

Contents

Before you read the story ___ 4

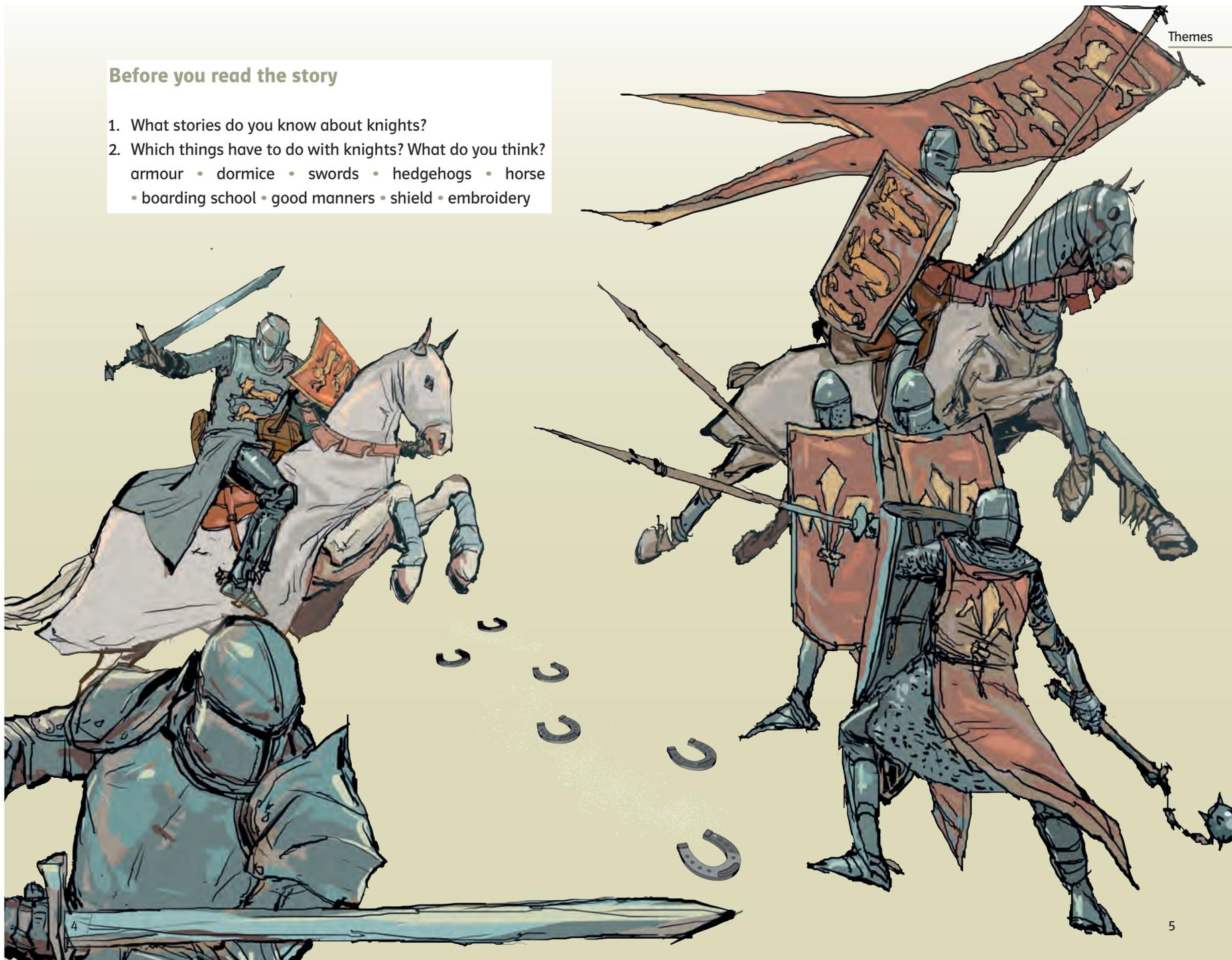
- 1 What is a knight? ___ 6
- 2 Knights in the Middle Ages ___ 10
- 3 Knights and castles ___ 12
- 4 What did knights eat? ___ 16
- 5 How did a boy become a knight? ___ 18
- 6 Female knights ___ 22
- 7 The code of chivalry ___ 24
- 8 Knights and their horses ___ 26
- 9 Knights in shining armour ___ 28
- 10 Heraldry ___ 32
- 11 Tournaments and jousting ___ 34
- 12 Knights in other times and countries ___ 38
- 13 Are knights dead and gone? ___ 40
- 14 Knights today ___ 42

Exercises ___ 44

Vocabulary ___ 50

Before you read the story

1. What stories do you know about knights?
2. Which things have to do with knights? What do you think?
armour • dormice • swords • hedgehogs • horse
• boarding school • good manners • shield • embroidery



1 What is a knight?

Knights – fact

- 1 You could say a 'knight' is any soldier who fights on horseback. However, when we hear the word 'knight' today, we probably think of the medieval knight in shining armour from between the 12th and 17th century.
- 5 These types of knights first came into being during the time of King Charlemagne (714 – 842 AD), who was King of the Franks. Charlemagne had twelve warriors who protected him and fought for him. Stories of these twelve noble knights and their bravery spread through the country.
- 10 While many men could be soldiers and shoot bows and arrows and fight with swords on foot, men who owned powerful horses and could fight on horseback were more useful to the kings and queens of Europe. They needed loyal warriors to protect them, keep control of their lands and
- 15 turn back invaders.



Hello, I'm Merlin!
I'll pop up again
... See you later!

MORE ABOUT

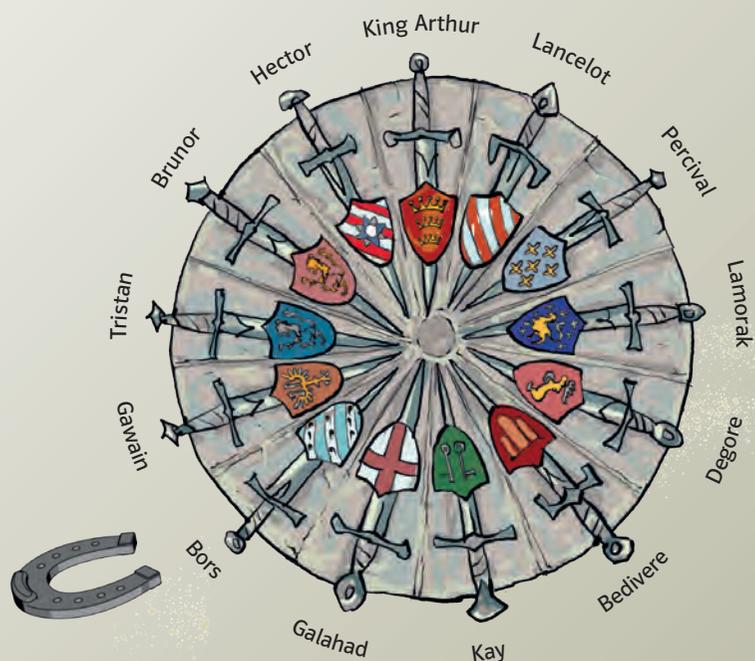
The word 'knight': The word has nothing to do with 'night' although it sounds the same. 'Knight' is an Anglo-Saxon word. It comes from the Old English word 'cniht', which meant 'boy'. Over the years 'cniht' turned into the word 'knight'.

Knights – fiction

- 1 However, the most famous knight in shining armour was not a real person: Sir Lancelot of the Knights of the Round Table in the stories of King Arthur and the Court of Camelot. No one has found evidence that King Arthur ever lived, but stories of him and his twelve brave knights, who fought for the weak and were fair to all, are still alive today.

5 According to legend, King Arthur didn't die, but went away to sleep on an island called Avalon. People believed that when his country needed him, he would wake up and come and rescue it. This story most probably gave hope to a population facing wars and invasions.

10 The 10th-century poem 'Song of Roland' told of Charlemagne's twelve noble knights. This story may be the basis for the legend of King Arthur and his twelve knights.



8



MORE ABOUT

King Arthur's court: The Court of Camelot not only had brave knights, it had a magical man called Merlin too. He was the wizard who helped Arthur to become King.

9