



KING ARTHUR'S QUEST

Try to find the answers to these questions to find out more about King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

1. What was written on the sword Merlin put into the stone?
2. What's the name of King Arthur's half sister?
3. Who betrayed King Arthur and caused his death?
4. Where was King Arthur mortally wounded?
5. Where can we find the first reliable mention to King Arthur? Who wrote it and when?
6. What was the Round Table and when was it added to the legend?
7. What was the Holy Grail and who wrote about it?
8. What year was King Arthur's legend first published?



9. Who are the three knights who find the Holy Grail?
10. Why does Sir Percival decide to become a knight?
11. What does Lady Bertilak give Sir Gawain and why is it special?
12. Find a folk poem popular in Welsh about Guinevere.
13. What happens with Queen Guinevere when King Arthur goes to Europe to fight the Roman Procurator Lucius Tiberius?
14. Which of the knights had a love affair with Guinevere?
15. The Lady of the Lake gave King Arthur the sword Excalibur, and later asked him to do something in exchange. What did she want King Arthur to do?
16. Loherangrin, or Lohengrin, is called to this duty in [Brabant](#), where the duke has died without a male heir. His daughter Elsa fears the kingdom will be lost, but Lohengrin arrives in a boat pulled by a swan and offers to defend her, though he warns her she must never ask his name. He marries the duchess and serves Brabant for years, but one day Elsa asks the forbidden question. He explains that he is a Grail Knight and steps back onto his swan boat, never to return. Who wrote an opera using this story?
17. Where was Merlin buried?
18. How and why was Tristan killed?



KEY:

1. What was written on the sword Merlin put into the stone? *"Whoso pulleth out this sword of this stone is the rightwise born king of all England."*
2. What's the name of King Arthur's half sister? *Morgan le Fay*
3. Who betrayed King Arthur and caused his death? *His nephew Mordred*
4. Where was King Arthur mortally wounded? *Battle of Camlan*
5. Where can we find the first reliable mention to King Arthur? Who wrote it and when? *The first reliable reference to Arthur is in the 'Historia Brittonum' written by the Welsh monk Nennius around the year 830AD*
6. What was the Round Table and when was it added to the legend? *The Round Table is King Arthur's famed table in the Arthurian legend, around which he and his Knights congregate. In 1155 the French poet Maistre Wace added The Round Table.*
7. What was the Holy Grail and who wrote about it? *The cup used in the Last Supper by Jesus. Robert de Boron*
8. What year was King Arthur's legend first published? *In 1485 William Caxton published 'Le Morte Darthur' - one of the first printed books.*
9. Who are the three knights who find the Holy Grail? *Sir Galahad, Sir Bors and Sir Percival.*
10. Why does Sir Percival decide to become a knight? *After the death of his father, Perceval's mother takes him to the forests where she raises him ignorant to the ways of men until the age of 15. Eventually, however, a group of knights passes through his wood, and Perceval is struck by their heroic bearing. Wanting to be a knight himself, the boy leaves home to travel to King Arthur's court.*
11. What does Lady Bertilak give Sir Gawain and why is it special? *It is from Lady Bertilak that Gawain receives the girdle with the power to protect its wearer "against anyone who seeks to strike him."*
12. Find a folk poem popular in Welsh about Guinevere.
*Gwenhwyfar ferch Ogrfan Gawr
Drwg yn fechan, gwaeth yn fawr.
Gwenhwyfar, daughter of Ogrfan Gawr,
Bad when little, worse when great.*
13. What happens with Queen Guinevere when King Arthur goes to Europe to fight the Roman Procurator Lucius Tiberius? *Arthur leaves her in the care of his nephew Modredus (Mordred). While he is absent, Guinevere is seduced by Modredus and marries him, and Modredus declares himself king and takes Arthur's throne; consequently, Arthur returns to Britain and fights Modredus at the fatal Battle of Camlann.
In some versions of the tale, Guinevere assents to Mordred's proposal; in others, she hides in the Tower of London and later takes refuge in a convent. Hearing of the treachery, Arthur returns to Britain and slays Mordred at Camlann, but his wounds are so severe that he is taken to the isle of Avalon by Morgan. Guinevere meets Lancelot one last time, then returns to the convent where she spends the remainder of her life.*
14. Which of the knights had a love affair with Guinevere? *Sir Lancelot.*
15. The Lady of the Lake gave King Arthur the sword Excalibur, and later asked him to do something in exchange. What did she want King Arthur to do? *When Arthur and Merlin first meet this Lady of the Lake, she holds Excalibur out of the water and offers it to Arthur*

if he promises to fulfill a request from her later. He agrees and receives his famous sword. Later, the Lady of the Lake comes to Arthur's court to receive her end of the bargain; she asks for the head of Sir Balin, who she blames for her brother's death. Arthur refuses this request, and Balin beheads her instead, much to Arthur's distress.

16. Loherangrin, or Lohengrin, is called to this duty in Brabant, where the duke has died without a male heir. His daughter Elsa fears the kingdom will be lost, but Lohengrin arrives in a boat pulled by a swan and offers to defend her, though he warns her she must never ask his name. He marries the duchess and serves Brabant for years, but one day Elsa asks the forbidden question. He explains that he is a Grail Knight and steps back onto his swan boat, never to return. Who wrote an opera using this story? Wagner
17. Where was Merlin buried? *In the Broceliande forest, near Paimpont in Brittany.*
18. How and why was Tristan killed? *King Mark was going to marry Iseult and asked Tristan to take her to his castle, but Tristan and Iseult fell in love and escaped together. Legend has it that while Tristan was playing his harp for Iseult (Tristan's wife), King Mark snuck in behind him and killed him with a dagger or a lance in the back.*

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