



## Robin Hood

Robin Hood, the legendary hero of many English ballads, embodies the fight of the Anglo-Saxon peasants 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 usurped the throne. He hated his poor Saxon subjects, confiscated their lands and persecuted all those who were faithful to the rightful king, Richard. Among the nobles 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 was obliged to hide in the forest.

He soon became the chief of a band of peasants and outlaws fighting against the usurper and the arrogant Norman masters. Robin and his "merry men" lived in Sherwood Forest. They lived on the King's venison and what they stole from rich merchants and churchmen, and they shared their booty with the poor and the weak. They used to dress in green in order to hide themselves among the leaves of the trees, they could handle 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?



Robin Hood

Answer Key

1. He probably lived in the late 12th century.
2. To fight in the Crusades.
3. He was King Richard's brother.
4. To escape from John's soldiers.
5. They were called his "merry men".
6. In Sherwood Forest.