



# *Robin Hood*

BY BLAH BLAH BLAH

WITH AIDAN AND CLAIR

Teacher's Pack for Secondary Schools

1. See if you can match these words with the pictures.

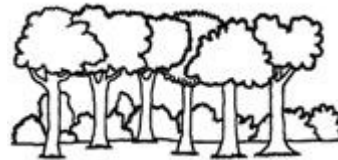


.....

.....

.....

.....



.....

.....

.....

.....



.....

.....

.....

.....



.....

.....

.....

.....

RICH

POOR

FOREST

VILLAGERS

LORD

MONEY

KING

BEAUTIFUL

GREEDY

BOW

ARROW

BRAVE

CHURCH

CLEVER

FIGHT

LAND

## 2. BEFORE YOU READ...

- a). What do you know about Robin Hood? Tell your teacher
- b). In exercise 1, which are words for
  - i) people
  - ii) places
  - iii) adjectives
- c). Find two words for things people use when they fight
- d). Which do you want to be?

*brave*      *greedy*      *poor*      *rich*      *beautiful*      *clever*

## 3. Now read the story and answer the questions

# Robin Hood

Robin Hood, the legendary hero of many English ballads, embodies the fight of the Anglo-Saxon villagers against their Norman invaders. He probably lived in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of Richard the Lionheart.

When Richard left England to fight in the Crusades, his brother Prince John took the throne. He hated his poor subjects, stole their lands and persecuted all those who were faithful to the rightful king, Richard. Among the lords persecuted by John was Robin's father. Robin was still a boy when he saw his father murdered, his house burnt and himself left poor and homeless. In order to escape John's soldiers he hid in the forest.

He soon became the head of a band of villagers and outlaws fighting against the Prince John and the arrogant Norman masters. Robin and his "merry men" lived in Sherwood Forest. They lived on the King's deer and what they stole from rich merchants and churchmen, and they shared their money with the poor and the weak. They dressed in green in order to hide themselves among the leaves of the trees, they could use bows and arrows with amazing skill and they had many adventures.

Finally, Robin was mortally wounded by one of his enemies. He called for his bow, and shot his last arrow, asking to be buried where it landed. The arrow was found in Sherwood Forest and there Robin Hood rests forever.

### Comprehension Questions

1. When did Robin Hood probably live?
2. Why did King Richard leave England?
3. Who was Prince John?
4. Why did Robin Hood have to hide in the forest?

5. What name was given to Robin's followers?
6. Where is Robin Hood buried?

Question

*Do you have a (real or imaginary) hero like Robin Hood in your country? What was his/her name? When did they live? What did they do? Who were their friends/enemies?*

4. Robin lived in Sherwood Forest in Nottingham. Can you find Nottingham on the map?



5. There are three countries in Great Britain. What are their names?  
 1..... 2..... 3.....
6. 1 more country makes Great Britain into the United Kingdom. What is it?  
 .....
7. What are the capital cities of the four countries (they are all on the map!)

1..... 2..... 3.....  
4.....

8. There are lots of films about Robin Hood. Have you seen any? See if you can match the pictures with the film titles.

A) *Robin Hood* (by Walt Disney)  
Kevin Costner)

B) *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves* (with

C) *Robin Hood Men in Tights* (Comedy)

D) *Robin Hood* (with Russell Crowe)

E) *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (an old film from 1938 with the actor Errol Flynn)

F) *Princess of Thieves* (with actress Keira Knightley from *Pirates of the Caribbean*)



1).....

2).....

3).....



4).....

5).....

6).....

9. Below are some of the characters in the Robin Hood stories. Which are Robin's FRIENDS and which are his ENEMIES? Put F or E next to each name.

Maid Marian

Friar Tuck

The Sheriff of Nottingham

Little John

Prince John

King Richard

10. This is just one story about Robin Hood. Before you read, here are some words in the story. What are the past tenses of these verbs?

a) wake up.....  
take.....

b) leave.....

c)

d) have.....

e) move.....

f) put.....

g) see.....

h) speak.....

i) jumped.....

j) run.....

k) wear.....

l) hit.....

### Marian Goes to Sherwood Forest

Very early next morning, Marian put on boy's clothes and a boy's hat and woke up Friar Tuck. The friar took his staff and Marian took her bow and arrows. Then they left the house and walked on the Great North Road through the forest.

After some hours, the friar suddenly left the road and sat down under a tree. 'Please let's stop, My Lady,' he said. 'We had no breakfast and I am very hungry!' Marian laughed. 'I am sorry, Friar Tuck,' she said, 'You are right, we will eat now. Stay here. I will take your staff and my bow and arrow, and catch some

animals. "We can cook them here in the forest.' Marian left the friar and moved quietly between the forest trees. She saw a deer. Very quietly, she took out an arrow and put it to her bow.

'Stop there, boy!' said a man behind her. The man spoke very loudly. The deer jumped at the noise and ran away into the trees. Marian was very angry. She turned to the speaker but he wore a big hood. She couldn't see his face. 'Well, boy,' said the man. 'Don't you know that you cannot eat the king's deer? The Sheriff of Nottingham killed two men last week

because they caught a deer.

'I am not afraid of the sheriff,' said Marian, 'or of you. Leave now - or fight!' 'Fight with you?' the man laughed. 'But you are only a boy! Well, you have a staff and I have one too. I will fight with you -with one hand!' Marian fought well. She was strong and quick. With only one hand, the man could not win. She hit him again and again on his head and across his back. 'Stop, stop!' he laughed. 'You are young, but you are a good fighter.' He threw back his hood. 'I am Robin Hood. Will you come with me, and be one of my men?'

'Robin!' said Marian, and threw back her hood too. Her lovely red hair fell down her back. 'Marian!' answered Robin. 'What are you doing here, in the forest

? Is nobody with you ?' 'I am with a friend, Friar Tuck,' said Marian, 'and he is very

hungry! The deer was for him. But I think that he will be happy to eat at Robin Hood's table.'

She and Robin went back to the road and looked for Friar Tuck.

They called his name but there was no answer.

'Poor man!' said Marian. 'Perhaps he is looking for me. Perhaps he thinks that the sheriff's men caught me!' Then she told Robin about her father and the sheriff. 'I cannot go home now, Robin,' she said. 'I want to be with you here, in Sherwood Forest. Friar Tuck will marry us. Let's find him. Perhaps he will want to live with us.'



### After you read

- Divide the story into different parts and draw a comic strip to tell the story
- Looking only at the pictures, try to tell the story above as a class or with a partner. See how much you remember.
- Act the story out in class.

### 11. Word Search

How many words can you find in the square?  
They can go up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally.

V G O D T D O O H N I B O R O  
Z F F I R E H S L X K S H I U  
H H E B D O B Z F F R M Y U T  
F K Z X C E Q T D B P L Z L S  
M W O R R A K E A Z M T T V E  
C R E P L X A L K X I K R E R  
J V E O F R G T N H E M O H O  
T G O O Y D O S Z M T S G B F  
J A R R H J V A D L O G G Y A  
F R I A R T U C K X W V D S B  
K Q C J M I K C M J G L B E B  
T P H A N A I R A M D I A M N  
C D G E Y X L Q W K A U N H I  
Y J D O D Z E C J C H R J M I

Robin Hood  
Friar Tuck  
Marian  
arrow  
castle  
sheriff  
gold  
rich  
poor  
taxes  
forest

# 12. Life in Sherwood Forest

This is Little John. Look at what he says and complete the sentences with words in the box.



songs	vegetables	arrows
	hats	
games	Sherwood Forest	
	boots	
trees	animals	stories

I'm Little John – one of Robin Hood's men. I live in 1).....  
Life in the forest isn't easy! We sleep on the ground under the 2).....  
and we spend most of our time looking for food. We eat fruit and  
3)..... and we hunt 4)....., like the King's deer!  
The Sherriff of Nottingham is our enemy. We use bows and  
5)..... to fight against him and his men.  
All Robin's men and women wear green clothes so that people know who  
we are. We even wear green 6)..... and 7).....  
When we're not hunting, fighting or robbing the rich to give to the poor, we  
play 8)....., sing 9)..... and tell 10)..... around  
the fire.

2. Now in pairs ask and answer the questions about living in Sherwood Forest.

Student A: You are the interviewer. Ask the questions.

Student B: You are Will Scarlet. Answer the questions.

When you finish you can swap roles.

1. Where do you live?
2. What do you eat?
3. Where do you sleep?
4. What do you do during the day?
5. What clothes do you wear?
6. What do you use to hunt and fight with?
7. What do you do in your free time?

13. NOTE FOR TEACHERS: This is a reading comprehension exercise but made more interesting and fun by the fact that the information is displayed around the room and students have a time limit to go round in pairs and find as many answers as possible in that time. Daily life in a medieval town Information to display on classroom walls

#### Nottingham town

In the year 1300, Nottingham was a big town with a population of 3000 people. It was an important centre for buying and selling. There were two markets selling mainly leather, wool, clothes and pottery.

#### Travel

Most people travelled by foot or on horses. Travelling by road was dangerous – remember Robin Hood and his men were always ready to rob any rich people who passed by! That's why most expensive things were transported by water. Big towns grew up on rivers and near the sea.

#### The streets

The streets were generally very dirty – there were no toilets and people threw dirty water out of windows directly onto the street! There were animals in the streets, especially pigs because people needed them for food but had no space to keep them in their houses.

#### The town day

The day in a medieval town started at 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning and finished at 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening. Shops opened at 6 o'clock in the morning and most closed at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. People ate their first meal at 9 or 10 o'clock.

#### Fire and bells

The houses were very close together and made of wood, and there was not much water available, so fire was a big problem. Most people didn't have clocks or watches, so they listened to the bells ringing to know what time it was. Bells also rang if there was a fire or the city was being attacked.

#### Children

Most children started work at the age of 12 or 13. At that age, many children went to live in rich people's homes as servants or they worked as apprentices, often sleeping on the floor of shops and workshops. Children from richer families continued their education until they were 18 or more.

Answer these questions about life in Nottingham in medieval times. The information you need is on the classroom walls.  
In pairs, try to find the answers to all the questions as quickly as possible.

1. What was the population of Nottingham in the year 1300?
  2. What could you buy at the markets?
  3. Why were the big towns on rivers and near the sea?
  4. What animals could you see in the streets?
  5. Why were the streets usually dirty?
  6. What time did the shops open and close?
  7. What time did people eat their first meal?
  8. Why was fire a big problem?
  9. Why were bells important?
  10. What age were children when they started work?
1. What was the population of Nottingham in the year 1300?
  2. What could you buy at the markets?
  3. Why were the big towns on rivers and near the sea?
  4. What animals could you see in the streets?
  5. Why were the streets usually dirty?
  6. What time did the shops open and close?
  7. What time did people eat their first meal?
  8. Why was fire a big problem?
  9. Why were bells important?
  10. What age were children when they started work?