

The Legend of King Arthur

Many hundreds of years ago, King Uther of the Britons had a son called Arthur. Because of the many wars with the Saxons, Uther gave his son to Merlin so that he could be raised in safety.

When King Uther died, nobody knew that he had a son. Therefore, there was much arguing about who should be the next High King of the Britons.

At this time, a mysterious stone appeared in London. A sword was sticking out of the stone with a message on it. The message said that whoever pulled the sword out of the stone was the rightful High King of the Britons. No one, however, could pull the sword from the stone.

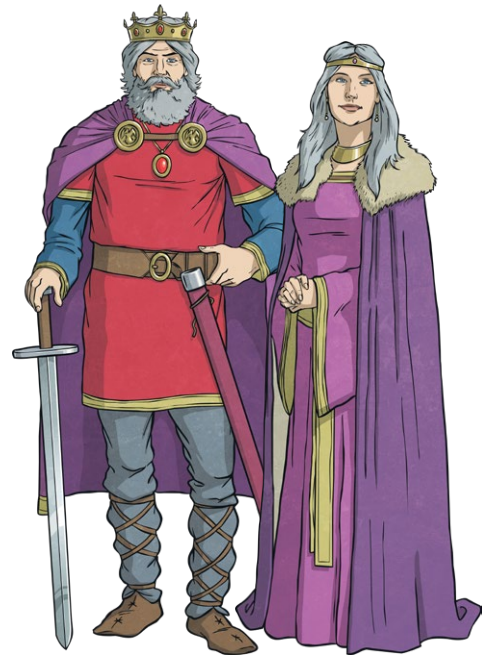
Aged fifteen, Arthur came to visit London. When he saw the stone, he approached it and pulled the sword out easily! Soon after, Arthur was crowned High King of Britain. Merlin, his father's old wizard, helped him rule.

Merlin took Arthur to see the Lady of the Lake who gave Arthur a sword named 'Excalibur'. With the help of Excalibur, and his loyal knights, Arthur was able to defeat his enemies and Britain became a peaceful land.



Arthur married a beautiful princess called Guinevere. Arthur and Guinevere were given a large round table, which Arthur used to meet with his bravest and best knights. These knights were known as 'Knights of the Round Table' and were adventurous and brave. The bravest knight of all was Sir Lancelot.

Sir Lancelot and Guinevere fell in love and would meet secretly, away from the palace. When Arthur discovered this, Sir Lancelot and Guinevere escaped to Brittany. Arthur chased them, leaving Mordred (one of his knights) in charge of his kingdom while he was gone. Arthur found and killed Sir Lancelot and imprisoned Guinevere.



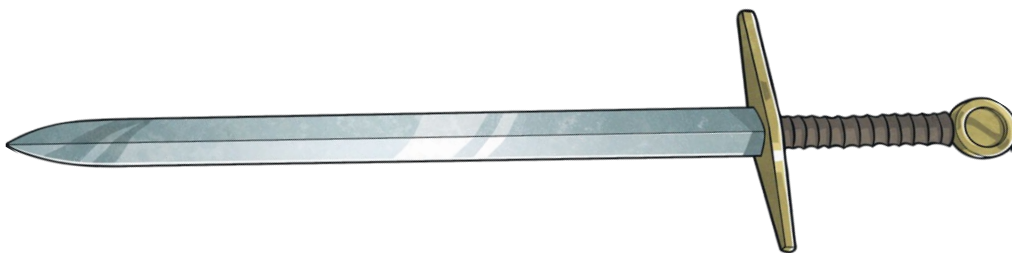
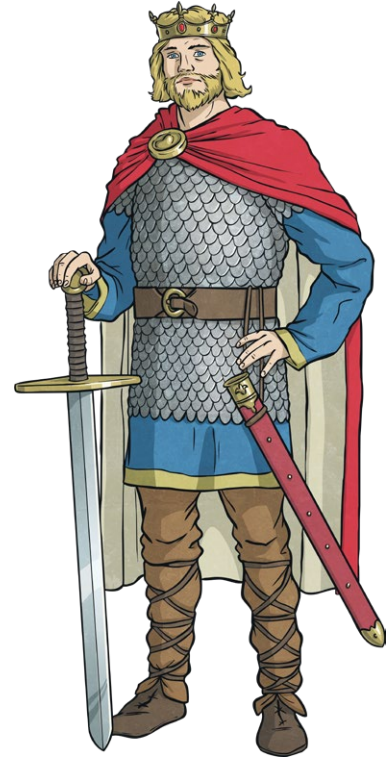
While Arthur was away, Mordred declared himself High King and built his own army. Arthur returned and his army battled with Mordred's. Arthur finally killed Mordred with his sword, Excalibur.

Unfortunately, Arthur himself was badly wounded. He knew he would die very soon, so he gave Excalibur to his knight, Sir Bedivere, and told him to return it to the Lady in the Lake.

Sir Bedivere did not throw Excalibur into the lake and hid it instead. When he returned to Arthur, he told him that he had thrown it into the lake. Arthur did not believe him and told him again to return Excalibur to the lake. As Sir Bedivere threw Excalibur, he was amazed to see a hand emerge from the water to catch the sword. It was the hand of the Lady of the Lake.

When he returned to Arthur, he told him what he had seen. Arthur knew then that Excalibur had been returned to the Lady of the Lake.

Arthur was laid in a boat and he drifted off on the lake and died. His body was never recovered. According to legend, he is awaiting the call of the Britons, ready to return in their time of greatest need.



Questions

1. Explain why King Uther gave Arthur away.

2. Who did King Uther give Arthur do? Tick **one**.

- Excalibur
- Merlin
- Mordred
- Sir Lancelot

3. How old was Arthur when he pulled the sword out of the stone? Tick **one**.

- 20
- 13
- 15
- 12

4. What was Merlin?

5. **Find** and **copy** a word which means **faithful**.

6. What name was given to Arthur's bravest and best knights?

7. Why do you think Arthur did not kill Guinevere once he captured her?

8. Explain how Arthur knew that Sir Bedivere had returned Excalibur to the lake.

Answers

1. Explain why King Uther gave Arthur away.

Pupil's own response, such as:

King Uther gave Arthur away because the Britons were fighting with the Saxons at this time and he wanted to keep Arthur safe.

2. Who did King Uther give Arthur do? Tick **one**.

- Excalibur
- Merlin**
- Mordred
- Sir Lancelot

3. How old was Arthur when he pulled the sword out of the stone? Tick **one**.

- 20
- 13
- 15**
- 12

4. What was Merlin?

a wizard

5. **Find** and **copy** a word which means **faithful**.

loyal

6. What name was given to Arthur's bravest and best knights?

Knights of the Round Table

7. Why do you think Arthur did not kill Guinevere once he captured her?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think that Arthur did not kill Guinevere because he still loved her and because she was beautiful. He knew he had to punish her so decided to imprison her instead.

8. Explain how Arthur knew that Sir Bedivere had returned Excalibur to the lake.

Pupil's own response, such as: Arthur knew that Sir Bedivere had returned Excalibur to the lake because Sir Bedivere told him about the hand that emerged from the water and caught the sword. Arthur knew about the Lady of the Lake and knew that Sir Bedivere could not have made this up.

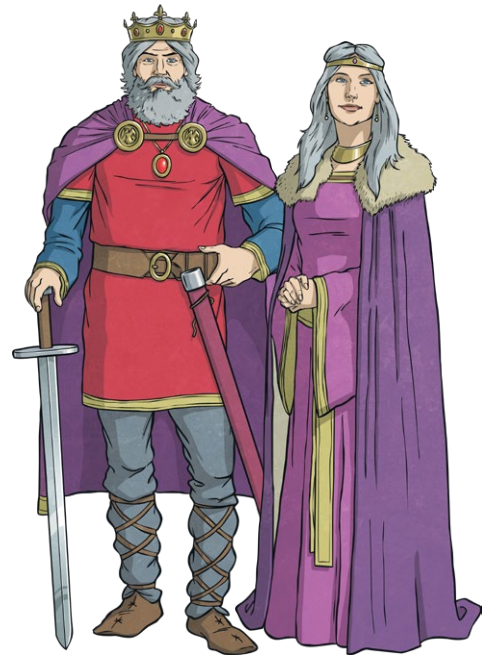
The Legend of King Arthur

Many hundreds of years ago, King Uther of the Britons and his wife Lady Igraine had a son called Arthur. Because of the many wars with the Saxons, Uther gave his son to Merlin so that he could be raised in safety. Merlin gave him to Sir Ector, who raised him in the safety of the countryside.

When King Uther died, nobody knew that he had a son. Therefore, there was much arguing about who should be the next High King of the Britons.

At this time, a mysterious stone appeared outside St Paul's Cathedral in London. An enormous sword was sticking out of the stone with a message on it. The message said that whoever pulled the sword out of the stone was the rightful High King of the Britons. Although many tried, no one could pull the sword from the stone.

When Arthur was fifteen years old he went to St. Paul's Cathedral. When he saw the stone, he approached it and pulled the sword out easily! Soon after, Arthur was crowned High King of Britain and his father's old wizard, Merlin, became his advisor.



The Saxons were still battling against the Britons at this time. Therefore, Merlin took Arthur to see the Lady of the Lake who gave Arthur a sword named 'Excalibur'. With the help of Excalibur, and his trusted knights, Arthur defeated many Saxons and Britain became a peaceful land.

Arthur settled in Camelot and hosted his royal court there. He married a beautiful princess called Guinevere. Arthur and Guinevere were given a large round table, which Arthur used to meet with his bravest and most-trusted knights. These knights were known as 'Knights of the Round Table' and were adventurous and brave. The bravest knight of all was Sir Lancelot.

Sir Lancelot and Guinevere fell in love and would meet secretly, away from the palace. When Arthur discovered this, Sir Lancelot and Guinevere escaped to Brittany. Arthur pursued them, leaving Mordred, one of his trusted knights, in charge of his kingdom while he was gone. Arthur found and killed Sir Lancelot and sent Guinevere to a nunnery.

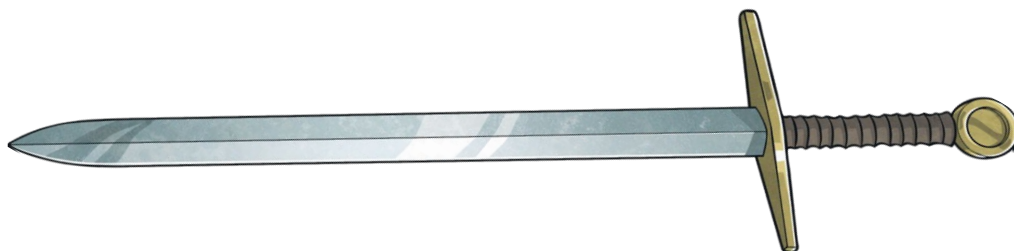
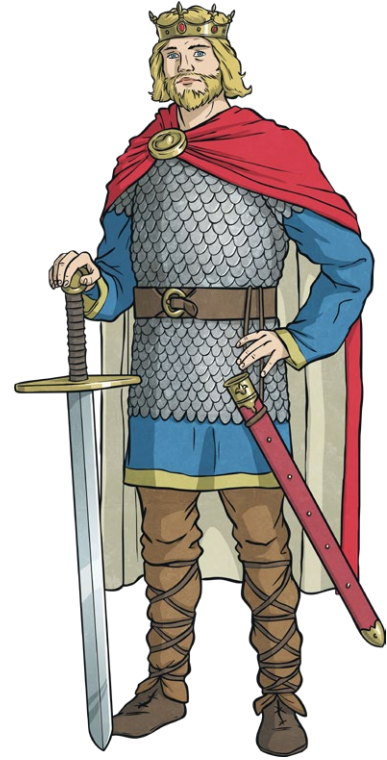
While Arthur was away, Mordred declared himself High King and built his own army. Upon his return, Arthur's army battled with Mordred's. Arthur finally killed Mordred with his sword, Excalibur.

Unfortunately, Arthur himself was badly wounded. He knew he would die very soon, so he gave Excalibur to his knight, Sir Bedivere, and told him to return it to the Lady in the Lake.

Sir Bedivere could not bear to throw Excalibur into the lake and so he hid it instead. When he returned to Arthur, he told him that he had thrown it into the lake. Arthur did not believe him and ordered him again to return Excalibur to the lake. As Sir Bedivere threw Excalibur, he was astonished to see a hand emerge from the water to catch the sword. It was the hand of the Lady of the Lake.

When he returned to Arthur, he told him what he had seen. Arthur knew then that Excalibur had been returned to the Lady of the Lake.

Arthur was placed in a boat which sailed away to the isle of Avalon. His body was never recovered. According to legend, he is awaiting the call of the Britons, ready to return in their time of greatest need.



Questions

1. Who was Arthur's father? Tick **one**.

- Merlin
- Sir Ector
- King Uther
- Sir Lancelot

2. Explain why nobody knew who the next High King of the Britons should be once King Uther died.

3. Where did the sword in the stone appear?

4. **Find** and **copy** a word which shows us **how** Arthur pulled the sword from the stone.

5. Explain why the Lady of the Lake gave Arthur Excalibur.

6. What did Arthur host at Camelot?

7. Explain why Sir Lancelot and Guinevere ran away to Brittany.

8. Who did Arthur entrust his kingdom to while he was away? Tick **one**.

- Merlin
- Mordred
- Sir Bedivere
- Excalibur

9. Why do you think Arthur commanded that Excalibur be thrown into the lake.

Answers

1. Who was Arthur's father? Tick **one**.

- Merlin
- Sir Ector
- King Uther**
- Sir Lancelot

2. Explain why nobody knew who the next High King of the Britons should be once King Uther died.

Pupil's own response, such as: Nobody knew who the next High King of the Britons should be because nobody knew that King Uther had a son and therefore, they did not know that Arthur was the heir to the throne.

3. Where did the sword in the stone appear?

St Paul's Cathedral, London

4. **Find** and **copy** a word which shows us **how** Arthur pulled the sword from the stone.
easily

5. Explain why the Lady of the Lake gave Arthur Excalibur.

Pupil's own response, such as: The Lady of the Lake gave Arthur Excalibur because the Britons were still fighting with the Saxons and so King Arthur needed help in defeating them. Excalibur and his trusted knights helped Arthur to do this.

6. What did Arthur host at Camelot?

Arthur hosted his royal court

7. Explain why Sir Lancelot and Guinevere ran away to Brittany.

Pupil's own response, such as: Sir Lancelot and Guinevere ran away to Brittany because they had fallen in love but this was not allowed because Guinevere was married to Arthur. When Arthur found out about their relationship, they knew that their lives were in danger and so escaped to another country.

8. Who did Arthur entrust his kingdom to while he was away? Tick **one**.

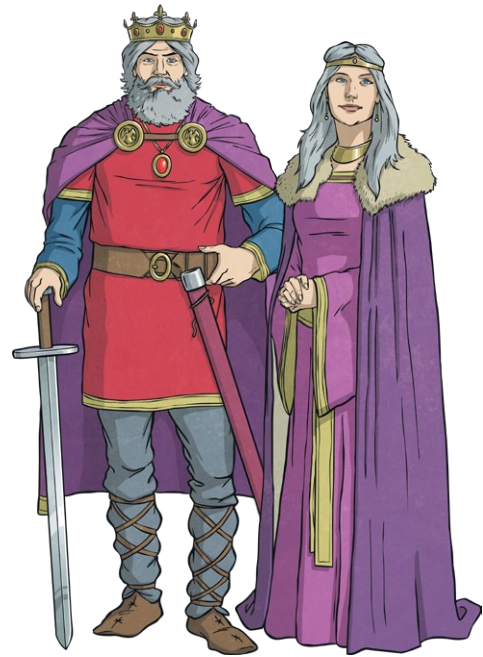
- Merlin
- Mordred**
- Sir Bedivere
- Excalibur

9. Why do you think Arthur commanded that Excalibur be thrown into the lake.

Pupil's own response, such as: I think that Arthur commanded that Excalibur be thrown into the lake because he knew that he was dying and the Lady of the Lake had given Excalibur to him specially to fight his enemies. I don't think that Arthur would have wanted Excalibur to fall into the wrong hands as it was clearly a very powerful sword.

The Legend of King Arthur

Many hundreds of years ago, King Uther of the Britons fell in love with Lady Igraine. They had a son and named him Arthur. Because of the many wars with the Saxons, Uther gave his son to Merlin so that he could be raised in safety. Merlin took the baby and gave him to Sir Ector, who raised him in the safety of the countryside with his own son, Kay.



Many years later, King Uther died. Nobody knew he had a son as it had remained a closely guarded secret. Therefore, there was much arguing about who should be the next High King of the Britons.

Around this time, a mysterious stone appeared outside St Paul's Cathedral in London. An enormous sword was protruding out of the stone with a message on it which said that whoever pulled the sword out of the stone was the rightful High King of the Britons.

Lots of knights and local kings tried to pull the sword from the stone but to no avail. The sword would not move and there was no High King of the Britons for many years.



When Arthur was fifteen years old he travelled to a tournament where his stepbrother Kay was competing. Unfortunately, Arthur had forgotten to bring Kay's sword so he set off to find one before his mistake was discovered.

He came to St. Paul's Cathedral and saw the sword in the stone. He approached the stone and pulled the sword out easily! When he returned to the tournament, no one believed that he had pulled the sword from the stone. Arthur returned to the stone and showed everyone how he had pulled the sword out.

Soon after, Arthur was crowned High King of Britain. Merlin, his father's old wizard, became his advisor and close friend.

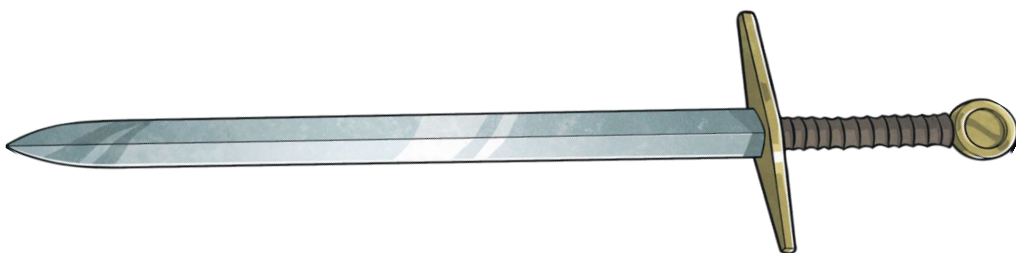
At this time, the Saxons were still battling against the Britons. Merlin decided to take Arthur to see the Lady of the Lake. The Lady of the Lake emerged from the lake and gave Arthur a sword named 'Excalibur', which he kept in a magical scabbard. With the help of Excalibur, and his trusted knights, Arthur defeated many Saxons and Britain became a peaceful land.

Arthur settled his royal court at Camelot and shortly after, married Guinevere, the beautiful daughter of King Leodegrance.

To celebrate the wedding, King Leodegrance gave Arthur and Guinevere a large round table, which Arthur used to meet with his bravest and most-trusted knights. These knights were known as 'Knights of the Round Table'.

The knights had many adventures: they fought dragons, rescued damsels in distress and some even searched for the 'Holy Grail'; the cup that Jesus was said to have used during the Last Supper.

The bravest knight of all was Sir Lancelot. Sir Lancelot and Guinevere fell in love and would meet secretly, away from the palace. When Arthur discovered this, Sir Lancelot and Guinevere fled to Brittany. Arthur pursued them, leaving Mordred in charge of his kingdom while he was gone. Arthur found and killed Sir Lancelot and sent Guinevere to a nunnery.



While Arthur was away, Mordred proclaimed himself High King and built his own army. Upon his return, Arthur's army battled with Mordred's. Arthur finally killed Mordred with his sword, Excalibur.

Unfortunately, Arthur himself was mortally wounded and he knew he would die very soon. Therefore, he gave Excalibur to his knight, Sir Bedivere, and ordered him to return it to the Lady in the Lake.

Sir Bedivere could not bear to throw Excalibur into the lake so he hid it instead. When he returned to Arthur, he told him he had thrown it into the lake. Arthur did not believe him and instructed him to restore Excalibur to the lake. As he threw Excalibur, he was astonished to see a hand emerge from the water to catch the sword. It was the hand of the Lady of the Lake.

When he returned to Arthur, he told him what he had seen. Arthur rest assured then that Excalibur had been returned to the Lady of the Lake.

Arthur was laid in a boat on the lake which sailed away to the isle of Avalon, where he died. His body was never recovered. According to legend, he is awaiting the call of the Britons, ready to return in their time of greatest need.



Questions

1. Who was Arthur's mother?

2. Explain why King Uther gave his son to Merlin. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. What problem did King Uther's decision to hide his son cause? Explain your answer fully.

4. **Find** and **copy** a word which means **sticking out**.

5. Explain how Arthur found the sword in the stone when he was fifteen years old. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

6. Why do you think that no one believed that Arthur had pulled the sword out of the stone.

7. Who gave Excalibur to Arthur Tick **one**.

- King Leodegrance
- the Lady of the Lake
- Guinevere
- Merlin

8. Who was Arthur's father-in-law? Tick **one**.

- King Uther
- Merlin
- King Leodegrance
- Sir Lancelot

9. What is the name of the cup that Jesus used during the Last Supper?

10. Do you think that the legend of King Arthur is true or not true? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answers

1. Who was Arthur's mother?

Lady Igraine

2. Explain why King Uther gave his son to Merlin. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: King Uther gave his son to Merlin to keep him safe. At this time, the Britons were at war with the Saxons so King Uther wanted to keep Arthur a secret so that he would not be killed by his enemy.

3. What problem did King Uther's decision to hide his son cause? Explain your answer fully.

Pupil's own response, such as: King Uther's decision to hide his son meant that when he died, no one knew who the next High King of the Britons should be and there were lots of arguments about it. No one knew that Arthur was the heir to the throne.

4. Find and copy a word which means **sticking out**.

protruding

5. Explain how Arthur found the sword in the stone when he was fifteen years old. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: Arthur came to London when he was fifteen years old because his stepbrother, Kay, was competing in a tournament. Arthur had forgotten Kay's sword and so went to look for a new one. It was then that he came across the sword in the stone at St Paul's Cathedral.

6. Why do you think that no one believed that Arthur had pulled the sword out of the stone.

Pupil's own response, such as: I think no one believed that Arthur had pulled the sword out of the stone because lots of knights and local kings, who would all have been grown men, had tried to pull it out and failed. Arthur was just a fifteen-year-old boy so they would not have thought that he was strong enough to pull the sword from the stone.

7. Who gave Excalibur to Arthur Tick **one**.

- King Leodegrance
- the Lady of the Lake**
- Guinevere
- Merlin

8. Who was Arthur's father-in-law? Tick **one**.

- King Uther
- Merlin
- King Leodegrance**
- Sir Lancelot

9. What is the name of the cup that Jesus used during the Last Supper?

the Holy Grail

10. Do you think that the legend of King Arthur is true or not true? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as:

I think that the legend of King Arthur is...

...true because lots of details in the story are true. For example, the Britons did fight the Saxons for a long time and kings at this time did have knights that they trusted. St Paul's Cathedral is a real place and so are other places mentioned in the story such as Brittany and Avalon.

...false because there are lots of magical elements in the story which are not true. For example, Merlin is a wizard and Excalibur was given to Arthur by a lady in a lake. Also, King Arthur's body has never been found so it cannot be proven that he was a real person.