



## The Arthurian Myth

If I speak about Merlin the enchanter, you may think about the Walt Disney's representation of this character. Indeed, he became highly famous among children thanks to the animation movie *The Sword in the Stone*, which was released in 1963. But the original version of Merlin might surprise you...

This fictional character appeared for the first time in medieval literature under the name of Myrddin. He was a prophet who could change his appearance and who lived in the woods, just like a wild animal. At that time, King Arthur or the Knights of the Round Table didn't exist. They were created later.

Nowadays, we don't know much about the creation of Merlin. He might have been mentioned for the first time in Gaelic poems and he may have been associated to the chief of a clan called Myrddin. He must have been referred to as the son of a virgin and of a demon. This may explain the origin of his supernatural powers.

Speaking about powers, there must be a link between Merlin and Cernunnos. Cernunnos was a pagan Gaelic goddess of nature. Besides, according to some medieval writings, he might have built Stonehenge himself.

He may not have appeared in the Arthurian Myth before the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> c



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### Consignes :

- Repérez tous les auxiliaires modaux.
- Une nouvelle forme grammaticale s'est ajoutée aux modaux. Trouvez-la. Que peut-elle signifier ?

### Questions :

1. Give the French for "the Arthurian Myth".
2. Who appeared first in medieval literature: King Arthur or Merlin?
3. Did Gaelic poems talk about his origins and his parents?
4. Does the Disney's representation of Merlin correspond to the medieval one?