

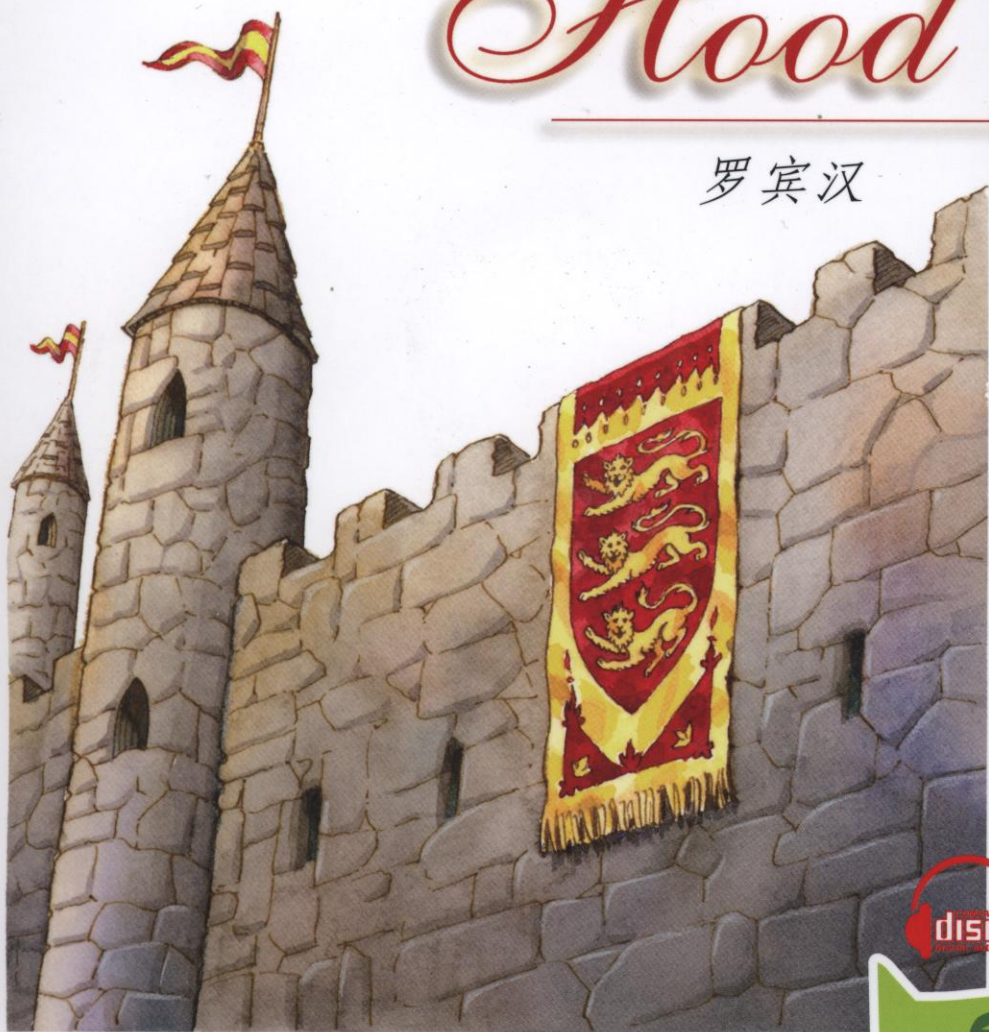


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Robin Hood

罗宾汉



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BEFORE READING

1 Match these words with their meanings:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| a. greedy | 1. likes to cause suffering in others |
| b. cruel | 2. steals from others |
| c. outlaw | 3. things that a person has |
| d. robber | 4. person with a bow and arrow |
| e. possessions | 5. lives outside the protection of the law/
a criminal |
| f. archer | 6. strong desire to have more and more |

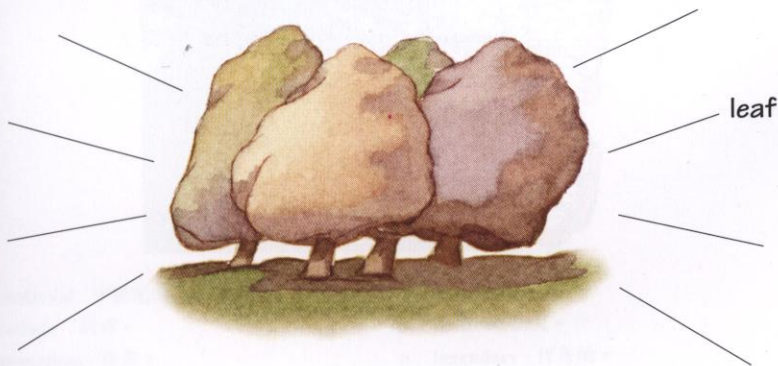
2 Which of the words below do you think of when you read the title *Robin Hood*?



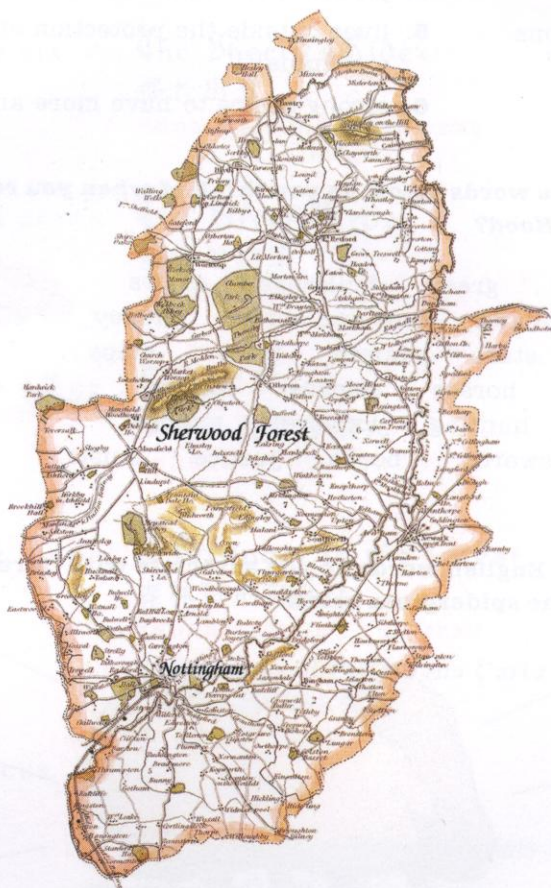
sheriff green buildings chairs
 outlaws bow and arrow money
 stars church trees ships
 horses science castles
 hunting explorers shops
 swords books justice music



3 What other English words do you associate with 'forest'?
 Complete the spidergram below.



- Have you ever seen a film on Robin Hood?
- Have you ever read a story about Robin Hood?
- Did you like it or not? Why?
- Who was your favourite character?



Did Robin Hood really exist?

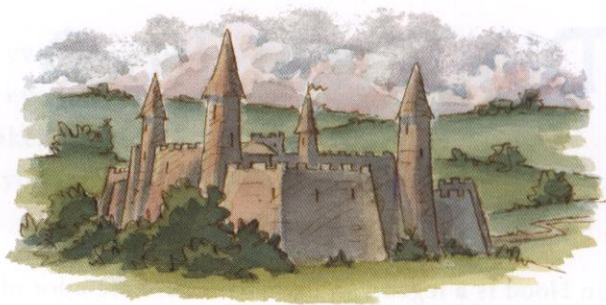
Robin Hood is a legend and a hero. There are a lot of medieval¹ ballads² about Robin Hood's life and adventures. It is probable that he really lived in Sherwood Forest at the beginning of the 13th century, but we are not sure. Today there are numerous³ stories, poems and films about Robin Hood and his outlaws⁴. Robin took from the rich and gave to the poor. He created justice⁵ at a time when there was none. This is why he became a legendary⁶ hero.

Robin and his men lived in Sherwood Forest near the town of Nottingham. Today this area is called Nottinghamshire. A 'Tales of Robin Hood Centre' opened in Nottingham in 1989. Thousands of tourists visit it every year.



1. **medieval** : 中世纪的。
2. **ballads** : 民谣。
3. **numerous** : 很多。

4. **outlaws** : 逃犯。
5. **justice** : 正义。
6. **legendary** : 传奇的。



Robin Hood Becomes an Outlaw

Robin Hood was born near the end of the 12th century. His real name was Robert. He was the son of the Earl¹ of Huntingdon. At that time, England had many problems. King Richard was away on a crusade² in the Holy Land³. He was away many years.

His brother, John, became king. He was a cruel and greedy⁴ king. His men were arrogant⁵ and brutal⁶. The poor people of England suffered a lot. They paid very high taxes to King John and his sheriffs⁷. Many families died of hunger!

1. Earl : 伯爵。
2. crusade : 圣战。
3. Holy Land : 圣地耶路撒冷。
4. greedy : 贪婪的。

5. arrogant : 高傲的。
6. brutal : 残忍的。
7. sheriffs : 郡长。



Robin Hood Becomes an Outlaw



One day, the cruel Sheriff of Nottingham killed Robin's father, and took away his lands. Young Robin lost his father, his home, his lands and all his possessions.

He escaped to Sherwood Forest with his loyal¹ servants. They decided to live as free men in the forest. They didn't want to be slaves of King John. However, the King considered them outlaws.

When Robin and his men reached Sherwood Forest, they sat down to rest. Robin Hood smiled at his loyal servants. Then he said to them, 'My friends, Sherwood Forest is our new home. Now we are free but we are outlaws. Everyone in the kingdom is against² us!'

'Master, we are not afraid because you are with us,' said Much.
'Yes, I will stay with you, but you must do what I tell you. We



1. loyal : 忠诚的。

2. against : 反对。

Robin Hood



must not become robbers. We must never harm¹ the poor, the old, women or children. We must respect and protect them.

'We take only from rich merchants, noblemen and fat churchmen! Here is my plan: when rich travellers come into Sherwood Forest, we invite them to eat with us. Then, they must pay for their food. They must give us half of everything they have! We then give this money to the poor. Do you promise to do what I tell you?'

'Yes, we do!' they cried.

Robin and the outlaws lived in caverns² in the forest. The caverns were a perfect hiding place. They were warm and dry in the winter. In the summer they were cool.

They were happy in the forest. They all wore green clothes and carried bows and arrows. Robin had a horn³ to give signals⁴.

Soon, other honest men joined the outlaws of Sherwood Forest: Nat, Will Scarlett and others.

The outlaws were excellent archers⁵. Robin Hood became the best archer in the region. In the forest, Robin and his men practised⁶ with their bows and arrows.



1. **harm** : 伤害。

2. **caverns** : 大洞穴。

3. **horn** : 

4. **signals** : 信号。

5. **archers** : 弓箭手。

6. **practised** : 练习。

