

No one knows when the real King Arthur lived or if he existed at all. However, if real, he most likely reined in the late 5th or early 6th century, after the British drove away the Roman Empire. The stories of King Arthur started as oral tradition. Stories change with each person telling them as well as the society in which they are told. Characters are added, locations change, and the legends of Camelot were expanded to reflect people's expectations from stories. There are three overarching categories that document the changes in the stories of King Arthur: the Welsh legends, Irish/Scottish stories, and the version told by the French who controlled Britain in the 13th century. The version we are most familiar with today is based on the French version rediscovered during the Victorian era in England.

Character Name	Welsh	Irish/Scottish	French/British
Arthur, Artorius, Artos Viros, Ambrosius Aurelius	Minor Chieftain Skilled Warrior Defeated Saxons/Visigoths	Warmongering thief	Cheated on by wife and best friend Came to power through a magic sword Killed by Mordred
Merlin, Myrddin, Emrys	Illegitimate son of princess Wandering minstrel Advisor to many kings	Prophet/oracle Trained with priestesses of Avalon Court oracle only for Arthur	Sorcerer/magician of great power Raised Arthur Helped him gain the throne
Guenevere, Ginevra Gqynhwyfar, Jenefer	Wife of Arthur.	3 women of the same name Married to forge alliances	Adulteress who cheats on Arthur with Lancelot Cursed to be barren by Morgan le Fey
Morgan Le Fey, Madron, Matrona, Morrigan	Does not exist	Druid/ High Priestess of Avalon	Evil sorceress who curses Guenevere to be barren Mother of Mordred
Igraine, Eigyr	Mother of Arthur	Tricked with a potion into believing Uther is her husband.	Merlin enchants Igraine so she thinks Uther is her husband
Morgause	Her name was Anna	Wife of Lot	Evil sorceress

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