



The King and the Sword

Dou may know Arthur Pendragon, Excalibur, the knights of the Round Table... However, can you tell what part of the story is reality and what part is fiction? Many historians attempted to separate the truth from the myth. For instance, some of them discovered that a chief named Arthur might have lived in Wales during the 5th century AD.

Nevertheless, the most famous stories about Arthur must have been written by Robert de Boron - a 12th century French poet. The latter was the first to explore the story of Excalibur, King Arthur's magic sword.

In de Boron's literature, the throne of Great Britain was empty and the kingdom needed a king. Thus, Merlin made a stone appear by magic and he stuck a sword in it. On its blade, you could read: "The one who will have the power to pull this sword out shall become king". Of course, Arthur achieved this exploit.

Robert de Boron is not the only one who wrote about the legend of Excalibur. Sir Thomas Malory, a 15th century English knight narrated a different story. According to him, the Lady of the Lake - an enchantress - might have given Excalibur to Arthur. Malory did not deny the version of the sword in the stone, he thought that it might have been another sword.



Answer the following questions:

- Did Arthur Pendragon really exist? Justify.
- In de Boron's story, how did Arthur get his sword?
- What can you say about Malory's opinion on de Boron's story?
- Do you think that there are only two versions of the Arthurian Myth? Justify.