

# The Legend of Robin Hood



# Who Was Robin Hood?



There are lots of stories about Robin Hood that have been passed down through the generations. He is thought to have lived in Sherwood Forest in medieval times.

The stories state that Robin Hood was an outlaw. An outlaw was someone who had broken the law. It is said that he lived in the forest with other outlaws, who were known as his merry men.



The sheriff of Nottingham was in charge of looking after Nottingham for the King of England, King Richard I, while he was away fighting in another country. The sheriff was thought to be an unkind and greedy man. He made people pay taxes, which he said he would spend on looking after Nottingham and making it a nice place to live. However, the sheriff increased the taxes more and more, making it impossible for some people to afford them. When they couldn't pay he made them homeless.



Robin and his merry men did not think this was fair at all and many stories say that they robbed money and treasures from the rich people and gave them to the poor people who had nothing. This is why Robin Hood was known as an outlaw.

# Who Were Robin Hood's Merry Men?

Many of Robin Hood's merry men are mentioned throughout the stories. They were his friends and companions. It is not known exactly how many merry men are included in the stories, but here are a few of them:



## **Friar Tuck**

A kind hearted priest, he would give the money that Robin took to the poor people.



## **Little John**

He is said to be Robin's second-in-command of the merry men. Although his name is 'Little John' he is often described as being very tall and large in the stories.



**Will Scarlett**  
A skilled swordsman  
and also Robin's  
nephew.



**Much the Miller's Son**  
He became an outlaw  
when he was caught  
poaching deer on the  
sheriff's land. He was  
the son of a Miller.



### **Maid Marion**

Maid Marion was Robin Hood's true love. According to stories they were married in St. Mary's church in Edwinstowe and remained together for the rest of their lives. She was also Richard I's cousin.

# Where Did Robin Hood Live?

In some tales it is thought Robin used the Major Oak tree (pictured below), which can be found in Sherwood Forest Country Park, as a hideout.



# Was Robin Hood Real?

People's thoughts and opinions are divided. Some people believe that Robin Hood is a fictional character from stories, ballads and poems.

Others believe that he really did exist and it is thought he was a popular character during the medieval times because of his generosity to the poor.





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