Arthurian Legend Unit Study Guide Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

English IV/Mrs. Decker

Arthurian Legend Unit Notes

(PowerPoint can be found on my website under the English IV tab 🡪Arthurian Legend)

**Code of Chivalry** – Code of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Requirements of a Knight:**

1. Brave \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Virtuous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Selfless \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Sir Thomas Malory:**

* Author of most complete surviving collection of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ legends
* Jailed for stealing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, extortion, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Spent much of his life in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Author of *Morte d’Arthur*, wrote from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**William Caxton** –

* Established first \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in England
* Gave *Morte d’Arthur* its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Characteristics of a Medieval Romance:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ story tells of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ events
2. Exotic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, kings, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in distress
4. Tells of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are fought
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is doomed

**Four Characteristics of a Legend:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ figures
2. Memorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, contests, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Patterned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., repeated 3 times)

**Newsela *~ “*Myths and Legends: King Arthur and the Holy Grail, the short version”**

# Read the article on Newsela. For each section, record key details from the text in the box on the RIGHT. Write a summary of each section under the section heading in the box on the LEFT.

*(NCSCOS RI11-12.10; SL11-12.1a, b, d)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Section Heading/* *Summary* | *Key Details from the Text* |
| **Story of King Arthur’s Birth***Summary:* |  |
| **Youthful Arthur Reveals Power and Importance***Summary:* |  |
| **A Quest Central to the Arthurian Saga***Summary:* |  |
| **Arthur’s Reign Ends***Summary:* |   |
| **Arthurian Legend Associated with Christianity***Summary:* |  |

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight –* Reading Questions

1. What is the opening setting for this piece of literature?
2. Describe the Green Knight – his appearance, his manners, his words.
3. What is the Green Knight’s criticism of Arthur’s knights?
4. Describe the “game” the Green Knight proposes.
5. Why does Sir Gawain step in front of King Arthur and take his place?
6. How long is a twelvemonth?
7. What happens when Gawain raises the ax and strikes straight through the Green Knight’s neck?
8. Where and when does the Green Knight tell Gawain to meet him?
9. Explain the arrangement to which Sir Gawain and the Lord agree:
10. What does the guide try to convince Sir Gawain to do?
11. Explain what happens when the Green Knight takes his blows.

First strike of the ax:

Second strike of the ax:

Third strike of the ax:

1. What explanation does the Green Knight give for the three strikes?
2. How does Sir Gawain feel after hearing this explanation?
3. What is the Green Knight’s real identity?

*Le Morte d’Arthur* by Sir Thomas Malory – Reading Questions

1. Arthur has two dreams/visions. What is the significance of the first one?
2. What is the second dream/vision?
3. Why is Gawain surrounded by women?
4. What is Gawain’s message for Arthur?
5. Who delivers Arthur’s orders concerning the peace treaty? (2 people)
6. What does the “treatise” promise to Mordred?
7. Who is Mordred?
8. Why does the battle break out?
9. Explain the significance of your answer to #8.
10. What does Sir Lucan mean when he says that Mordred is “unhappy”?
11. What does “swough” mean in the following statement: “And noble King Arthur fell in a swough to the earth”?
12. Why does Sir Lucan want to take the dying Arthur to a town?
13. Who does Arthur regret missing as he dies?
14. Which of Arthur’s knights dies before he does?
15. What is Malory’s description of Excalibur?
16. How does Sir Bedivere disobey Arthur? Why does he disobey Arthur?
17. Think about Malory’s use of the number three. What significance does it have?
18. How does Bedivere show (not tell) Arthur that he loves him and is devoted to him? Be specific. Quote the line.
19. Of what epic poem does this remind you?
20. What is a barge?
21. Describe the women on the barge:
22. What does Arthur tell Bedivere to do to comfort himself?
23. Whom does Bedivere meet at the chapel?
24. Why does Bedivere “swoon” or faint?
25. What does Bedivere say he will do the rest of his life?
26. Who were the three queens on the barge?
27. Who takes Excalibur and shakes it three times?
28. What is the significance of Arthur’s tombstone?
29. According to the text, what happens to Guinevere?