

Plot summary for

## **King Arthur** ([2004](#))

Based on a more realistic portrayal of "Arthur" than has ever been presented onscreen, the film will focus on the history and politics of the period during which Arthur ruled -- when the Roman Empire collapsed and skirmishes over power broke out in outlying countries -- as opposed to the mystical elements of the tale on which past Arthur films have focused.

This original portrayal of "Arthur", as opposed to the mystical elements of the tale in past Arthur films, uses names and other elements from the traditional, medieval, Catholic Arthurian cycle in a very different, yet historically less implausible, almost realistic plot. Around 400 A.D., the Roman Empire, stretched across many nations, from Arabia to Britain, collapsed and skirmishes over power broke out in outlying countries. The conquering Romans were very impressed with the weaponry and fighting skills of the warrior Sarmatian people, which have to send their sons to serve Rome fifteen years in the cavalry before these knights may return home. Arthur is Artorius Castus, whose future Knights of the Round Table, eager to achieve their freedom, are charged by bishop Germanius with one final task before their discharge: a Roman estate tyrant and his family, especially adolescent son Alec, who is selected for a great future in Rome, must be rescued from the invading Saxons, whose ruthless warrior-king orders his conquering tribal army to pillage and burn entire villages down. However, there is another danger lurking on the road to freedom - the Woads, Celtic Britton rebels who hate the Romans, lead by Merlin, who, however, realizes Rome is no longer the main threat and offers Artorius a novel alliance after sparing his life in an ambush.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_

**34**

### ***King Arthur Worksheet***

1. Write a brief description of the characters/places. (14 points)

Arthur

Lancelot

Tristan

Gawain

Galahad

Bors

Dagonet

Guinevere

Merlin

Cerdic & Cynric

Palageus

Bishop Germanius

Hadrian's Wall

Sarmatia

2. Identify the various groups and their goals. (8 points)

Knights

Woads

Romans

Saxons

3. What challenges did Arthur face? (2 points)

4. With whom does Arthur work to overcome the challenges? (2 points)

5. Who are the villains and what makes them villains? (2 points)

6. Arthur is a hero. What are his strengths and what is his weakness/ flaw? (2 points)

7. At the end of the movie, the group is standing in a circle of stones much like Stonehenge. For what might these stones have been used? (2 points)

8. How does the movie differ from other versions of the story you have heard/read? (2 points)