

legend['ledʒ(ə)nd] *n*

1. 1) легенда; предание
the legend of King Arthur - предание о короле Артуре
famed in legends - легендарный, прославленный в легендах
- 2) *собир.* легенды, повествовательный фольклор
a name famous in Irish legend - имя, прославленное в ирландских легендах /в ирландском фольклоре/
2. 1) легендарная личность; живая легенда
- 2) легендарное событие
3. легенда, надпись (*на монете, медали, гравюре и т. п.*)
4. *тех.* легенда, объяснение условных знаков (*на чертеже*)
5. подпись (*к иллюстрации, схеме и т. п.*)
6. *рел.*
- 1) житие (*святого*)
- 2) *арх.* четьи-минеи

legend

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

leg·end [**legend legends**] *BrE* ['ledʒənd] ^ˈ *NAmE* ['ledʒənd] ^ˈ **noun**

1. **countable, uncountable** a story from ancient times about people and events, that may or may not be true; this type of story
Syn: ↑myth
• the legend of Robin Hood
• the heroes of Greek legend
• **Legend has it** that the lake was formed by the tears of a god.
compare ↑urban myth
2. **countable** a very famous person, especially in a particular field, who is admired by other people
• a **jazz/tennis, etc. legend**
• She was **a legend in her own lifetime** .
• Many of golf's **living legends** were playing.
• a legend in the world of music
3. **countable (technical)** the explanation of a map or a diagram in a book
Syn: ↑key
4. **countable (formal)** a piece of writing on a sign, a label, a coin, etc.

Word Origin:

Middle English (in the sense 'story of a saint's life'): from Old French **legende**, from medieval Latin **legenda** 'things to be read', from Latin **legere** 'read'. Sense 1 dates from the early 17th cent.

Culture:**Arthurian legend**

The legends of King Arthur and the ↑**Knights of the Round Table** are familiar to many British people. They are the subject of several poems and stories of the ↑**Middle Ages** (11th-15th centuries), as well as of later novels, musical plays and films, and are a central part of British tradition and folklore. The most important **Arthurian** works include Sir Thomas Malory's **Le Morte D'Arthur**, a set of long prose romances (= stories of love and adventure) written in the 15th century, Alfred Lord Tennyson's ↑**Idylls of the King**, a series of twelve poems dating from the 19th century and T H White's novel **The Once and Future King** (1958). The legends continue to be retold in new ways, for instance in the musical **Camelot** (1960) and the films **Sword in the Stone** and **King Arthur** (2004).

The real King Arthur lived in the late 5th and early 6th century. He was a warrior chief who fought against the ↑**Anglo-Saxons** and probably defeated them at the Battle of Badon. He is said to have died in the battle of Camlan. Stories about him were collected in the 12th century by the historian ↑**Geoffrey of Monmouth**. They were added to and developed by French writers such as Chrétien de Troyes, who wrote during the period 1170–90, and also became the centre of a group of legends in Germany. As a result, other characters such as **Lancelot**, Tristram (Tristan) and Perceval (Parzival) became associated with Arthur and were included by Malory in **Le Morte D'Arthur**, the version of the legends which became most widely known in Britain.

The stories of Arthur and his knights celebrate the **age of chivalry**, when knights aimed to live according to the highest Christian principles. Their character and courage are tested by meetings with giants, dragons and sorcerers, and by their own human weakness, such as pride or forbidden love. The love affairs of Tristram and Isoud (Iseult) and Lancelot and Guinevere are part of the tradition of **courtly love** which was a central theme in European poetry of the Middle Ages.

According to legend, Arthur was born at ↑**Tintagel** in ↑**Cornwall**, the son of Uther Pendragon, King of all England. One version says that at a young age he was put under a spell by the magician **Merlin** so that he grew up not knowing he was heir to the English throne. He became King at the age of 15 after he pulled the magic sword ↑**Excalibur** out of a stone when all the knights of the kingdom had failed to do so. Another version of the legend says that he received the sword from the ↑**Lady of the Lake**, and this fits in with the story that, as he was dying, he ordered the sword to be thrown back into the lake and it was caught by a hand that rose from the water. Arthur gathered round him the most worthy knights in the land, including Sir Lancelot, Lancelot's son Sir ↑**Galahad**, Sir Bedivere and Sir **Gawain**, and established his court at ↑**Camelot**. On Arthur's orders the knights all sat at the ↑**Round Table**, so nobody could sit at the head of the table and claim to be more important than the rest.

Arthur won many victories in battle and married the beautiful ↑**Guinevere**. Later, Arthur's half-sister, the sorceress Morgan le Fay, attempted to kill him, and Arthur's discovery of a love affair between his wife and Sir Lancelot further threatened his court. The knights went off in search of the ↑**Holy Grail**. Lancelot saw but failed to obtain it because he was not sufficiently pure, and it was eventually found by Sir Galahad. Arthur went to fight against Rome with Sir Gawain but while he was abroad, his nephew Mordred

seized the kingdom and returned his prisoner. Arthur returned to England to defeat and kill Mordred at the battle of Camlan, but was himself seriously wounded. Morgan le Fay then appeared in a boat to take Arthur to ↑Avalon, the paradise of the ↑Celts. According to some versions Arthur and his knights now lie asleep underground, waiting for the day they are needed to wake and save England from danger.

Many people now visit Tintagel Castle high above the sea, the place where Arthur was born and later the home of Mark, the husband of Iseult, Tristram's lover. Several attempts have been made to identify where Arthur's Camelot was. Suggested sites include Caerleon in South Wales, Camelford and South Cadbury, both in Somerset, and ↑Winchester. ↑Glastonbury is said to be Avalon because in the 12th century some monks there claimed to have found the graves of Arthur and Guinevere

Thesaurus:

legend noun

1. C

- the legend of Robin Hood

story • • **fairy tale** • • **fable** • • **myth** • • **epic** •

a/an legend/story/fairy tale/fable/myth/epic **about** sth

an **ancient** legend/story/fable/epic

a **Greek/Roman** legend/myth/epic

2. U

- Legend has it that a giant lived here.

folklore • • **myth** • • **mythology** •

in legend/folklore/myth/mythology

be part of legend/folklore/myth/mythology

pass into legend/folklore/mythology

Example Bank:

- He told us the legend of the ghostly horseman.
- Legend has it that the Bridge of Sighs got its name from the cries of prisoners being led across it.
- Legend says that the forest is cursed.
- The island has long been the subject of legend.
- The legend of his supernatural origins lives on.
- The story is part of the ancient legend of King Arthur.
- The story of how she was rescued has already passed into legend.
- There have always been stories of human giants in Celtic legend and mythology.
- legends about the Vikings
- movie stars who become living legends
- the myths and legends of Mexico
- Legend has it that the lake was formed by the tears of a god.
- Many of golf's living legends were playing.
- She was a legend in her own lifetime.
- The film is based on the legend of Robin Hood.

legend

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

le **gend** /'ledʒənd/ *BrE* " *AmE* " noun

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: French; Origin: légende, from Medieval Latin legenda, from Latin legere 'to gather, choose, read']

1. **[uncountable and countable]** an old well-known story, often about brave people, adventures, or magical events ⇒ **myth**:
a book of ancient Greek legends

legend of

the legend of St George and the dragon

according to legend

According to legend, he escaped by leaping from the cliffs into the sea.

Local legend has it that (=says that) the island was the original Garden of Eden.

2. **[countable]** someone who is famous and admired for being extremely good at doing something

tennis/footballing/music etc legend

We must put more money into the sport if we want to create the tennis legends of the future.

a marvellous player who was a legend in his own lifetime ⇒ **living legend** at ↑living¹(6)

3. **[countable]** *literary* words that have been written somewhere, for example on a sign:

A sign above the door bore the legend 'Patience is a Virtue'.

4. **[countable]** *technical* the words that explain a picture or map ⇒ **key**

• • •

COLLOCATIONS

■ adjectives

- **an old/ancient legend** You will have heard the old legend about how the rocks were formed.
- **a local legend** According to a local legend, the tree was planted by a wizard.
- **a popular legend** (=one that many people believe) A popular legend grew up about him.
- **a Greek/Roman/Celtic etc legend** the figure of Hercules in Greek legend
- **Arthurian legend(s)** (=the legends about King Arthur of Britain) The castle of Camelot plays an important role in Arthurian legend.

■ verbs

- **become legend/pass into legend** The incident became legend.

- **a legend grew (up)** (=developed over time) The legend of his bravery grew after he killed the dragon.
- **(the) legend says** Legend says King Arthur's sword was thrown into one of the pools here.
- **the legend tells how** The legend tells how the King of Troy offended Poseidon, the sea god.
- **the legend goes** (=says) Two people, so the legend goes, refused to flee.
- **a legend is attached to something** (=connected with it) The cave has an unusual legend attached to it.

phrases

- **legend has it that** (=says that) Legend has it that Rhodes was home to the sun god Helios.
- **be the subject of legend** (also **be the stuff of legend**) (=have stories told about them) The island has long been the subject of legend.
- **myths and legends** I read and reread the Greek myths and legends.

legend

Freakuency Pack

12500 **4033**^{MCW}

15000 **2249**^{COCA}

RANGE: **6k** LEGEND 14217

legend 6779

legends 2256

legendary 5139

legendarily 43

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

⁴⁹³⁷ **5581**⁶⁷⁶⁹ *nn1*

⁵ **356135**⁶ *np1*

⁴ **443490**⁴ *nnu*