

The legend of Gelert: a story of loyalty and love

Gelert was the finest, biggest and bravest of all Prince Llewellyn's hunting dogs. Yet despite his strength and skill, he had never been able to catch the wild wolf that lived in the depths of the forest.

One day Prince Llewellyn was out hunting with his wife and friends. The couple had left their baby son in the care of a nurse and were just about to return home when Gelert halted in his tracks, sniffed the air and started to bark. Suddenly he raced off in the direction of the castle, despite Prince Llewellyn's attempts to call him back.

When the hunting party reached home, the child's nurse greeted them, grief stricken. "Please forgive me," she sobbed, "I only left the child for a moment... and then the dog..." As she spoke Gelert ran up to them, frothing at the mouth. He was panting loudly and patches of fresh blood smeared his coat.

When Prince Llewellyn and his wife rushed into the child's chamber they were dumb struck. Furniture was turned over, tapestries had been ripped from the walls, and there was blood everywhere. In the centre of the room the child's crib was standing upside down, and the baby's blankets were torn. "Where is my baby?" screamed Prince Llewellyn's wife. "What has happened to our baby son?"

Prince Llewellyn looked at the damaged bedclothes and the blood-stained dog. He flew into a rage. "You evil dog," he shouted at Gelert, "You have killed my son." He drew his sword and plunged it deep into the animal. Gelert slumped to the floor next to the

crib and, after one last look at his master, died.

For a while all was silent. Then the couple heard the soft whimper of a small child. Prince Llewellyn's wife rushed over to the crib and, turning it the right way up again, saw her baby son completely unharmed lying on the floor. There also, close by and covered by blankets and tapestry, she found the body of a huge wolf – the wolf Gelert had fought and beaten.

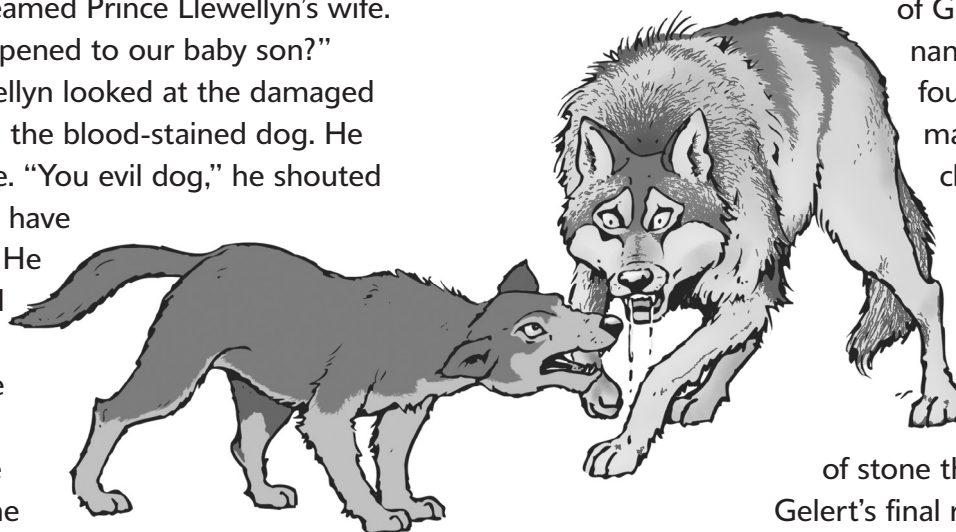
Too late, Prince Llewellyn realised what he had done. Gelert was not a dangerous killer dog, but a hero. He had raced away from the hunt when he caught the scent of the wolf. The brave dog had fought an animal far bigger and fiercer in order to save his master's child.

"Brave Gelert, you did not deserve this," said the Prince. He turned to his men. "Take my loyal and faithful friend. We shall give him a burial that is fitting for such a courageous dog." The men carried Gelert away and buried him in a green field close to the castle. A stone was placed at the spot so that everyone who passed would know of Gelert's story.

Much time has passed and towns, villages and roads cover the area where Gelert hunted with his master. One of these villages is named Beddgelert, which, in Welsh, means 'grave

of Gelert'. The name can be found on a map of Wales close to Mt Snowdon, and visitors to the village can still see the slab

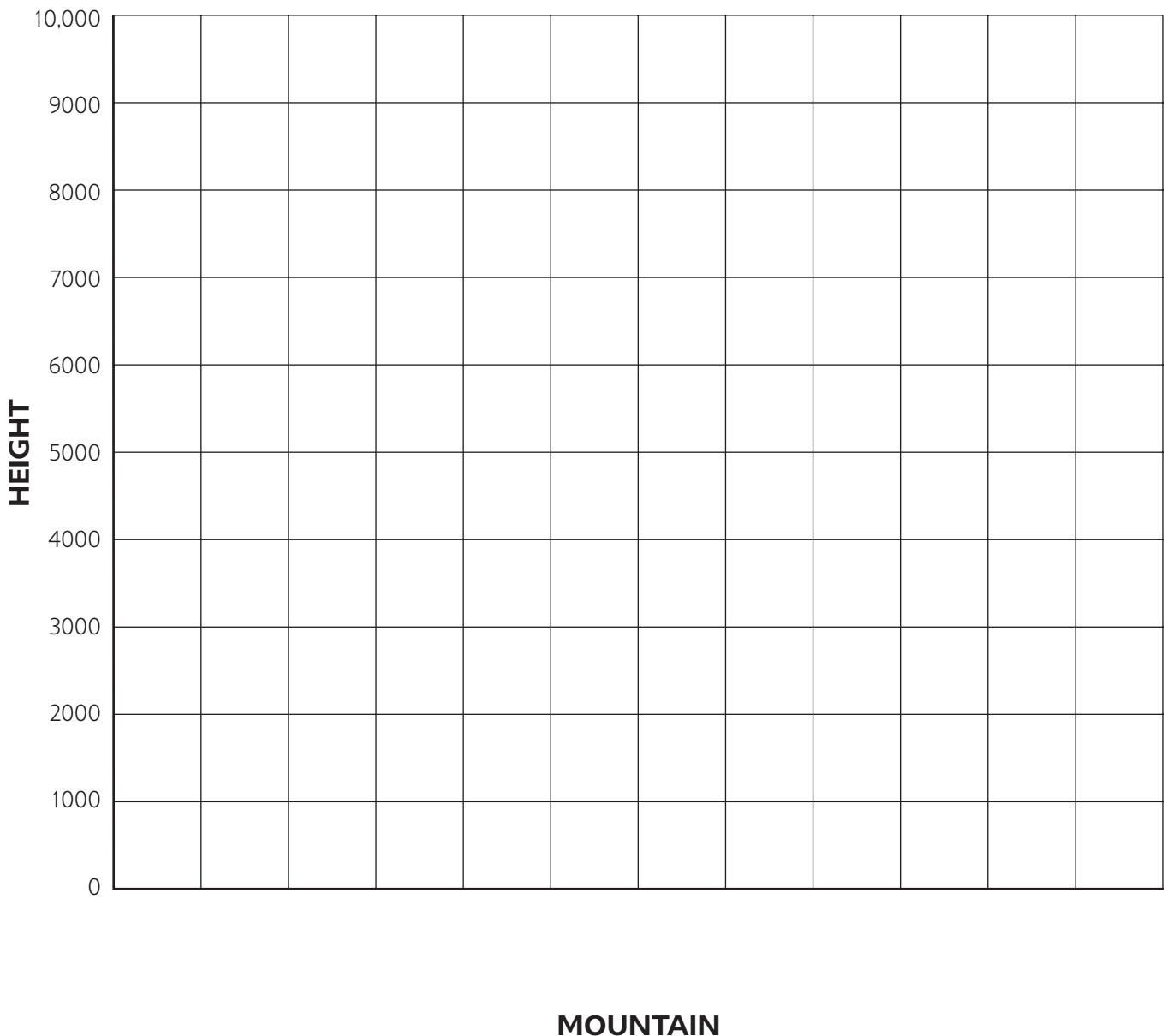
of stone that marks Gelert's final resting place.



Mountain High

- The heights of Britain's tallest mountains and the highest peaks in Europe and the world are provided in the box below. Measurements have been rounded to the nearest 100m.
- Show the heights of the mountains on a bar graph using the grid below. The scale being used is one square = 1000m. Estimate carefully where the peak of each mountain should be.

Slieve Donard 900m	Scafell Pike 1000m	Snowdon 1100m
Ben Nevis 1300m	Mt Blanc 4800m	Mt Everest 8900m



Be prepared

- You are going hill walking in Snowdonia National Park with members of your family. Below is a list of equipment that is available for you to take on your walk.
- You will only be able to wear and carry **essential items**. Choose what you think will be necessary for the trip. You will have to make decisions about what to take and what to leave behind. In the boxes provided, draw a picture of yourself wearing the items of clothing that you choose and the things you decide to carry with you.

sandals, rucksack, compass, sunglasses, spade, warm jumper, matches, waterproof trousers, strong shoes, umbrella, electronic game, torch, bobble hat, comics, camera, swimming costume, map, pencil, bottle of water, string, whistle, packed lunch, calculator, reading book, thick socks, anorak, mobile phone, foldaway chair, dictionary, gloves

These are the things I will wear

This is what I will carry with me

