



# The Legend of King Arthur

Arthur was the first born son of King Uther Pendragon and heir to the throne.

However these were very troubled times and Merlin, who was a wise magician, advised that the baby Arthur should be raised in a secret place and that none should know his true identity.

As Merlin feared, when King Uther died, there was great conflict over who should be the next king. Merlin used his magic to set a sword in a stone. Written on the sword, in letters of gold, were these words: "Whoso pulleth out this sword of this stone is the rightwise born king of all England."

As time went by, all of the contenders for the throne took their turn at trying to draw the sword, but none could succeed. Arthur, quite by chance, withdrew the sword for another to use in a tournament.

After this, Arthur became King. He gathered Knights around him and fought back against the Saxons who, since the Romans left Britain, were slowly but surely taking the country over. After many great battles and a huge victory at Mount Badon the Saxons were beaten.

Within a place called Camelot, was Arthur's base. Here he built a strong castle. His knights met at a Round Table. They carried out acts of chivalry such as rescuing damsels in distress and fought against strange beasts. Moreover, they also

searched for a lost treasure, which they believed would cure all ills - this was the 'Quest for the Holy Grail'.

Under the guidance of Merlin, Arthur had obtained a magical sword from 'The Lady Of The Lake'. This sword was called 'Excalibur' and with this weapon he defeated many villains. Queen Guinevere was Arthur's beautiful wife, while his equally beautiful half-sister Morgan le Fay was a dark, ominous and mysterious character.

Unfortunately, as peace settled over the country, things turned sour within the court of Camelot and civil war broke out.

At Camlan (in the final battle) both Arthur and Mordred, Arthur's disloyal nephew, were badly wounded. Arthur was set upon a boat and floated down river to the isle of Avalon. Here his wounds were treated by three mysterious maidens.

His body was never found and many say that he rests under a hill with all his knights - ready to ride forth and save the country again.

