

Module 3: Exploring Good, Evil, and Noble Sacrifice

Topic 4 Content: Arthurian Legend Notes

Introduction

Arthurian Legend

The graphic features the words "Arthurian Legend" in a stylized, white, outlined font. The text is superimposed on a brown, stylized illustration of a castle with two prominent towers and a central entrance.

You may have heard the names King Arthur, Merlin, Lancelot, Guinevere, and Excalibur, because the best-remembered medieval romances concern King Arthur and his knights. In this interactivity, explore the basics of Arthurian legend and learn about the important characters. Click the **NEXT** and **PREV** buttons to navigate through the interactivity.


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King Arthur

Arthurian Legend



King Arthur was rumored to have united the Britons against the invading Vikings during the 5th and 6th centuries. According to legend, he proved his right to rule by pulling a sword from a stone in Westminster, which is located in central London. It was a magic sword, and only the person who was fit to rule the Britons could remove it from the stone. Throughout literature, Arthur has been characterized as a wise, patient ruler, as well as a fierce warrior.


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Camelot

Arthurian Legend



Camelot was King Arthur's kingdom, and it had a reputation for being an ideal kingdom. In Camelot, Arthur had a round table at which he and all of his knights sat to discuss matters of the kingdom and to make laws. The table was round to give the knights the impression that no one person, including Arthur, was more important than another. In modern times, a location may be referred to as a "Camelot" to suggest that it is perfect or ideal.



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Merlin

Arthurian Legend



Merlin was a wizard who helped raise and educate King Arthur. He encouraged Arthur to attempt to remove the sword from the stone. When Arthur ruled from Camelot, Merlin was his advisor and helped protect his interests.


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Guinevere

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King Arthur married Lady Guinevere. Legend describes her as being significantly younger than King Arthur, and later in their marriage, she fell in love with one of the Knights of the Round Table, Lancelot.



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Lancelot

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Lancelot was a knight who became King Arthur's best friend and most loyal advisor. Following the code of chivalry, Lancelot asked to become the Queen's champion to defend her honor. Lancelot's relationship with King Arthur was destroyed when he and Guinevere fell in love.

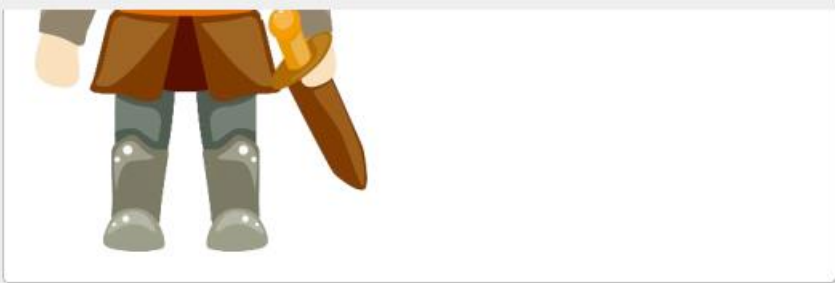
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Excalibur

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