

# Examples of Legends: George and the Dragon

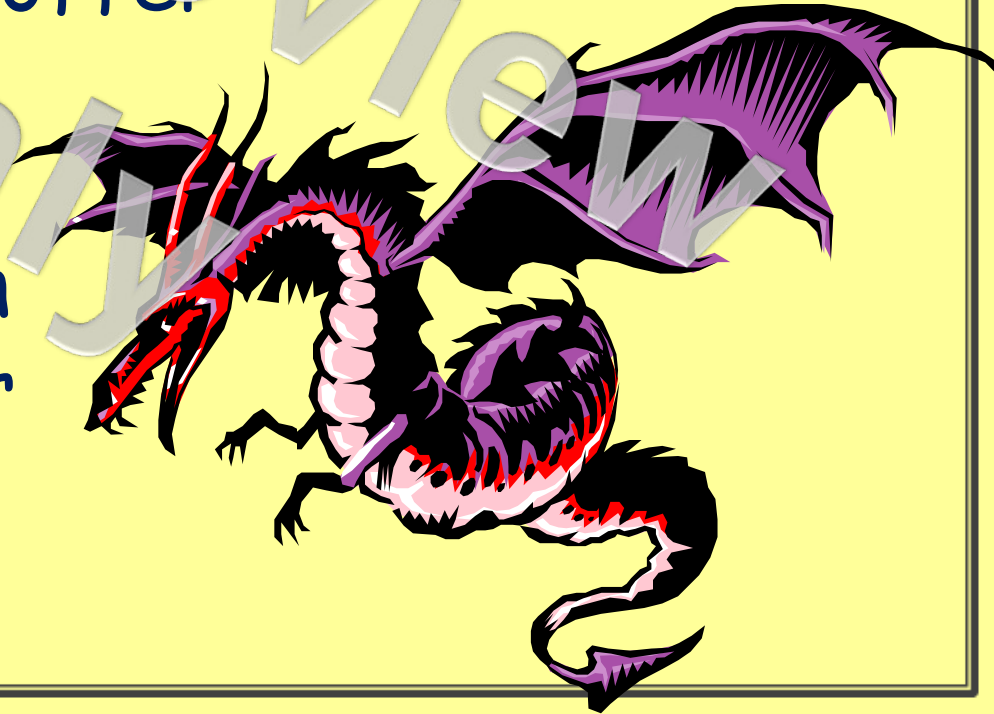
A legend is a story about a person who has done something special. The story has been passed down through the ages. Legends may have some truth to them, but the story may have changed over many years to make the person sound like a hero.





# St. George and the Dragon

Once in a town lived in terror of a monstrous dragon, whose lair was in a nearby marsh. The dragon was very angry. To calm this terrible anger, the people in the town decided to offer their youngest daughters. After a few days, the dragon sent back all of their daughters' skulls.



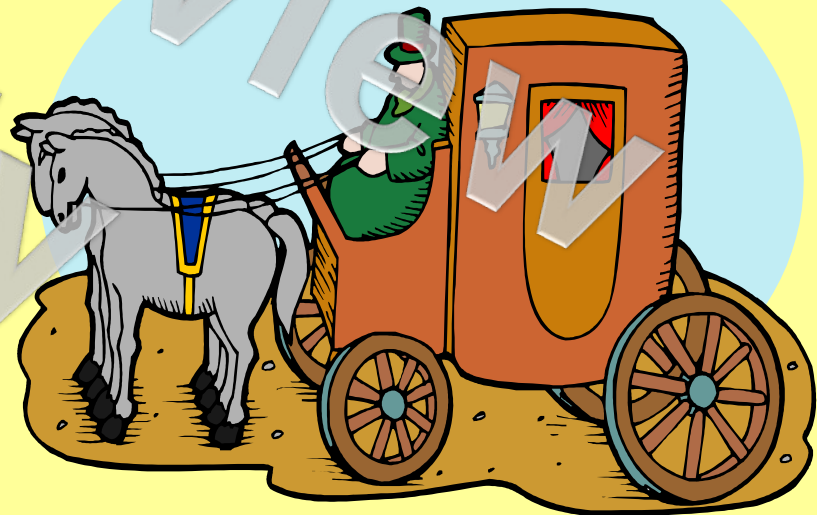
The dragon was calm for two or three days, but then he became the same angry dragon. The towns people drew lots to pick the next sacrifice. However the King's daughter was excused.

The people grew angry at this special treatment and demanded she take her turn.



As he wanted to be a fair King, he agreed. His daughter pulled out her straw. To her horror, it was the short straw. The King was very upset.

The next day she was taken to the dragon in a carriage. On the way she met a brave young knight who had heard her sorrowful story. His name was George.





George promised to stay by her side and protect her, though she begged him to save his own life first. Together they approached the lair of the dragon.

When the dragon saw that the damsel had a defender it roared a roar of fire.





But the knight's sword was sharp and his wits even sharper.

After a long battle, he thrust his shield deep within the dragon's jaws, and then, with a slash of his sword, cut off its head! The dragon was dead. The people in the town could celebrate. There would be no more sacrifices, and the king's daughter was safe.





The princess was carried home again with tears of joy. Word spread quickly of the knight's great deed, sending people scurrying into the streets to celebrate.

Within days the knight and the Princess got married.





Pride of place at their wedding went to the head of the dragon, a reminder of how brave the knight was. To reward the knight, the King decided to make him a saint. From this day on, the knight was to be called St. George.

Today he is famous and is known as the Patron Saint of England.

