



4 British and Irish legends (I)

Read and find out

which 3 paragraphs belong to each one of them. Drag and drop the letters corresponding to the paragraphs in the following grid. Paragraphs must come in the correct order.

LEGENDS	Paragraph 1	Paragraph 2	Paragraph 3
LEPRECHAUNS			
BOADICEA			
TINTAGEL CASTLE			
SAINT KEVIN OF GLENDALOUGH			

She ruled the Iceni tribe together with her husband, king Prasutagus. She was an impressive woman: tall, with a strong voice, a fierce look and long red hair down to her hips. Prasutagus tried to make a deal with the Romans: he named both his daughters and the Roman Emperor Nero heirs of his kingdom and his wealth. This way he hoped the Romans would always be kind to his family if he died.

A

So as a hermit, he slept in a cave on the hill, which was only 1-metre high, wore animal skins for clothing and swam in the lake both in the summer and in the winter. Some people say this is why he grew as old as 120. He liked animals very much but wasn't very friendly with human beings. All the same, people often went to visit him. Once a woman claimed she was in love with him and he threw her off into the lake, where she drowned.

B

She fought her last battle in the Midlands of England in AD61. She and her daughters drove around in a chariot asking the tribes to be brave. And brave they were, but the Romans were too many and the Britons died in thousands. Boadicea took poison before the Romans could take her alive. On the Thames embankment, next to the Houses of Parliament in London you can see the statue of a chariot with Boadicea and her daughters: their bravery will never be forgotten!

C

They are fairies belonging to the world of the Tuatha Dé Danann (Irish mythological creatures). They are shoemakers and you will not find a female one. They like dancing the Irish jig so much that their shoes need mending every day. They look old and small and they are often a little tipsy, because the brew liquor at home. They usually appear dressed in green and wearing a hat, but originally they had a red coat.

D

It was King Arthur's birthplace. The ruins of this impressive castle overlooking the sea can be visited in Cornwall. His parents were Uther Pendragon and Lady Igraine. But Uther Pendragon died, and King Arthur was brought up by Merlin, the wizard.

E

Legend says they are also the guardians of an ancient treasure from the wars with the Danes, which Leprechauns buried in pots at the end of the rainbow. They think humans are foolish and greedy. If you ever catch a Leprechaun, it will promise you great wealth if you set it free, but it is not very likely that the Leprechaun will keep its promise.

F

Many legends speak about his connection with nature and animals. One says a white cow came to his parents' house morning and evening with milk for him. Another one says he once dropped his prayer book into the lake and an otter brought it back to him. On another occasion, while he was praying with his arms outstretched, a bird built a nest on his palm and laid an egg in it. Clearly, he had more patience with animals than with fellow creatures.

G

One of them, sir Galahad, had a vision of the Holy Grail (the cup Jesus Christ used in the Last Supper) and he knew they had to start a quest for the sacred object. All the knights joined the quest at the beginning, but only three persevered: Galahad, Percival and Bors. Some legends say they found it, and Galahad, the Perfect Knight, went up to heaven with the angels. So he never truly died. Legend has it that if you drink from the Holy Grail, you will be granted eternal life.

H

Merlin always knew that the little boy was destined to be a great man: the king of England. This happened when Arthur managed to remove Excalibur from a stone with only one hand. Excalibur was a magic sword and it helped Arthur on many occasions. King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table became legendary.

I

Saint Kevin was born at the end of the 5th century. He is the founder of Glendalough or Glen (valley) of two Lakes, one of the most important sites of monastic ruins in Ireland. He was the son of a noble family but he chose to lead the life of a hermit.

J

And one last thing is they may sometimes offer you a coin that disappears or goes back into their own bag. In some stories they are a little mischievous, in others they can be harmless. Whatever the case, they are very popular among children and adults.

K

But when he died, things did not go as he had planned. The Roman Governor and his soldiers flogged Boadicea in public and her daughters were raped. Boadicea allied with other tribes and revolted against the Romans. They defeated the Romans in Camulodunum (Colchester) and Londinium (London). Unfortunately, victory did not last for long.

L