

One day, a Christian called Saint George arrived in a small town. He met a poor man who told him about a terrible dragon. The dragon was frightening the people of the town.

The dragon had made the villagers sacrifice a beautiful maiden every day to keep him happy. Now the only maiden that was left was the king's daughter. The town had to find a brave knight to slay the dragon.

As a reward, the knight could marry the king's daughter. Saint George wanted to slay the dragon and save the princess. So, the next day he woke early and told the princess to stay at home. George rode to the place where the dragon lived.

As soon as the dragon saw Saint George, it charged at him. Saint George tried to use his spear, but the dragon's scales were too hard. The spear broke into a thousand pieces!

Saint George fell off his frightened horse.



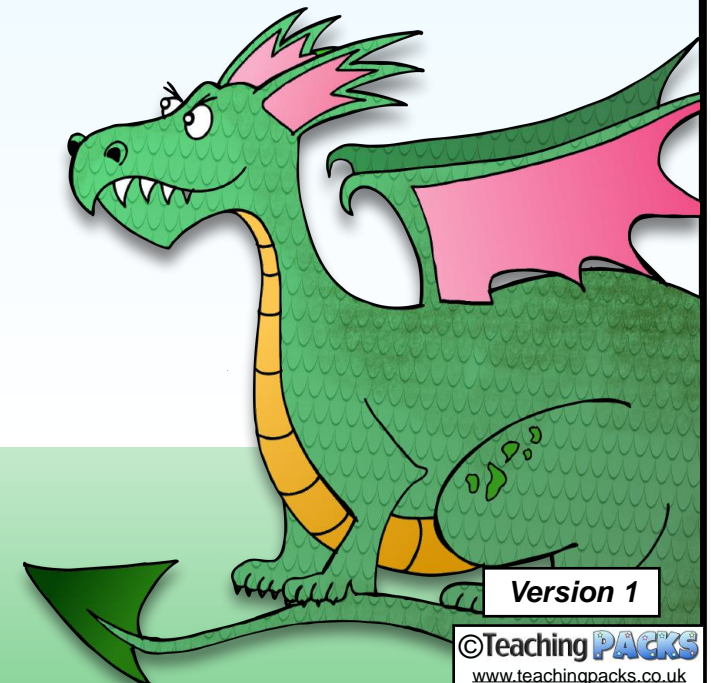
Luckily, he rolled under an enchanted orange tree. The tree protected him from the dragon and he rested until he was ready to fight again.

Saint George attacked the dragon with his sword but the dragon poured venom onto George's armour and it split in two. Saint George rested under the enchanted orange tree again.

Saint George then launched his third and final attack on the dragon, stabbing it under its wing where there were no scales. The dragon fell dead at his feet.

George went back to the town. The people were delighted and were so impressed by his bravery that they became Christians too.

George and the Dragon



Version 1

George and the Dragon

1. Look in the first paragraph. Can you find a word that is used to describe the dragon?
2. 'As soon as the dragon saw Saint George, it charged at him'. Why do you think it did this?
3. What was George's reward for killing the dragon?
4. What protected the dragon from George's spear?
5. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'enchanted'?

haunted magical pretty weird
6. How did the dragon defend itself when George attacked the second time?
7. How might George have been feeling after his second attack on the dragon failed?
8. How many times did George attack the dragon in total?
9. How did George manage to defeat the dragon?
10. Which two words were used to show how the people felt about George's actions?
11. How would you describe George?
12. Can you think of another story in which the main character defeats a horrible creature?

George and the Dragon

1. Look in the first paragraph. Can you find a word that is used to describe the dragon? **Terrible.**
2. 'As soon as the dragon saw Saint George, it charged at him'. Why do you think it did this? **It was angry / it knew that Saint George wanted to harm it.**
3. What was George's reward for killing the dragon? **The right to marry the king's daughter.**
4. What protected the dragon from George's spear? **Its scales.**
5. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'enchanted'?

haunted **magical** pretty weird
6. How did the dragon defend itself when George attacked the second time? **It poured venom onto George's armour.**
7. How might George have been feeling after his second attack on the dragon failed? **Tired, scared (and other similar emotions).**
8. How many times did George attack the dragon in total? **Three.**
9. How did George manage to defeat the dragon? **By stabbing it under its wing where there were no scales.**
10. Which two words were used to show how the people felt about George's actions? **Delighted and impressed.**
11. How would you describe George? **Brave, fearless (and other positive qualities).**
12. Can you think of another story in which the main character defeats a horrible creature? **Answers may vary.**

Version 1

One day, after many months of travelling across land and sea, a Christian called Saint George arrived in a small town. He met a poor man who told him about a terrible dragon that was terrorising the town.

The dragon had forced the villagers to sacrifice a beautiful maiden every day to keep him happy. Now the only maiden that was left was the king's daughter. The town's only hope was to find a brave knight to slay the dragon. As a reward, the brave knight would be allowed to marry the king's daughter.

Saint George wanted to slay the dragon and save the princess. So, the next day he woke early and told the princess to stay at home. George then rode to the valley where the dragon lived.

As soon as the dragon saw Saint George, it charged at him. Saint George tried to use his spear on the dragon, but the dragon's scales were too hard. They broke the spear into a thousand pieces!



Saint George fell from his frightened horse.

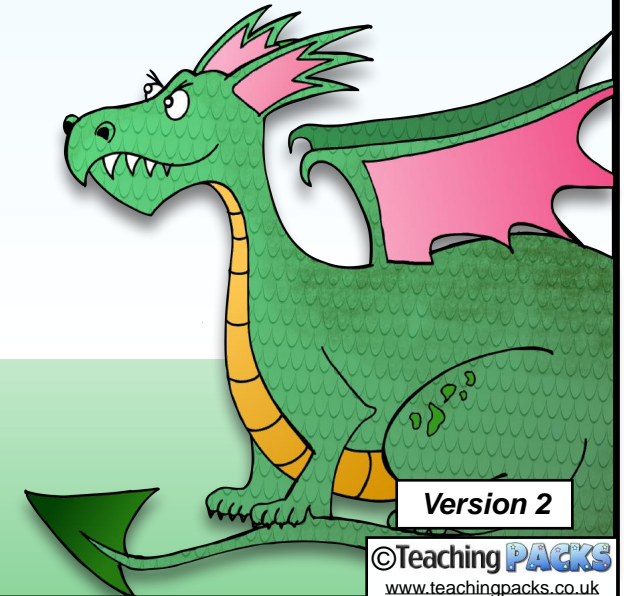
Luckily, he rolled under an enchanted orange tree which protected him from the venomous dragon, until he found the strength to fight again.

Saint George attacked the dragon with his sword but the dragon poured venom onto George's armour, causing it to split in two. Saint George rested under the enchanted orange tree again.

Saint George then launched his third and final attack on the dragon, stabbing it under its wing where there were no scales. The dragon fell dead at his feet.

George returned to the town. The people were delighted and were so impressed by his bravery that they became Christians too.

George and the Dragon



Version 2

George and the Dragon

1. For how long had George been travelling when he arrived in the small town?

2. The dragon had been terrorising the town. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'terrorising'?

entertaining helping scaring visiting

3. Why did the king need George's help?

4. The word maiden has a number of different meanings:

* A young girl or woman,

* A horse that has never won a race,

* Trying something for the first time.

Which of these is the most appropriate meaning of 'maiden' in this story?

5. Where did the dragon live?

6. What did the dragon do when it first saw George?

7. How many pieces did George's spear break into?

8. What do we know about the tree where George sheltered?

9. How might George have been feeling after his second attack on the dragon failed?

10. How do we know that the people were happy with George when he returned?

11. How would you describe George?

12. Can you think of another story in which the main character defeats a horrible creature?

Version 2

George and the Dragon

1. For how long had George been travelling when he arrived in the small town? **Many months.**
2. The dragon had been terrorising the town. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'terrorising'?

entertaining helping **scaring** visiting
3. Why did the king need George's help? **Because his daughter was the only maiden left to be sacrificed.**
4. The word maiden has a number of different meanings:
 - * **A young girl or woman,**
 - * A horse that has never won a race,
 - * Trying something for the first time.Which of these is the most appropriate meaning of 'maiden' in this story?
5. Where did the dragon live? **In a valley.**

6. What did the dragon do when it first saw George? **It charged at him.**
7. How many pieces did George's spear break into? **A thousand.**
8. What do we know about the tree where George sheltered? **It was an enchanted orange tree.**
9. How might George have been feeling after his second attack on the dragon failed? **Tired, scared (and other similar emotions).**
10. How do we know that the people were happy with George when he returned? **They were delighted and impressed by his bravery. They became Christians too.**
11. How would you describe George? **Brave, fearless (and other positive qualities).**
12. Can you think of another story in which the main character defeats a horrible creature? **Answers may vary.**

Version 2

Having travelled for many months across land and sea, a Christian called Saint George arrived in a small town. Upon entering the town gates, the very first person he met was a poor man in ragged clothes who told him about a terrible dragon that was terrorising the inhabitants.

The dragon had forced the villagers to sacrifice a beautiful maiden every day to satisfy his hunger. One by one, the brave young women of the town had been sacrificed, and now the only maiden that was left was the king's daughter. The town's people had only one hope. They had to find a brave knight who could slay the fearsome dragon. As a reward, the courageous knight would be granted the king's daughter's hand in marriage.

Saint George at once determined that he would slay the dragon and save the princess. The next day he woke early and, telling the princess to stay at home, rode to the valley where the dragon lived. As soon as the dragon's steely gaze fell upon Saint George, it charged at him, letting out a dreadful roar. Saint George took up his spear and lunged at the dragon's side. His spear glanced off the dragon's impenetrable scales and broke into a thousand pieces!



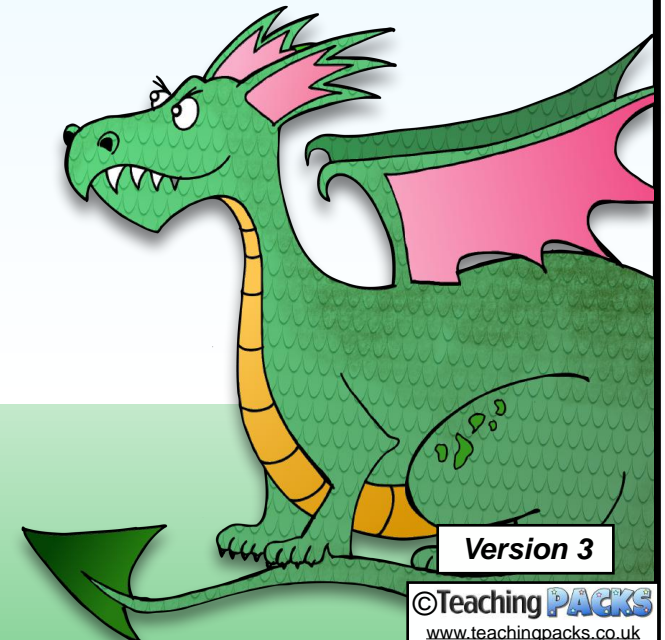
George and the Dragon

Saint George's horse was terrified and reared up, flinging him to the ground. Luckily, he rolled under an enchanted orange tree which protected him from the venomous dragon. He rested there until he found the strength to fight again.

This time, Saint George attacked the dragon with his mighty sword but the dragon poured venom onto George's armour, causing it to split in two. Saint George had no choice but to rest under the enchanted orange tree again, while he planned his next move.

Saint George then launched his third and final attack on the dragon, stabbing it repeatedly under its wing where there were no scales. With a terrible cry the vanquished dragon fell dead at his feet.

George returned to the town, triumphant. The people were delighted and were so impressed by his bravery that they became Christians too.



Version 3

George and the Dragon

1. Write two pieces of information that we are told about George in the first paragraph.
2. The dragon was terrorising the inhabitants. Which of these words is most similar in meaning to 'inhabitants'?

aliens houses residents crowds
3. In the second paragraph, which word is used to describe the dragon?
4. What word does the author use to tell us that it is impossible to break the dragon's scales?
5. How do we know that George's spear was completely destroyed by the dragon?

6. Saint George's horse was terrified. Can you think of a synonym for 'terrified'?
7. How did the dragon manage to defeat George the second time he attacked?
8. What was the weakest part of the dragon's body?
9. How do we know that George was determined to defeat the dragon?
10. How was George feeling when he returned to the town?
11. Can you think of another story with a similar theme and describe how they are alike?
12. What do you think would have happened to George if he hadn't discovered the enchanted orange tree? Explain your reasons.

Version 3

George and the Dragon

1. Write two pieces of information that we are told about George in the first paragraph.
 - * **He had been travelling for many months.**
 - * **He was a Christian.**
 - * **He entered the town gates.**
 - * **He met a poor man who told him about the dragon.**
2. The dragon was terrorising the inhabitants. Which of these words is most similar in meaning to 'inhabitants'?

aliens houses **residents** crowds
3. In the second paragraph, which word is used to describe the dragon? **fearsome.**
4. What word does the author use to tell us that it is impossible to break the dragon's scales? **impenetrable.**
5. How do we know that George's spear was completely destroyed by the dragon? **It broke into a thousand pieces.**

6. Saint George's horse was terrified. Can you think of a synonym for 'terrified'? **Scared, afraid (and other similar words).**
7. How did the dragon manage to defeat George the second time he attacked?
It poured venom onto his armour, splitting it in two.
8. What was the weakest part of the dragon's body? **Under its wing where there were no scales.**
9. How do we know that George was determined to defeat the dragon? **He attacked the dragon three times.**
10. How was George feeling when he returned to the town? **Triumphant.**
11. Can you think of another story with a similar theme and describe how they are alike? **Answers may vary.**
12. What do you think would have happened to George if he hadn't discovered the enchanted orange tree? Explain your reasons. **Answers may vary.**