

# THE WREXHAM TAILOR'S QUILT

## THE STORY

The Wrexham Tailor's Quilt is a quilt or coverlet created during the reign of Queen Victoria. James Williams, a master tailor, lived at 8 College Street Wrexham, completed the quilt between 1842 – 1852.

It was made out of 4,525 pieces of material which were probably off cuts from military uniforms. Each piece was sewn on by hand and it is astounding to think it could have been created under candlelight!

The quilt depicts scenes from the Bible such as Adam naming the animals, Cain and Abel, Jonah and the whale, and Noah's ark. It also features motifs symbolizing Wales (a leek), England (a rose), Scotland (a thistle), and Ireland (a shamrock). The Menai Suspension Bridge and Cefn Viaduct are also featured. These would have been impressive Welsh landmarks during this period. Interestingly, a Chinese pagoda is also featured on the quilt.

Such was the workmanship of the quilt it was displayed at the Art Treasures Exhibition of North Wales, held in Wrexham in 1876 and also at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1925.

The quilt was sold by the Williams family to the National Museum of Wales during the 1930s. The quilt is culturally important to Wales as a rare surviving example of Welsh folk art.

The quilt is still inspiring artists today. Most recently, the fashion house of Alexander McQueen created a coat based upon the quilt for their Autumn/Winter '20 collection:

<http://blog.courtauld.ac.uk/documentingfashion/2020/05/01/alexander-mcqueen-and-the-welsh-dress/>

The quilt was displayed at Wrexham Museum in 2017.



## ACTIVITIES

**1. LOOK AT THE QUILT. HOW MANY DIFFERENT ANIMALS CAN YOU COUNT?**



**2. LOOK AT THE QUILT, TURN AROUND AND TRY AND REMEMBER HOW MANY DIFFERENT COLOURS THERE WERE AND NAME ALL OF THE ANIMALS. WHO WILL WIN?!**

**3. CREATE YOUR OWN PIECE OR ARTWORK INSPIRED BY THE QUILT ITSELF. WE USED DIFFERENT THINGS WE COULD FIND AROUND THE HOUSE SUCH AS DUPLO, EMPTY TOILET ROLLS AND TOY CARS TO MAKE DIFFERENT PATTERNS.**

**4. CREATE YOUR OWN QUILT OR ART WORK USING WHATEVER MATERIALS YOU HAVE AVAILABLE, PAPER, TISSUE PAPER, CARD, PAINT, COLOURING PENCILS ETC. THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD PUT ON YOUR QUILT TO REPRESENT YOU.**



To find out more:

<https://museum.wales/articles/2020-03-02/The-Wrexham-Tailors-Quilt-1842-52/>

<http://www.guiltfest.org.uk/wrexham-tailors-guilt.html>