

King Arthur

1. Arthur went to Rome to fight the emperor, Lucius, and he left his kingdom in the hands of his nephew, Mordred. As he was entering Rome, Arthur learned that Mordred had taken control of the kingdom and had captured Guinevere.

2. King Arthur was the son of Pendragon, and was born in Tintagel in Cornwall. He was brought up by Merlin, an old Celtic magician, and became a king of Britain when he was fifteen. He proved his right to be king when he managed to pull a sword from the rock. He had to fight many lords, and when, with Merlin's help, he defeated them, he received the magic sword Excalibur from the Lady of the Lake.

3. Arthur was then taken to the Isle of Avalon to get better. We understand that he did not die, but lives on and will return when his country needs him.

4. The legends of King Arthur began to appear in the twelfth century, and it is possible that they are based on a Celtic leader in the fifth or sixth century who defended his country against Saxon invasion.

5. They spent their time hunting wild pigs, having feasts, and singing ballads. They often had to kill dragons and giants. At all times they behaved very correctly, with respect, honour, and compassion.

6. He came back to England and defeated his nephew, but in the battle was seriously wounded. Arthur told Sir Belvedere, the last surviving knight, to throw Excalibur into the water of the lake. He did this, and the sword was caught by a hand which came out of the water and then took the sword below the surface.

7. His knights sat at a round table so that they were equal - nobody was sitting at the head of the table. Many of the stories in the legends are about the adventures of the knights, among them Lancelot, Perceval, Gawain, and Galahad.

1. The paragraphs of the text are jumbled. Put them into right order

2. Comprehension check. Answer the following questions.

- a. When did stories about him begin to appear?
- b. When did he live?
- c. Where did he live?
- d. He was the leader of a group of people. Who were they?
- e. What did they do?
- f. Was he a good man?
- g. Why is he famous?
- h. What are some of the things he did?
- i. Who were his enemies?
- j. How did he die?

3. Collect information on the followings.

Merlin:.....
Guinevere:.....
Lancelot:.....
Mordred:.....
Excalibur:.....

4. Match the words to the definitions.

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| a) sword | 1 make a prisoner of somebody |
| b) knight | 2 fight between two armies |
| c) giant | 3 ruler of a country |
| d) emperor | 4 man of very great height and size |
| e) nephew | 5 the person who leads a group |
| f) battle | 6 son of someone's sister or brother |
| g) capture | 7 man of noble birth who usually serves a lady |
| h) leader | 8 long steel blade used as a weapon |