

## KING ARTHUR

You will be able to find out the answers to most of the questions by reading the passages carefully, but did you discover the following points?

What is a legend?

A legend is a story that is partly true and partly made up. In the time when very few people could read and write, people passed on their memories by telling them to others so that they wouldn't be forgotten. The storytellers had amazing memories and they would remember the bravery and strength of their heroes by telling very long stories about them. They would add details to make sure that the heroes of the past were remembered and respected. Legends grew up around these figures and their descendants drew strength from celebrating the greatness of their ancestors.

Passage A is from an encyclopaedia. It tells us some historical facts and it also tells some of the stories about Arthur, so we can see that it isn't a story book or a history book.

Passage B is from a guide book for tourists. We can tell this because the passage describes the places that tourists can see and visit when they come to Tintagel. Some historical information is also given, but the details are chosen specially to be of interest to visitors.

Could the real Arthur have lived in Tintagel Castle?

Tintagel is in Cornwall, and we know from Passage B that the Earl of Cornwall built the castle on the cliffs in 1145. We know from Passage A that the historical Arthur was mentioned in Nennius' account which was written in 830. From this evidence we can see that the real Arthur of history could not have lived in Tintagel Castle, as it wasn't built until several hundred years after he lived.