

FILE: WELSH LEGENDS

In Wales, there are many legends. Among them some about the famous king Arthur, the sword Excalibur and the enchanter Merlin, or the nice and brave Gelert and the beautiful Lady of the Lake.

I-Famous king Arthur.

Who was he? When was he born? His legend, his life and that of his sister, the fairy Morgane.

II-Excalibur and the Lady of the Lake.

Who was she? What was it? Her legend and its legend.

III-Merlin the enchanter.

Who was he? His legend and his help of young Arthur, during the quest for the Holy Grail.

IV-Gelert, the brave.

Who was it? Was it an animal or a human being? Was it a monster? Its legend.

V-Conclusion

The inhabitants of Wales are believers and they love legends and mysterious magic. Thanks to their ancestors, they know many legends. It's good for us!

I- KING ARTHUR

Arthur was born in Tintagel. His nationality was british. He had a sister : the fairy Morgane . Arthur didn't like his sister because she was his enemy. Arthur was in a poor family. His father was Pendragon, the old king of Wales. (un roi pauvre!!!!!!!)

One day, the young boy took a sword in a rock. The name of the sword was Excalibur... the famous sword. Then, Arthur was the new king. He married Queen Guenievre.

Arthur created the Knights of the Round Table with the best knights of Great Britain : Lancelot, Leodagan, Caradoc, Perceval etc. Together, they looked for the famous holy Grail.

His death :

One legend says : Arthur died during the war against his son/nephew because his sister and him had a child ! He was named : Mordred. Mordred killed his father... King Arthur died in Avalon.

Did the King exist??? It is the true question...



king arthur with his knights of the round table.

Source:www.nieuwsbronnen.com/.../arthur.jpg



The young king Arthur.

Source:upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/61/C.



The death of Arthur.Source.

upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/...

II-Excalibur and the Lady of the Lake

In the other legend, the Lady of the Lake, the fairy Viviane, helped young Arthur to find the famous sword Excalibur. She helped him find Avalon to die. She also enchanted Merlin the magician . She educated the future knight Lancelot. Was she nice or nasty?



The Lady of the Lake and the baby

Lancelot. Source: www.vegetarianwomen.com/.../la_dame_du_lac.jpg



Fairy Morgane and a unicorn. Source [www.chalais.net/art-en-](http://www.chalais.net/art-en-dix/2006/Bini1.jpg)

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Excalibur was the famous sword of king Arthur. Its name is a mixture of “steel”. There is also “ex” for the romance language.



The Sword Excalibur. Source:

img366.imageshack.us/.../3048/excalibur1vb9.jpg



A sculpture of the sword given to king Arthur by the Lady of the Lake in the lake of Kingston Maurward gardens, according to an other legend. Source: upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/...

III-The enchanter Merlin

According to legend, Merlin's parents were a woman and the devil. Merlin helped king Arthur to find Excalibur and during the quest for the Holy Grail. He was the friend and the second father of Arthur.

Merlin was in love with the fairy Viviane(or the Lady of the Lake) but she imprisoned him. Apparently, he was in his prison in a wood ...

There is not much information over Merlin in Arthur's legend. I don't know why.

Merlin lived in Great Britain in a little tower next to the castle.



Merlin and Arthur source :idata.over-

blog.com/0/02/74/01/merlin.jpg



Merlin's tomb's . source : breizhbykik.free.fr/legende/Tombeau%20de%20Me.



[Hstatic.flickr.com/2168/3534855477_1f7f58ec43.jpg](https://static.flickr.com/2168/3534855477_1f7f58ec43.jpg)

IV-Gelert

Once upon a time centuries ago lived a man Llewellyn the Great, the King of Wales. He lived with his beloved wife, their darling baby-prince, companions and a favorite dog who was his best friend and the bravest dog of the castle.

The castle was surrounded by beautiful woods. There were many animals: rabbits, deers, partridges... Many fish in the river. But in winter, everybody was frightened by dangerous wolves that ran in the wood for food.

The king loved horseriding and hunting with his men and his dog Gelert. The dog was always the first to answer the call: « Come! My hunters! Come!»

On a sunny autumn day, everybody left was hunting except Gelert who stayed with the baby-prince. The king was disappointed when his best dog wasn't there. Hunting was good and there was plenty of game. There was much meat for a big feast and the coming winter.

Once back at the castle, the king went to see his son in the son's bedroom. He loved him so much! What a choc!! The baby not was in his cradle! There were much blood! There was blood too on Gelert's mouth! The man went mad with fury: « You have killed my son! » Then, the king killed his dog.

All of sudden, he heard the baby crying. Could it be his son? « My son is alive ! » the man said. The king discovered the body of a big wolf next to his son alive. Gelert had died for nothing!! It had protected the little prince... The king cried the death of his favourite dog... His heart was broken forever! Poor man! Poor dog! The king never spoke again...

A stone still stands over the dog's grave that hundreds of tourists visit every year.

It's a beautiful and sad legend...



Gelert and the king. Source:

www.historic-uk.com/.../Gelert-death.jpg