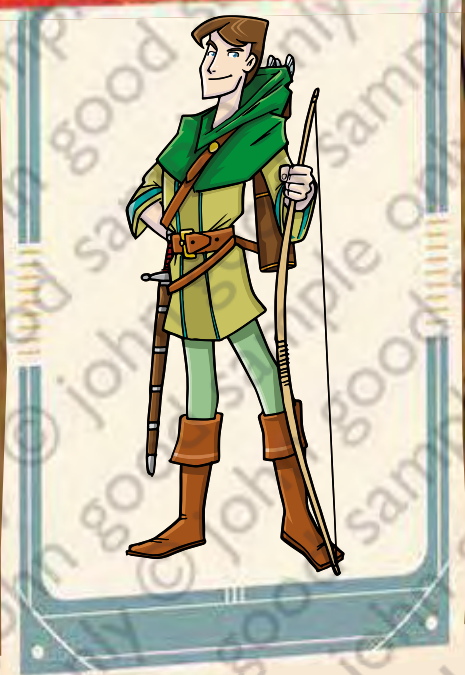


MEET THE MERRY MEN

ROBIN HOOD



Some of the stories about this character say that he was over seven feet tall! We think that is very tall even today but, hundreds of years ago, it would have been very unusual indeed. He was supposedly buried in the village of Hathersage in Derbyshire where on his grave is written: "Here lies Little John, the friend and Lieutenant of Robin Hood." The story goes that someone opened the grave about 200 years ago and found a thigh bone nearly 75cms long!

What we learn from the stories is that he was Robin's second-in-command and had many adventures of his own. He was an excellent swordsman and archer, although he is most famous for using the quarterstaff. He was carrying one of these sturdy weapons the day he met Robin.

An old meaning of the word Little is tricky or clever. In some of the stories John is very gentle, but he can also be very angry. He is certainly Robin's most trusted and loyal friend.

FRIAR TUCK



The popular picture of Friar Tuck is of a rather round and jolly character who seems to spend as much time on food and drink as he does on his religious duties! He does not appear in the early Robin Hood stories, but a play written in 1475 does include him as a member of Robin's band.

He is the friar in the tale of *Robin and the Curtal Friar*. 'Curtal' means corded and refers to a cord which Franciscan friars wore around their waists. They used this to 'tuck' in their habits so it was easier to move about as they travelled the land teaching and preaching. This is where the name Tuck probably came from. Tuck might have been his real name, of course, but it could also have been this nickname. In some stories, Friar Tuck is a bit of a double agent, as the Sheriff and evil abbots do not realise that he is really working for the outlaws.

WILL SCARLETT



Here is another famous member of Robin Hood's band and another who is known by several different names: Scarlet, Scarlett, Scadlock and Scatheloke. Whichever name he turns up with, he has been a member of the outlaw band since the earliest stories of Robin Hood.

One of the ballad stories says that Robin met a stranger dressed in scarlet silk and, after an argument and a fight which the stranger won, Robin asked him who he was. It turned out that he was the son of Robin's own sister and so his nephew! In other stories he is called his cousin, but in those days that just meant a close relative. When he joined Robin's band he was christened Will Scarlett because of his clothes. He was made very welcome and was next in importance only to Little John and Robin himself. Some legends say that he was killed by the Sheriff of Nottingham's men.

ALAN-A-DALE



Alan - sometimes spelt Allen, Allan or even Alin! - is not always a member of Robin Hood's outlaw band. He came into the later adventures. It seems that Alan was a villager, and the girl he was to marry was suddenly being made to marry an old and cruel, but rich knight. Robin and the outlaws helped to rescue her. In return, although Alan did not become a fighting member of Robin's band, he often provided music and songs for the outlaws' feasts.



OAKLEY JOKEY

What did Robin say when he nearly got hit at the archery contest?
"That was an arrow escape!"

MUCH THE MILLER'S SON



It's certainly a strange name isn't it - Much? This character is mentioned quite a bit in the early tales of Robin Hood. Sometimes he's called Nick the Miller's Son or Midge rather than Much. It seems that this original character was supposed to be strong enough to carry Little John but, in other stories, he is quite a young man who is saved by Robin when he is about to be punished for killing a deer. He does not always appear in the stories but, in the most recent television series, he is Robin's best friend.



OAKLEY JOKEY

Where did Robin's Merry Men go to buy their sweets?
The Friar's Tuck Shop!

THE LEGEND OF

ROBIN HOOD



QAKEY JOKEY

How does Robin Hood tie his shoelaces?
With a long bow!

QAKEY JOKEY

Why couldn't Robin Hood hit the target?
Because his arrows were all in a quiver!

WAS HE REAL?

Stories about the famous outlaw Robin Hood have been made into many films and television series, but how did the stories get started and come down to us today?

Someone did not make them up just to make a good film or exciting Saturday night telly! Hundreds of years ago, stories were passed on by people actually telling them to others, around the fire or in communal meetings. When you've heard a story a few times you may want to tell it to someone else, but you are quite likely to change a few details or add some colour of your own or simply make more of your favourite part of the story than the rest. In these ways the stories get changed as they are passed on to more people over the years.

Sometimes the stories are about real people and sometimes about characters the storyteller makes up, but more likely it will be a mixture of the two. This is how it is with the stories of Robin Hood.

Just over 200 years ago a man called Joseph Ritson went in search of the historical Robin Hood. He came to the conclusion that his real name was Robert Fitzooth, who was born in Loxley in Nottinghamshire around 1160. He was a brave-hearted outlaw who robbed from the rich to help the poor, never killed anyone except in self-defence, did not allow women to be badly treated and was never captured.

But there were other real people who may also have been Robin Hood. He might have been the Earl of Huntingdon or a simple yeoman, born in Nottinghamshire or Yorkshire, and he might have always behaved according to those noble ideals or, sometimes, he might have had to kill someone to stop them betraying him and his fellow outlaws.

The first mention of Robin Hood in writing is in a poem called *Piers Plowman*, which was written around 1377. It was about another 100 years before the half dozen ballads with Robin as the hero were written, but in-between the stories were being handed down by word of mouth. It was in William Shakespeare's time that Anthony Munday wrote two plays about Robin Hood and he makes him the Earl of Huntingdon. Shakespeare also mentions Robin Hood in one of his plays, *As You Like It*.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Robin.

Robin who?

Robin the rich to give to the poor!

OAKEY JOKEY

Life was often very hard in these centuries after William the Conqueror became king in 1066. The Norman lords and their descendants did not always treat the ordinary people of England very well. The rivalry between the two brothers King Richard I (the Lionheart) and Prince John created a battle between good and evil. In this situation Robin Hood became the champion of the downtrodden people of England, loyal to King Richard, who was away fighting the Crusades.

But we cannot really identify a single historical person who we can definitely say was Robin Hood. What we will always have though is the mythical figure, the idea of the hero, the 'little man' who stands up for the poor and the oppressed against wickedness in high places. Every age needs its heroes and that is why, whether or not a real Robin Hood ever existed, we will keep reinventing him and, however impossible the odds, he and his loyal band of outlaws will always win the day.

If Friar Tuck was a monk, why did he get involved in a life of crime?

It was his habit!

OAKEY JOKEY



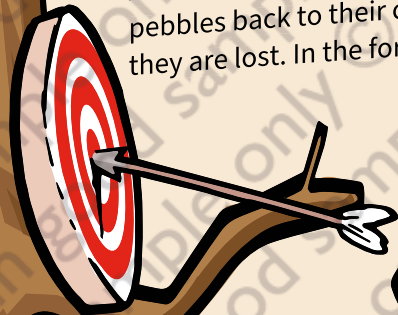


WOODS

Up until only a few hundred years ago, much of Europe was covered by forest. A lot of it was impossible to get through and full of dangers, both human and animal, so it is not surprising that woods and forests turn up time and time again in our fairy tales. There is darkness and danger, but the journey into the forest is often seen as something the characters must do and, if they come through the ordeal, what they have found out helps them to become better people.

Little Red Riding Hood goes into the wood because she wants to, confidently facing any dangers which may lurk there. Snow White and Hansel and Gretel do not go willingly: Snow White manages to escape being killed by softening the heart of the man sent to murder her by her stepmother, the Queen, but she still has to journey some way through the wood alone before she finds sanctuary at the cottage of the seven dwarfs. Even then she is not safe - the Queen is able to catch her alone and trick her twice more!

Hansel and Gretel too are abandoned in the forest. At first they manage to escape by leaving a trail of pebbles back to their cottage, but the second time they are lost. In the forest they find the gingerbread





to their wishes and hopes of future happiness. It is only when the right person and the right time come together that it is possible to find a way through the forest, and even then it requires great courage and perseverance.

The story of the Babes in the Wood is actually based on something that really happened, in a place called Wayland Wood. The story goes that, in the late 1400s, two young children were sent to live with their uncle when their father died. If they grew up they would receive a good inheritance but, if they died young, their uncle would get all the money. The uncle told them he was sending them off to London with two men, but he had hired the men to kill the two children deep in the woods.

When they reached the woods, however, one of the men had a change of heart and an argument started between them, which resulted in the kind one killing the other. However, he wasn't kind enough to care more for the children than for his own skin and, telling them to wait for him to bring them food, he abandoned them in the forest.

Later versions of the story bring in another legend associated with forests, Robin Hood, to rescue them. Robin Hood himself may have been one real person or a legendary figure made up from the lives of several different men, but the stories of his life with his fellow outlaws in Sherwood Forest still stir our imaginations today.

Even though we know the woods may hold unknown dangers and we run the risk of being lost for ever, we still want to go into the woods because it is there we may just find the key to our real happiness.



house belonging to what seems to be a kind old lady. Appearances can be deceptive however, and they need to use all their cunning to finally escape from the witch's clutches.

In *Sleeping Beauty*, the forest of thorns which grows up around the palace where the Princess and the royal court are sleeping for a hundred years seems to be for their protection, but seen from the point of view of the various suitors who try to get through it, it is a barrier



MAKE YOUR OWN WANTED POSTER

Create your own outlaw by cutting up the eyes, noses and mouths on the opposite page and sticking them to the face below. Don't forget to add your outlaw name, what crime they have committed and what the reward is for their capture.



Remember to ask an adult to help you when using scissors.

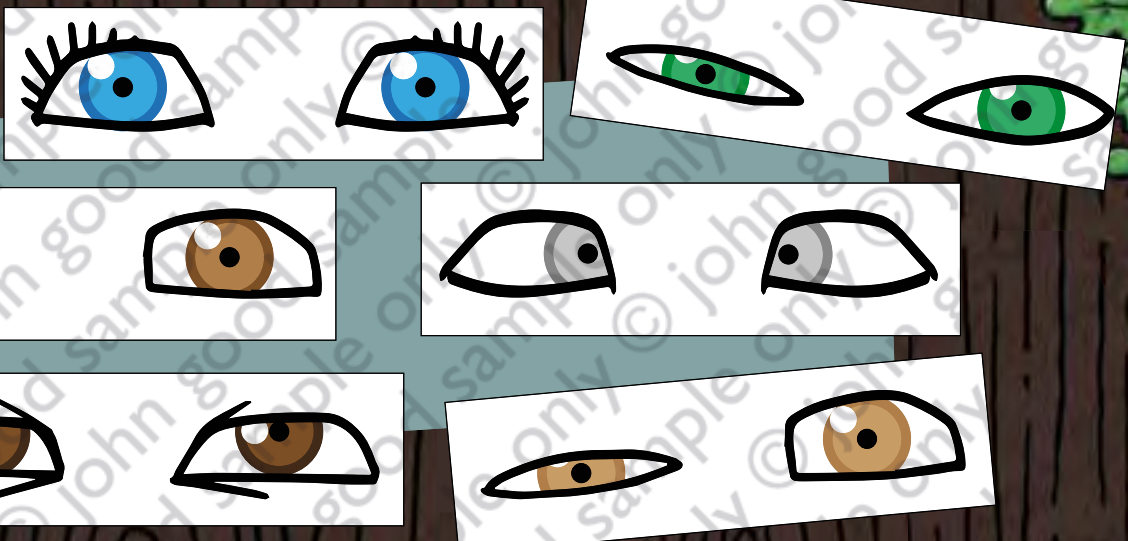
IT'S TIME THEY
TURNED OVER
A NEW LEAF!



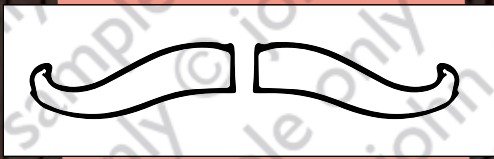
EYEBROWS



EYES



MOUSTACHE



NOSES



MOUTHS



HAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!

If you follow the pictures and the explanations, in just a few minutes you should have a hat similar to those worn by Robin Hood and his merry men!

Remember to ask an adult to help you when using scissors.



STEP 1

Start with a rectangle of paper (about 59cm by 38cm). A sheet taken from a newspaper should do, but try different sizes for a snug fit. Fold the paper in half. Where you make the fold is shown by a dotted line.



STEP 2

Fold the paper in half again and open out to find the middle (the line A to B). Now fold over along the diagonal lines.



STEP 3

The paper should now look like the diagram. The part of the paper which is the shape of a rectangle (only the upper sheet) should be folded along the dotted line, so the edge comes halfway up the rectangle and touches the bottom of the triangles.



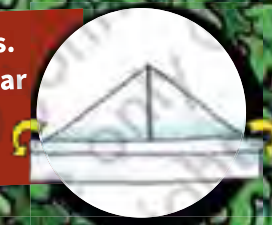
STEP 4

Now fold this part again over the bottom of the triangles.



STEP 5

It should now look like this. Fold over the small triangular pieces so they go behind the hat. Now turn over the paper.



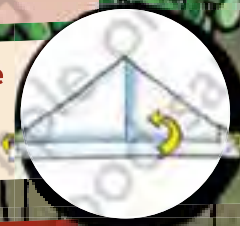
STEP 6

You should now be able to see the triangles you folded behind. Similar to before, fold the rectangle of paper up so that its edge meets the bottom of the triangles.



STEP 7

Fold where you see the dotted lines and fold the band up as you did in part 4.



STEP 8

You've nearly completed the hat. Fold one corner of the hat over where you see the dotted line, and then back again. This will help in the next move, which is to tuck the corner inside the hat to get the next shape.



STEP 9

With the corner inside the hat it should now be this shape. What the hat needs now is a feather.



NOW FOR THE FEATHER

1

For the feather take a new piece of paper (about 22 cm by 12 cm) and fold it in half lengthways along the dotted line.



2

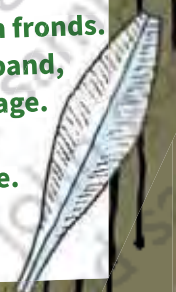
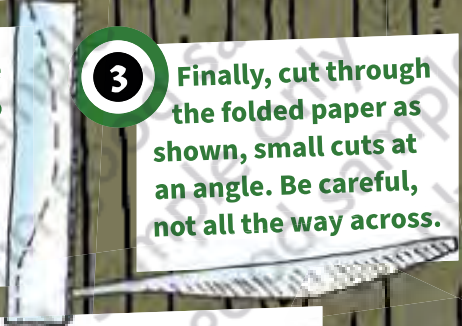
The dotted line shows where to cut through both thicknesses. Be careful with those scissors.

3

Finally, cut through the folded paper as shown, small cuts at an angle. Be careful, not all the way across.

4

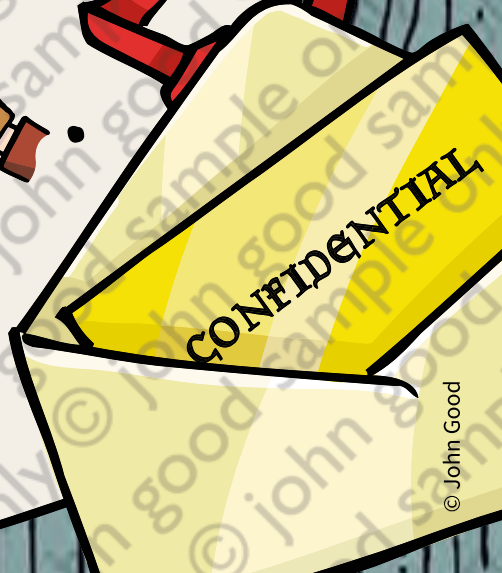
When you open out the paper it should look feather-shaped with fronds. Now tuck the feather into the hat band, like the picture on the opposite page. If it falls out, try securing it with a piece of sticky tape or a spot of glue. You might also like to paint the hat and feather. Have fun folding!



intercepted

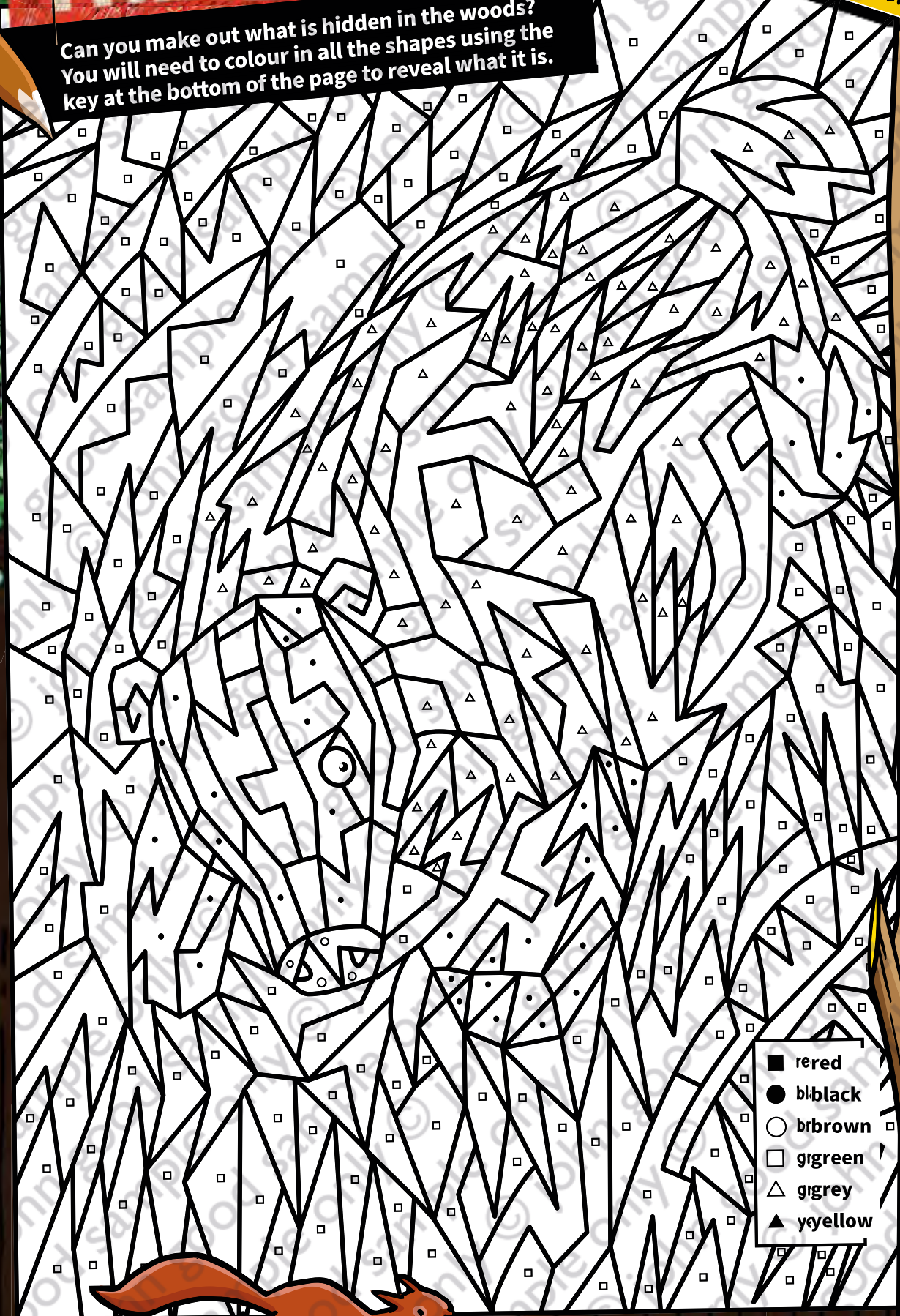
THE LETTER OF THE LAW

Maid Marian has intercepted a letter between the Sheriff and Guy of Gisbourne, but some of it is written in code. Can you work out what it says?



WHAT'S IN THE WOODS?

Can you make out what is hidden in the woods?
You will need to colour in all the shapes using the key at the bottom of the page to reveal what it is.



- rered
- blblack
- brbrown
- ggreen
- △ ggrey
- ▲ yyellow



TREEHOUSE TROUBLE

START HERE

The Sheriff's men are attacking Robin's treehouse. Can you help Maid Marian find her way down to her horse while avoiding the Sheriff's men?



FINISH

TWIN BROTHERS? CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?

Friar Tuck has bumped into his double, Friar Muck. They look identical, but can you spot the six differences between the friars?



WILL SCARLETT'S WORDSEARCH

Find all the words listed in this wordsearch - they can go up, down, backwards, forwards or diagonally!
The letters left over will reveal a missing word!



N H O J E L T I L
 D O W R E H S A E
 N E M Y R R E M L H
 S H E R I F F A T A
 N A I R A M D I A M
 X W B O W A R I C H
 D O O H N I B O R C
 F R I A R T U C K U
 E R L F O R E S T M
 M A H G N I T I O N
 S R E B B O R O O P

ALAN-A-DALE

RICH

FRIAR TUCK

MERRY MEN

ARROW

ROBBER

HAT

MUCH

BOW

ROBIN HOOD

LITTLE JOHN

NOTTINGHAM

SHERIFF

FOREST

MAID MARIAN

POOR

SHERWOOD

MAKE YOUR OWN WANTED POSTER

Create your own 'wanted poster' by drawing and colouring in your own outlaw. Don't forget to add your outlaw name, what crime they have committed and what the reward is for their capture.

WANTED



FOR

REWARD

SHERWOOD SHENANIGANS

THE TERRIBLY TAXING TONGUE TWISTER

See how quickly you can say this without getting muddled!

The shrewd Sheriff shrieked at the shortage of shiny silver shillings



BULLSEYE BAMBOOZLER

Can you find your way through the maze to hit the bullseye?



START HERE

MANY STRINGS TO YOUR BOW

Can you work out which string leads to Little John's longbow?



FORAGING FUN

Friar Tuck needs ingredients for his new recipe, oak leaf and acorn crumble. All the ingredients can be found on this page. Can you find out how many oak leaves and acorns are going into tonight's pudding?

COOK WITH TUCK

THAT WAS ME FRIAR TUCK...

BEFORE I TOOK PART IN THE MONK MUFFIN PLAN, SIMPLY HAVE THREE FOR BREAKFAST, FOUR FOR ELEVENSES, FIVE FOR TWELVES, FOUR FOR LUNCH, SIX FOR THREESES...

Remember to ask an adult to help you

BEFORE



AFTER



Friar Tuck is in the kitchen cooking some tasty treats for the Merry Men. Why not try these recipes when you get home?

MONK MUFFINS

HOW DO YOU MAKE IT?

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C, fan oven 170°C, gas mark 5.
2. Put 10 paper muffin cases into a muffin tray.
3. Sift the flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, cocoa powder and salt into a large bowl. Then stir in the sugar and chocolate chips.
4. Beat together the egg, vanilla extract and milk. Then add the oil, stirring to mix.
5. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients, stirring until just combined. Make sure not to beat or over-mix!

6. Spoon the mixture into the muffin cases and bake for 20–25 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.
7. Use the writing icing to draw a face on a large marshmallow. Once it's dry, fix it on top of the muffin with a little blob of jam.
8. Take two mini marshmallows and stick them on either side of the muffin to make the Friar's arms.
9. You're finished! Now share them amongst your friends and family and eat them.

Serves: 10–12

INGREDIENTS

- 250g of plain flour
- 2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 4 tablespoon of unsweetened cocoa powder
- 100g of caster sugar
- 75g of plain chocolate chips
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 250ml of milk
- 90ml of vegetable oil
- A handful of large pink marshmallows
- A handful of mini pink marshmallows
- A tube of black writing icing
- A spoonful of strawberry jam

SHERWOOD SHAKE

HOW DO YOU MAKE IT?

1. Place the ice cream, milk, peppermint extract and green food colour in a blender.
2. Cover and blend on high speed until smooth.
3. Pour into glasses. Top with whipped cream and sprinkles, if desired.
4. Serve immediately.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pint (2 cups) of vanilla ice cream
- 1 cup of milk
- 1/2 teaspoon of peppermint extract
- 1/4 teaspoon of green food colour
- Whipped cream and green sprinkles (optional)



ANSWERS

BULLSEYE BAMBOOZLER



TWIN BROTHERS? CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?



MANY STRINGS TO YOUR BOW



DID YOU WORK OUT WHICH STRING I USE FOR MY BOW? THE ANSWER IS **STRING E!**

WHAT'S IN THE WOODS?



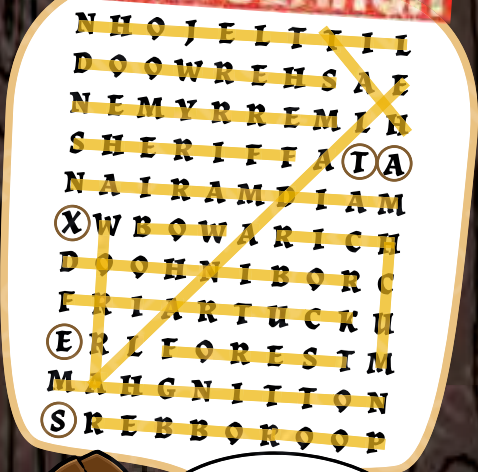
A BADGER!

intercepted
THE LETTER OF THE LAW

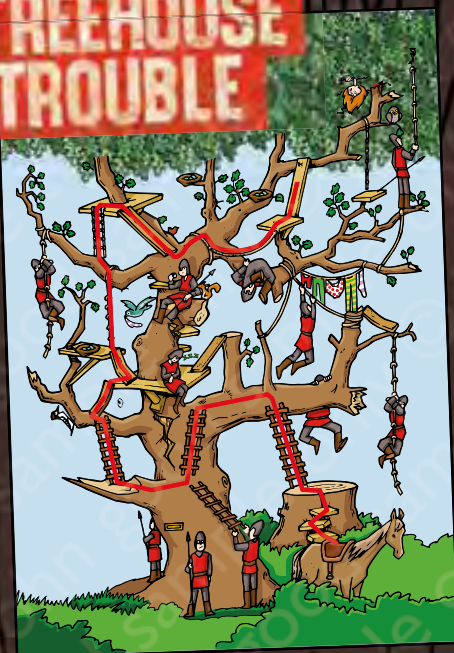
Dear Guy,
I think Robin Hood will try and save Maid Marian today. I have a mole in his Merry Men who says he will break into the castle by the sewers. Lay a trap! You wait in the sewer with some guards. I'll look out from above. Sound fair?
The Sheriff



WILL SCARLETT'S WORDSEARCH

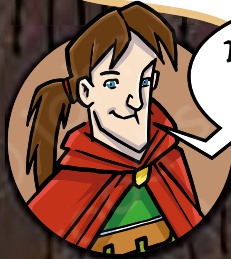


TREEHOUSE TROUBLE



FORAGING FUN

THERE ARE 30 OAK LEAVES AND 16 ACORNS IN FRIAR TUCK'S RECIPE!



THE MISSING WORD WAS **TAXES!**