


Robin Hood



- * Robin Hood is a character of legend although it is quite possible that there is a historical figure at the root of these legends. If there were a historical Robin Hood, he would have lived in medieval England, perhaps in the late 12th or the 13th century.
- * The subject of ballads, books and films, Robin Hood has proven to be one of popular culture's most enduring folk heroes. Over the course of 700 years, the outlaw from Nottinghamshire who robs from the rich to give to the poor has emerged as one of the most enduring folk heroes in popular culture—and one of the most versatile. But how has the legend of Sherwood Forest's merry outlaws evolved over time, and did a real Robin Hood inspire these classic tales?
- * Throughout Robin's existence, writers, performers and filmmakers have probed their imaginations for new incarnations that resonate with their respective audiences. In 14th-century England, where agrarian discontent had begun to chip away at the feudal system, he appears as an anti-establishment rebel who murders government agents and wealthy landowners. Later variations from times of less social upheaval dispense with the gore and cast Robin as a dispossessed aristocrat with a heart of gold and a love interest, Maid Marian.



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- * Academics, meanwhile, have combed the historical record for evidence of a real Robin Hood. English legal records suggest that, as early as the 13th century, “Robehod,” “Rabunhod” and other variations had become common epithets for criminals.



- * One of the medieval ballads about Robin Hood involved Sir Guy of Gisborne. Robin and his comrade Little John had an argument and parted. While Little John was on his own, the Sheriff of Nottingham captured him and tied him to a tree. Robin ran into Sir Guy, who had sworn to slay the outlaw leader. When they each discovered the other's identity, they drew their swords and fought. Robin killed Sir Guy and put on his clothes.
- * Disguised as Sir Guy, Robin persuaded the sheriff to let him kill Little John, who was still tied to the tree. However, instead of slaying Little John, Robin freed him, and the two outlaws drove off the sheriff's men.



Statue of Robin Hood, Nottingham



Robin Hood's Grave in the woods near Kirklees Priory



Robin Hood Tree aka Sycamore Gap,
Hadrian's Wall, UK. This location was
used in the 1991 film Robin Hood:
Prince of Thieves.

