

St. George's Day Religious Festival Story



Religious Education KS1

St. George's Day



Little is known about St. George's life, but he was thought to be an important officer in the Roman army who was killed in around AD 303.

Legend has it that the Emperor Diocletian had St. George tortured to make him deny his faith in Christ. However even after enduring terrible torture, St. George showed incredible courage and faith. He was eventually beheaded near Lydda in Palestine. His head was taken to Rome where it was placed in a church dedicated to him.

He was made the Patron Saint of England by Edward III when he formed the Order of the Garter in St. George's name in 1350. He was also admired by Henry V and honoured at the battle of Agincourt in northern France.

Shakespeare made sure that nobody would forget St. George, and has King Henry V finishing his pre-battle speech with the famous phrase, 'Cry God for Harry, England and St. George!'

St. George's Day is still celebrated and his flag flown, on his feast day, April 23rd all over England.



The story of George and the dragon



A dragon started to attack the town and the people were very frightened. They began to work out a solution by feeding the dragon two sheep every day to prevent it attacking them. When they began to run out of sheep, they started to give the dragon one sheep and one human from the village.





The King decided that the fairest way would be to throw a dice to decide who would be chosen. Unfortunately the King's daughter was chosen. The King tried to suggest a way to save her, but the people were cross. They had lost friends and members of their family, so why should the King be treated differently?





George, who was travelling in the town at that time, asked a lady what the problem was as everyone looked so sad. She told him about the dragon and begged him to leave before it reappeared and killed him too.





The Princess led the dragon into the city and everyone ran away. They were very scared until George told the people not to be afraid, he promised to kill the dragon. He encouraged the people to put their faith in God and Jesus, and to be baptised.





The King was baptised,
followed by the people
in the town. George then
killed the dragon and
dragged it out of the city.





The King set up a church of Our Lady and Saint George. On the site there sprang a flow of water that was said to cure people of their sickness.





The story of Saint George is heavily wrapped in myth and legend therefore it's difficult to know what is fact or fiction. Some believe he never existed or that he's a myth.

In the early centuries of Christianity, followers would write up great accounts of the lives of their heroes. This makes it difficult to work out what is true and what is myth.





Questions

Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-

What part of the story did you like?

What part of the story didn't you like?

How do you think the princess felt when she found out she was to be fed to the Dragon?

When have you felt frightened?

You can find additional printable resources to use with the children within the St. George's Day section on iChild.

