

Przeczytaj fragment tekstu, a następnie wybierz poprawna odpowiedź lub odpowiedzi do każdego z pytań.

A small island off the fog-shrouded coast of Nova Scotia may conceal the world's greatest treasure, that of the order of the Knights Templar. Missing since the fourteenth century, the treasure of the Templars is reputed to contain massive amounts of gold and silver bullion, the crown jewels of royal European families, religious artefacts sacred to both Judaism and Christianity and documents that may be as provocative now as when they were buried.

1. It is believed that the treasure of the Knights Templar

- a) was hidden on a small island by one of the royal families from Europe.
- b) includes evidence that might stir up controversies.
- c) might have never been so great and valuable as it is assumed.

While the debate remains unresolved, the indisputable truth is that someone with a great deal of knowledge and engineering expertise went through a lot of trouble to conceal something. And that they finished their complex project at least before 1795. The carbon dating process pushes the dates back as early as 1390 and as late as the 1660s.

2. The people who hid the treasure

- a) probably did not manage to keep the place of concealment secret.
- b) were unaware of what exactly they were hiding on the island.
- c) must have had great technical skills and experience.

Around the year 1118, the nine men that made up the original Knights Templar returned to France from Jerusalem. Ostensibly their mission had been to make safe the roads for Christian pilgrims visiting the Holy Land, a seemingly overwhelming task for a handful of men. The real purpose might have been completely different. The early knights stationed themselves in the stables of Solomon's Temple and basically conducted a treasure hunt. When they returned, they received a hero's welcome and were the subject of St. Bernard's attention.

3. The founders of the Knights Templar

- a) might have been involved in activities other than protection of pilgrims.
- b) are supposed to have had a knowledge of valuables hidden in Jerusalem.
- c) were held in high esteem by their compatriots.

Bernard of Clairvaux preached so powerfully on behalf of the Christian warriors that he built the tiny group into an order, rivalling his own Cistercians. The difference was that the Knights Templar were warrior monks, pledged to the church and their order, answering to no earthly power otherwise. Young men from wealthy families of Europe flocked to join the order, swearing their inheritance. Nobles donated land and estates. Soon the Templars grew into Europe's first bank.

4. The monks who belonged to the Knights Templar

- a) were devoted Christians and rejected any form of violence.
- b) originated mainly from low social classes.
- c) did not swear obedience to any monarchs or rulers.

Ironically, Templars' success would contribute to the order's downfall. Nobles became envious of the wealth and power of the order, but it was not until the Crusading armies lost Jerusalem and the Templars surrendered the last Christian outpost that anyone would challenge the order. And then the challenge was so great the order would fail.

5. The collapse of the Knights Templar order

- a) was the direct result of the jealousy that their influences caused among European aristocrats.
- b) ultimately led to Crusaders' fighting against each other.
- c) did not occur till the Templars lost all their possessions in the Holy Land.

The debt of King Philip of France to the Templars was great, in terms of both the money they had lent the king and in saving his life from the mobs of Paris. There was, however, no mutual admiration between the borrower and the lender. Philip's hostility to the order induced him to mount false charges against the Templars and to bring in the Roman Pope. In one fateful day, Friday, October 13, 1307 the armies of France would attack Templar headquarters and arrest hundreds of knights. They were tortured until they confessed to any charges made up by their torturers. These included devil worship, spitting on the Cross and worshipping an idol. Many died during torture, others were burnt at the stake.

6. Philip, the King of France

- a) considered the Templars and the Pope his deadly enemies.
- b) had a debt of gratitude to pay to the Templars.
- c) devised a plot to do away with the Templars in order to avoid having to pay off his debts.

While the goal of defeating the order had succeeded, the real goal of King Philip had failed. Before that fateful October day, the Paris Temple, the headquarters of the world's only bank, had been tipped off. The treasures had been loaded on wagon trains and carried overland to the port of La Rochelle. There the wealth of the order was placed aboard Templar ships. The Templar fleet then simply vanished into thin air.