-speed road
- ▷ **Cheerful** – positive and happy
- ▷ **Queasy** – a bit sick in the stomach
- ▷ **Outcrops** – rocks sticking out of the ground
- ▷ **Groves** – groups of trees
- ▷ **Rattled** – shook so they made a noise
- ▷ **Musty** – damp or old
- ▷ **Knuckles** – bony bumps at the base of her fingers
- ▷ **Sleepyhead** – person who sleeps too long
- ▷ **Wilderness** – wild area of land
- ▷ **Gorse** – type of bush with many thorns

The Second Voyage of Sinbad (Page 33)

- ▷ **Fortune** – a lot of money
- ▷ **Luxury** – great comfort
- ▷ **Pleasant** – very nice
- ▷ **Nasty** – unpleasant
- ▷ **Marooned** – left behind by a ship
- ▷ **Shelter** – a place to stay and rest
- ▷ **Monstrous** – huge and terrifying
- ▷ **Turban** – cloth worn wrapped around head
- ▷ **Descend** – go downwards
- ▷ **Crater** – large roundish hole in ground
- ▷ **Glittery** – shining
- ▷ **Rumbling** – loud ongoing noise
- ▷ **Slithered** – moved by wriggling its body
- ▷ **Talons** – bird's claws
- ▷ **Bedraggled** – dirty and untidy-looking

Yellow Lily (Page 38)

- ▷ **Mists** – clouds
- ▷ **Nervously** – in a slightly scared way
- ▷ **Brooch** – jewellery pinned to clothes
- ▷ **Forbidding** – frightening
- ▷ **Gambled** – made a bet
- ▷ **Prisoner** – person who is locked up
- ▷ **Curiously** – in a questioning way
- ▷ **Manure** – animal poo
- ▷ **Haystacks** – piles of dry grass
- ▷ **Fetch** – get
- ▷ **Muttered** – said to himself
- ▷ **Overjoyed** – very happy

CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

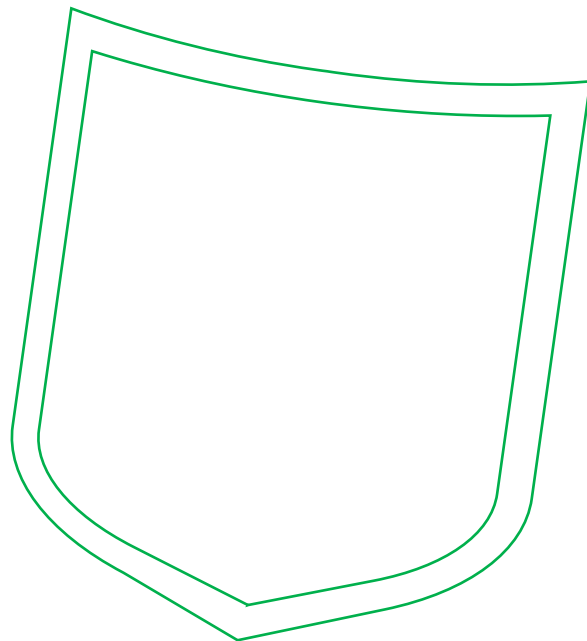
TEXT QUESTIONS

Use the questions below to start a talk about Myrddin, Vortigern and the importance of symbols!

1. In many legends, older characters are shown as being wiser than younger characters because they have more knowledge and experience. What's different about Myrddin in this story?
2. Vortigern is a strong warrior – but can you think of one thing he does in the story that proves he is also a wise king?
3. What special powers or abilities does Myrddin seem to have in the story?
4. A *symbol* is something that represents something else. What two monsters in this story are also symbols for something else?
5. Objects, animals and mythical creatures can all be symbols. What are some symbols that you can think of?

DRAW IT!

What would be a great symbol for the town or city you come from?
Draw it on this shield!



Answers: 1. In this legend, young Merlin is actually wiser than the king's elderly advisors! 2. Vortigern is wise enough to listen to what young Myrddin has to say and gives him a chance to prove that what he says is true! 3. Myrddin seems to have the ability to sense things that other people cannot (like the dragons under the hill). He may also be able to tell the future, as he mentions that he will serve another king when he grows up. 4. The red dragon is a symbol of the people of Britain, and the white dragon is a symbol of the Saxons.

READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

Can you identify adjectives, adverbs and punctuation in this exciting extract from this month's legend?

The two beasts suddenly awoke and began attacking each other. It was an incredible battle! The monsters clawed and wrestled and made great waves in the lake. In the end, though, the red dragon was victorious, and the white one crawled away to the east.

'And now, what does that mean?' Vortigern asked Myrddin.

1. An **adverb** is a word that describes *how* a character did something. Which word in the first sentence of the extract is an adverb?
2. There are three **verbs** (doing words) in the second sentence – which ones are they?
3. One of the three verbs in the second sentence is based on a noun. Can you work out what that noun is?
4. Which adjective tells you the red dragon won the battle? (**Clue:** it begins with a 'v'...)
5. Which piece of punctuation tells us that Vortigern is asking a question?

ADJECTIVE ACTION!

There are four adjectives listed below that describe Myrddin. Can you write in adjectives that means the opposite of these words?

YOUNG: _____

CLEVER: _____

CONFIDENT: _____

WISE: _____

Answers: Suddenly is an adverb. 2. Clawed, wrestled and made. 3. Clawed comes from the noun claw. 4. The word 'victorious', which means 'having won a victory'. 5. The question mark (?) at the end of the sentence. **Adjective Action!** – the opposites of the listed words could be: old, stupid, shy, and silly.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

MERLIN AND THE RED DRAGON: STORYBOARD



The legend of 'Merlin and the Red Dragon' has been retold many times over the centuries. Write your own version under the pictures below!

1



2



3



4



NAME _____

CLASS _____

STORY STRUCTURE SHEET

Where is the story set?

When is the story set?

Who are the main characters in the story?

What is the main problem in the story?

What is the solution?

How does the story end?

NAME _____

CLASS _____

LEGENDS AND LEGENDS: MERLIN AND THE RED DRAGON



STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

Myrddin has used his magic to mix up this month's legend. Put the events back in order!

Myrddin took the king beneath the hill, where they saw the red dragon drive the white dragon away.

Vortigern sent his warriors out to look for a fatherless boy. One found a lad without a father, and asked who he was.

The magicians told the king that he should find a fatherless boy, who was needed for a ritual which would strengthen the castle.

The builders rebuilt the foundation, but the next morning, it had collapsed again. Vortigern asked his magicians what he should do.

Vortigern summoned his wisest magicians. He told them to give him advice about how to stop the Saxons.

Myrddin told Vortigern that two dragons were sleeping beneath the hill, and their movements had made the king's castle fall down.

A long time ago, Britain was ruled by a great king called Vortigern – but his kingdom was invaded by fierce warriors called the Saxons.

The wise men told the king that he should build a mighty castle on top of a tall hill in Wales.

The king had his best builders create a foundation for the castle, but the next morning, they discovered that it had collapsed.

The boy said that the red dragon represented the Britons, and its victory was a sign that they would beat the Saxons.

The king offered Myrddin a job as his advisor, but he refused. He would grow up to become Merlin, King Arthur's court magician.

The boy introduced himself as Myrddin, and the warrior took him back to Vortigern.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

STORY CARDS

This month's legend is about Myrddin's very first adventure. What do you think happened to him after he left Vortigern's castle? Use these cards for inspiration when making up a story about what happened next!



MYRDDIN



MAGICIAN



VORTIGERN

WHITE DRAGON



RED DRAGON



VORTIGERN'S CASTLE



Imagine that you are Myrddin, and you are writing a letter to your mother about what happened when you were taken to see King Vortigern! What do you think the young magician would tell her?

[illegible]

© storytimemagazine.com 2021

CLASS

WALES: TRUE OR FALSE?

Test your knowledge of Wales and its history with this tricky true-or-false quiz. Some of the answers will surprise you!



1. Snowdon is the tallest mountain in the UK.

TRUE

FALSE

2. The national vegetable of Wales is the leek.

TRUE

FALSE

3. There are more than 600 castles in Wales.

TRUE

FALSE

4. Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch in Wales has the longest single-word place name in the world.

TRUE

FALSE

5. Wales is ruled by the Prince of Wales.

TRUE

FALSE

6. Saint David is the patron saint of Wales.

TRUE

FALSE

7. Football is Wales's national sport.

TRUE

FALSE

8. The 'equals' sign (=) was invented by a Welsh person.

TRUE

FALSE

Answers: 1. False! Snowdon is the tallest mountain in Wales – but the tallest mountain in the UK is Ben Nevis in Scotland. 2. True! 3. True – many of them were built by the Normans when they invaded Britain. 4. False. A hill in New Zealand has a longer name – it's Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaputuripukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu. 5. False – 'Prince of Wales' is a title used by Prince Charles, but he does not rule Wales. 6. True! 7. False – it's rugby. 8. True! It was first used by Welsh mathematician Robert Recorde in the 1500s.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

MATCH THE MAP!

Wales is one of the four countries that make up the UK. Can you colour in the map and then write in the numbers for each country's name, capital city and flag?




Countries:

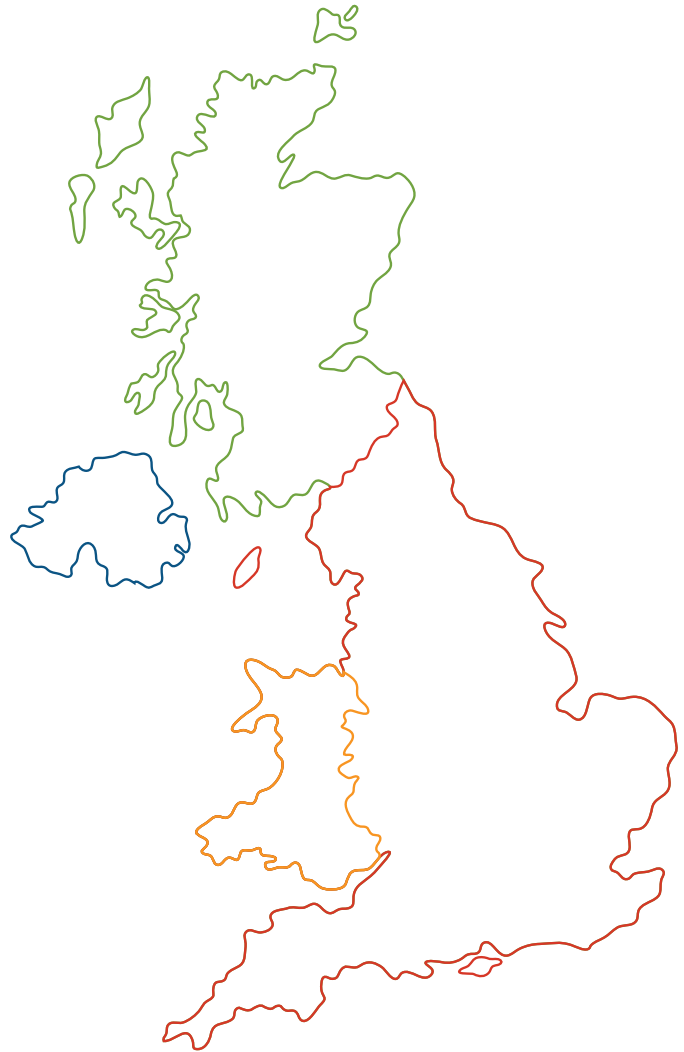
1. England
2. Wales
3. Scotland
4. Northern Ireland

Capitals:

5. Edinburgh
6. Cardiff
7. Belfast
8. London

Flags:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 9.  | 11.  |
| 10.  | 12.  |



UNION JACK



The Union Jack (also called the 'Union Flag') is the flag of the United Kingdom, and it combines the flags of England and Scotland and Saint Patrick's Saltire, which represents Northern Ireland. When the flag was created, Wales was part of the Kingdom of England – so the English flag represents both countries. Do you think the flag might look even better with a proud Welsh dragon on it, too?

LEGENDARY PLACES TO VISIT!

Wales has lots of wonderful places to visit – and many have spooky or thrilling legends about them! Here are our top six...



Dinas Emrys

What is it?

The famous hill where Vortigern tried to build his castle. Myrddin knew that two dragons were sleeping beneath it!

Where is it?

In Snowdonia National Park.

Legends say... Myrddin buried a great treasure in a cave near the hill!

Snowdon

What is it?

The tallest mountain in Wales – it's 1,085 metres high!

Where is it?

In Snowdonia National Park.

Legends say... it is actually the burial mound of the giant Rhitta Gaw, who was defeated by King Arthur!

Powis Castle

What is it?

A very large and grand castle dating back to the 13th century.

Where is it?

Conwy, north Wales.

Legends say... This castle is haunted by two ghostly monks. Stay there at your peril!

Devil's Bridge

What is it?

A set of three bridges (they are stacked one above the other!)

Where is it?

Ceredigion, central Wales.

Legends say... the Devil built the bottom bridge as part of a deal with an old lady – but she tricked him!

Anglesey

What is it?

A beautiful island, popular with windsurfers and kite-flyers!

Where is it?

Off the north-eastern corner of Wales.

Legends say... it was the headquarters of the druids, the priests and wise men of the ancient Celtic tribes.

Forest of Borth

What is it?

A forest of fossil trees.

Where is it?

Outside Borth, central Wales.

Legends say... it is all that remains of a sunken kingdom named Cantre'r Gwaelod. Some people called it 'the Welsh Atlantis'!

LET'S TALK WELSH!

Almost everybody in Wales speaks English, but many also speak their own language! Here are some handy Welsh words and phrases to try...

ENGLISH: Hello

WELSH: Shwmae

HOW TO SAY IT: Shoo-my

ENGLISH: Please

WELSH: Os gwelwch yn dda

HOW TO SAY IT: Oss gwail-loo-chun-tha

ENGLISH: Thank you

WELSH: Diolch

HOW TO SAY IT: Dee-olch

ENGLISH: Goodbye

WELSH: Hwyl fawr

HOW TO SAY IT: Hoo-yl vah-ur

ENGLISH: Welcome!

WELSH: Croeso!

HOW TO SAY IT: Knoy sow!

ENGLISH: Wales

WELSH: Cymru

HOW TO SAY IT: Kum-ree

Answer in Welsh!

Which Welsh words would you use to reply to these three questions?

Hi! Nice to meet you!

Here is your lunch!

Bye! Thank you for visiting!

Answers: Red: Shwmae! Green: Diolch! Blue: Hwyl

LEGENDS AND LEGENDS: MERLIN AND THE RED DRAGON



MYRDDIN MATHS!

88% of Wales is used for farming!



Imagine that you are Myrddin, and you have been given the job of adding up the groups of animals below! Be sure to write your answer in Welsh, using the table below for guidance.

1 – un
2 – dau
3 – tri
4 – pedwar

5 – pump
6 – chwech
7 – saith
8 – wyth

9 – naw
10 – deg

A

+
=

B

x
=

C

-
=

D

÷
=

E

+
=

Answers: A. chwech, B. pedwar, C. pedwar, D. un, E. naw.

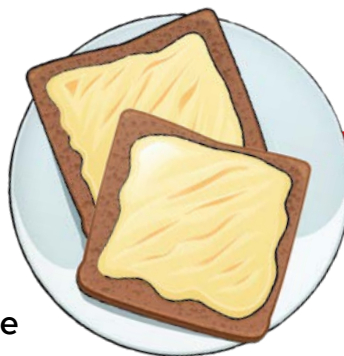
NAME _____ CLASS _____

ASK A
GROWN-UP!

WELSH RAREBIT

YOU WILL NEED:

- ☆ 1 egg plus 1 extra yolk
- ☆ 30g butter
- ☆ 30g flour
- ☆ 1/2 cup milk
- ☆ 120g grated Cheddar cheese
- ☆ 1 teaspoon mustard (or less!)
- ☆ 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- ☆ 2 thick slices of bread



TOP TIP!

To make a rarebit toastie, put the cheese mixture between slices of bread and grill both sides of the sandwich!

HOW TO MAKE IT:

1. Break an egg into a bowl. Then crack another egg and add just the yolk to the bowl as well.
2. In a pan, melt the butter over a gentle heat. Then, add the flour and whisk until the mixture turns a golden yellow. Add the milk a bit at the time, mixing it in with the whisk.
3. Add the cheese to the saucepan and whisk until it melts. Mix in the mustard and Worcestershire sauce.
4. Take the cheese sauce off the heat, and then add the beaten egg and yolk to the saucepan. Whisk until the sauce is well combined.
5. Turn on the oven or grill and toast the two slices of bread.
6. Place the pieces of toast on a plate and pour half of the cheese mixture onto each one.
7. Put the pieces of toast under the grill or in the oven on medium heat. When the cheese mixture is bubbling, it's ready! Let it cool down a bit before eating.

TIPS FOR SERVING:

- ☆ Sprinkle some paprika on top.
- ☆ Serve a crunchy pickle on the side.
- ☆ If you are extra-hungry, put a fried egg on top of your rarebit!

MERLIN AND THE RED DRAGON: RED DRAGON MASK



MERLIN AND THE RED DRAGON: WHITE DRAGON MASK



COLOUR THE FLAG

Brighten up the cool
Welsh flag on this
page with red (for
the dragon) and green
(for the ground)!

DID YOU KNOW?

Only three countries
have a dragon on their
flags: Wales, Malta
and Bhutan!



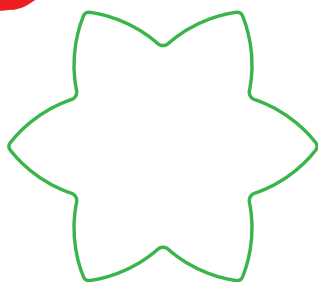
NAME _____

CLASS _____

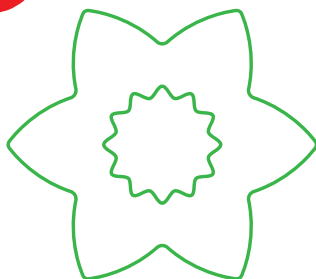
DRAW A DAFFODIL

The daffodil is the national flower of Wales. Follow the steps below to draw one of your own. Most daffodils are yellow, but you can colour yours in however you like!

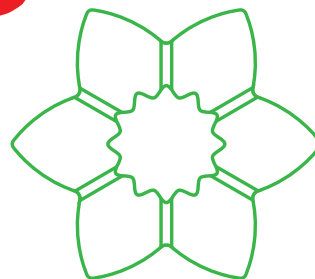
1



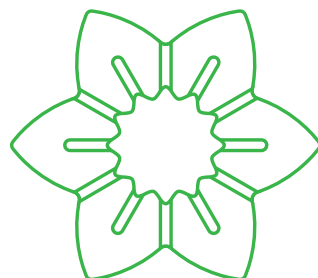
2



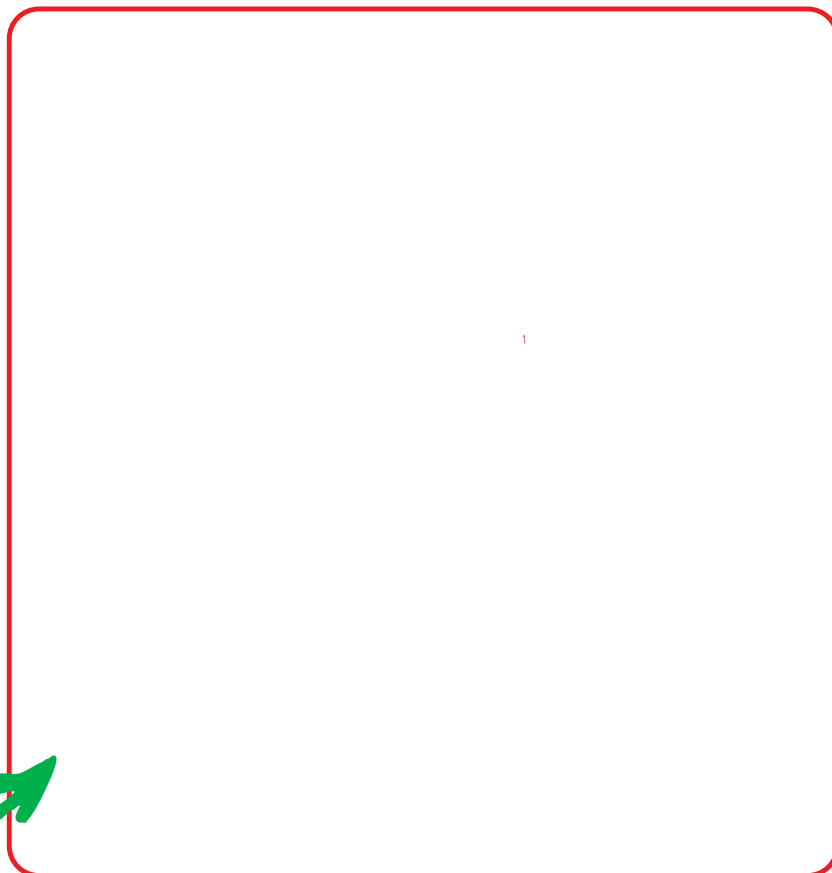
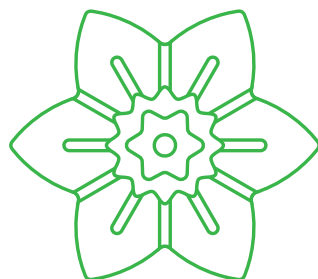
3



4



5



NAME _____

CLASS _____