

Futures Thinking



Futures Thinking

Learning through
international links in 40
and 200 years time



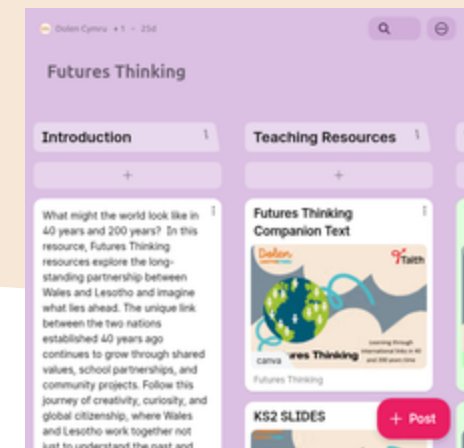
Futures Thinking

This teaching & learning resource is funded by Taith and made in consultation with the Futures Generations Commissioner for Wales

This resource is intended to help learners understand the concept of Futures Thinking and how to apply it to any context. This example of looking at the future of the Wales Lesotho link in 40 and 200 years can be substituted with any scenario.



Scan the QR code or click below to view the Futures Thinking Padlet - add your pupils work & join our global community of learners



Acknowledgements

Developed in partnership by Taith and Dolen Cymru Lesotho, this resource is informed by the voices and lived experiences of communities, educators, and young people in Wales and Lesotho.

Funded by the Welsh Government

2025-6.

Futures Thinking

Presentation - KS2 Classes

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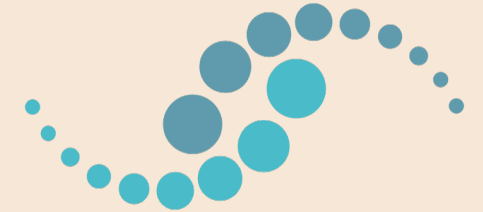
KS2 slides

Futures Thinking

Click below for Year 4 to 11 Teacher Packs:



FUTURES THINKING



In an ever changing world it is impossible to predict the future but thinking long term (further ahead) can prepare us for uncertainties, build resilience and create positive visions of the future.

Objectives

- 1.To understand the meaning of 'Futures Thinking'
- 2.Create imaginative visions of what the linking between the two countries will look like in 200 years



THIS PRESENT
MOMENT
USED TO BE
THE UNIMAGINED
FUTURE



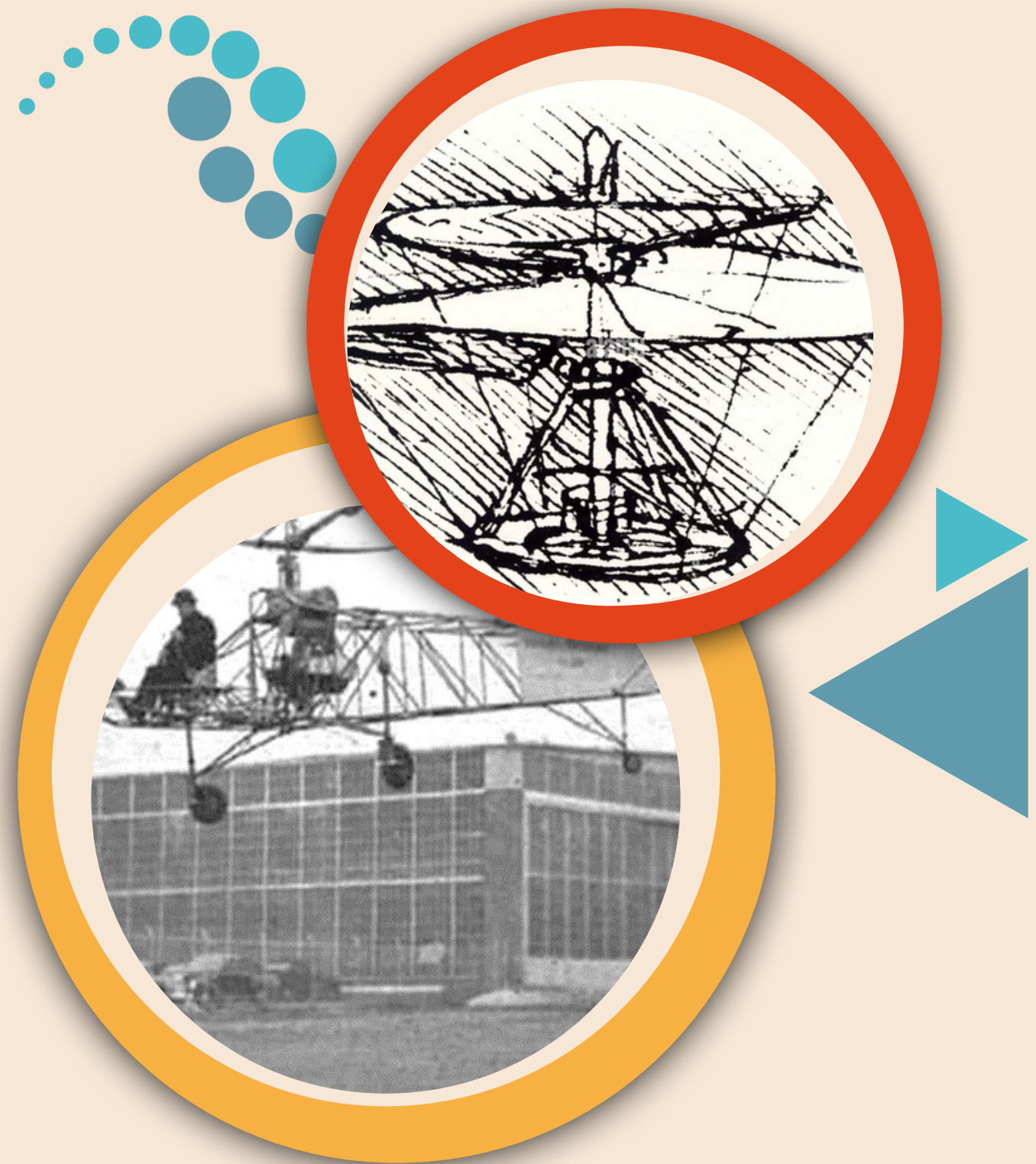
WHY IS LONG TERM THINKING IMPORTANT?

- It can help us to avoid ‘just letting things happen to us’
 - It can help avoid decisions that we have to undo the next day
 - It can help deal with uncertainty (some things happen that we have no control over) and build resilience into our character that helps us overcome difficulties
 - It can help us take action in difficult situations where we can no longer rely on what has happened in the past
 - It can help us bring about systemic change (e.g. government) and create a vision for the future to work towards
- 



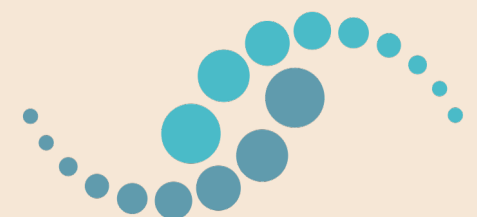
**When Leonardo Da Vinci drew
this 'helicopter' design over 500
years ago it would have been
considered impossible.**

**However, the first helicopter,
built by Vought-Sikorsky, took
flight in September 1939.**



FUTURES THINKING QUESTION

What will the future of the linking between Wales and Lesotho look like in 40 years and 200 years time?



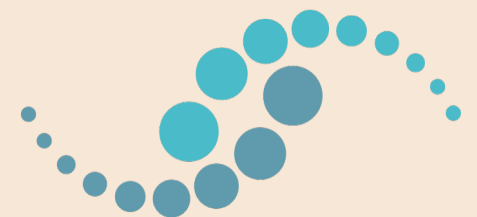
WALES 200 YEARS AGO-INDUSTRIALISATION

The Past

In 1804, the world's first steam locomotive, ran for the first time along the tramway of the Penydarren Ironworks in Merthyr Tydfil, contributing to a boom in coal mining and ironworking in Wales, as well as other metal industries. As a result Welsh towns expanded quickly, becoming dirty and overcrowded in the early 19th century, leading to outbreaks of cholera. In the Welsh countryside from 1842 to 1844, there was unrest in the form of riots known as the Rebecca Riots. Protests were made against tollgates, many of which were owned by Turnpike Trusts, where payment was required for use.



Nant Y Glo. peoplescollection.wales



WALES 200 YEARS AGO-WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE?

Imagine The Past

How did people travel?

What were the main types of work?

Did children go to school?

If so what do you think they learnt?

What did people live in?

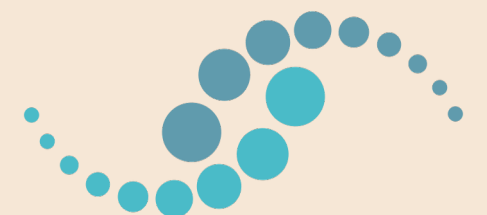
What clothes were worn?



<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>



Dolen Cymru Lesotho - St Fagan's

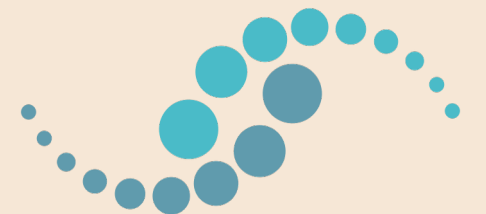


WALES-PRESENT DAY

How has life changed over the last 200 years?

Look at the images to understand how life has changed in Wales. Consider the following:

- Education
- Transport
- Tourism
- Leisure activities
- Sports facilities
- Government
- Housing
- Employment
- Technology



LESOTHO AND WALES LINK IN 40 YEARS TIME-THE FUTURE

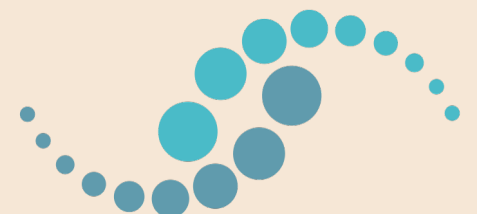
By looking at the past and comparing the present it is clear to see how much has changed over 200 years.

IMAGINE YOUR FUTURE IN 40 YEARS TIME

We cannot predict the future but we can take steps to create a better future for everyone.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAPPEN WITH THE LINKING? THINK BIG!

- Make a list of your hopes and dreams with a partner
- Teachers consider using some of the suggested activities on the next slides to inspire learners.
- Select some case studies of inspiring Basotho people who are making a difference to their lives and others.



GAMES FOR THE IMAGINATION

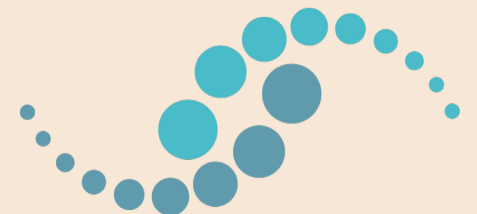
Fortune Telling

This silly role play will get your students talking about one another's futures. If you can, bring in a prop that supposedly has magical powers to predict the future: a crystal ball, a magic mirror, tea leaves, or magical cards. Bring two students to the front of the classroom for a creative role play.

Have one student play the fortune teller and look into the magical object or at their partner's palm. They must then make predictions about the person's future based on what they "see". The customer should ask questions about their future as well. Encourage students to be creative and have fun. Once the role play is over, bring another pair to the front for a new role play or have players switch roles. If you like, extend the activity by having each person write about what the fortune teller said using reported speech.

Story Stoppers

Use simple fairy tales to help your students practice using the simple future. Tell them a traditional story but stop before the resolution to the problem. Have your students predict what will happen at the end of the story. You can also use this technique with any literature you may be reading in class.



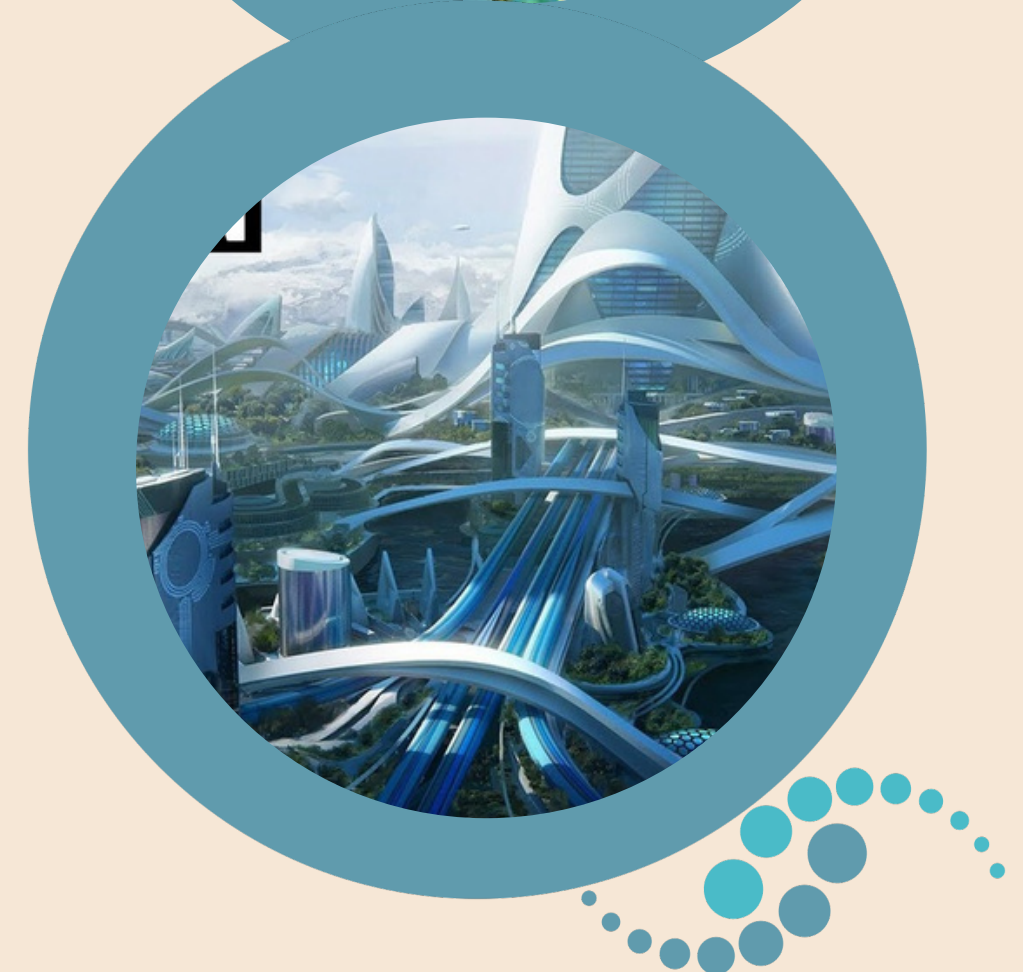
LESOTHO/WALES-THE FUTURE IN 200 YEARS TIME

WHAT IS DIFFERENT? BETTER AND WORSE?

EVEN WHEN THINGS ARE GOOD WE NEED TO SUSTAIN THEM. HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

WHEN THINGS ARE BAD WE NEED TO CHANGE THEM.

- **Create a table of positive & negative things with ideas of how to change them. How could the linking with your partner country help?**
- **Use the themes on the next slide to help you make a list**



Futures Thinking Themes

**USE THE THEMES TO HELP YOU
CREATE SOME VISIONS OF
WHAT THE LINK WILL LOOK
LIKE BETWEEN BOTH
COUNTRIES IN 200 YEARS TIME**

Which one is important to you?



EXAMPLES

The goal-is something you want to happen

The action-is the future thinking vision that can potentially achieve it.

Theme	The Goal	The action
Technology	People live longer because they are healthier and serious illnesses are detected and treated sooner.	Both nations collaborate to develop equipment that can diagnose illnesses straight away and medicine that cures them.
Environment	Eliminate the possibilities of drought to reduce crop failures and loss of income	Collaborate with Welsh partners to create an agricultural fertiliser that reverses the effects of climate change
Economic	Both currencies have equal value	Create a financial institution with Welsh partners that regulates exchange rates
Political	Quality products that are affordable and pay producers a liveable wage	Campaign both governments with Welsh partners to sign a Fair-Trade agreement with no import/export tariffs.
Cultural	A world where everyone's cultural practices are enjoyed, respected and integrated into their own culture	Create an inclusive community with Welsh partners that celebrate each other's culture with regular activities taking place in both countries
Social	People from both nations can travel and live in Wales and Lesotho freely	Create an educational organisation with Welsh partners that makes international collaboration as compulsory in the curriculum
Legal	No visas required for both countries	Create a system with Welsh partners that enables free movement between the two countries

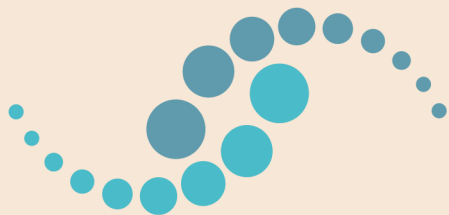
ACTIONS

- Select a theme
- Think of a goal
- Write the action as your vision for the linking between Wales and Lesotho in 200 years

For example:
In 200 years time I would like to work with my partners to create life saving medical equipment for all cancers, that is free and accessible to everyone



SECONDARY SCHOOL IDEAS



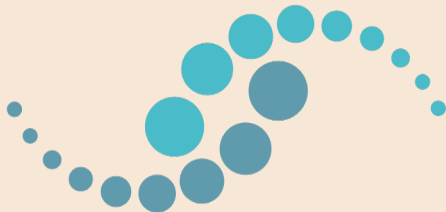
Use the goals below and encourage students to create their own actions.

OR

Encourage students to create their own goals and actions

Theme	The Goal	The action
Technology	People are healthier and live longer because medicine and equipment detect illnesses quicker	
Environment	Eliminate the possibilities of drought to reduce crop failures and loss of income	
Economic	Both currencies have equal value	
Political	Quality products that are affordable and pay producers a liveable wage	
Cultural	A world where everyone’s cultural practices are enjoyed, respected and integrated into their own culture	
Social	People from both nations can travel and live in Wales and Lesotho freely	
Legal	No visas required for both countries	

Theme	The Goal	The action
Technology		
Environment		
Economic		
Political		
Cultural		
Social		
Legal		



PRIMARY SCHOOL IDEAS

Use the simple goals below and encourage students to create their own actions

OR

Encourage students to create their own goals and actions

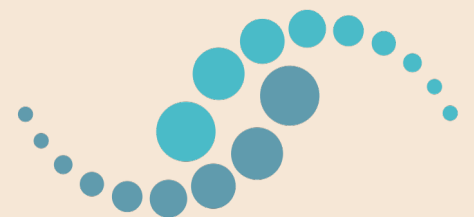
Theme	The Goal	The action
Technology	Medical equipment helps people live longer	
Environment	Crops do not fail because of droughts	
Economic	Both countries use the same money	
Political	Everybody can afford to buy what they need	
Cultural	Both countries share their different cultures throughout the year	
Social	Basotho and Welsh people can live in each other's country for free	
Legal	No need for visas or passports	

Think Big!

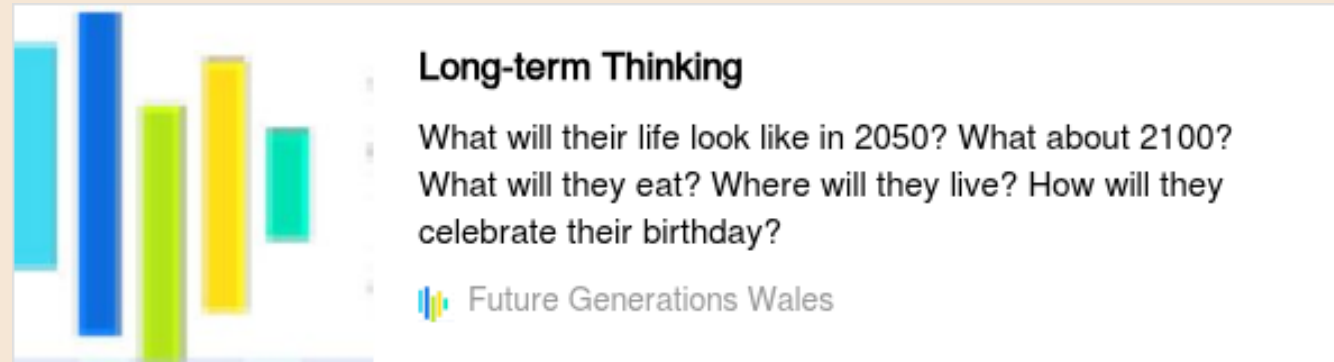
REMEMBER DA VINCI'S HELICOPTER?

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER



Do you want to know more?



<https://futuregenerations.wales/do/tools/long-term-thinking/>



Co-funded by the European Union

unicef
for every child

IOM
UN MIGRATION

Welcome to
Youth Power Hub

Youth transforming decision-making

#YouthPowerHub #YouthinLesotho

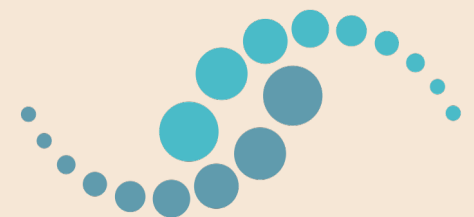
Lesotho Youth Power Hub

An innovative youth incubation program to increase the participation and influence of young people in the local development process and policy advocacy

unicef.org

A poster for the 'Youth Power Hub' in Lesotho. It features logos for the European Union, UNICEF, and IOM at the top. The main text reads 'Welcome to Youth Power Hub' and 'Youth transforming decision-making'. Below this are the hashtags #YouthPowerHub and #YouthinLesotho. The bottom section is titled 'Lesotho Youth Power Hub' and describes it as an innovative youth incubation program. The UNICEF website is listed at the bottom.

UNICEF Lesotho



FURTHER LINKS



Better Futures Wales: Community Foresight project

A pilot project working with three communities in Wales to imagine and plan for 'Better Futures'. The Better Futures Wales Project is a six-month project funded by the National Lottery Emerging Futures Fund (ending on 31 March 2021).

WCVA

better-futures-wales-



St Fagans National Museum of History

Visit us for free, near Cardiff; enjoy Wales' history in our park, farm and traditional cottages. A place to enjoy nature with plenty of things to do, on the outskirts of just outside the Welsh capital.

Museum Wales

<https://museum.wales/stfagans/>



Home

Designed to support politicians and public body leaders in making life better for people and planet now and in the future.

Future Generations Wales

<https://futuregenerations.wales>



[Podcast of these slides](#)



Heritage History Art And Culture | Morija Museum And Archives | Morija

Visit Morija Museum & Archives to learn about the History, Heritage, Arts & Culture of the people of Lesotho as well as thousands of archival documents and research from Lesotho's oldest surviving museum and archives.

Museum

<https://www.morijamuseum.org>



FUTURES PROJECT, 2025



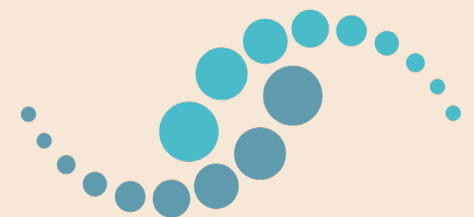
[Taith Pathway 2 Project Overview](#)



[Final project case study 2025](#)



[Future Visions Film, Lesotho](#)



FEEDBACK



Learning Together, Improving Together

This resource grows through shared experience. Scan to help shape the next edition.



[Feedback survey](#)