

Dragonslayer

1. Complete the story of St. George. Put **a**, **an**, **the** or **–** (nothing) into each space. The first one has been done as an example.

April 23rd is St. George’s Day. St George is 1) the patron saint of soldiers, archers, farmers and horse riders. He is also the patron saint of England.

St. George was born in Cappadocia (now in Eastern Turkey) in AD 270. He joined 2) ___ Roman army and became 3) ___ cavalry officer. He travelled all over 4) ___ Middle East and 5) ___ Europe with 6) ___ army.

When Emperor Diocletian learned that St. George was 7) ___ Christian (which was illegal), he had him arrested. St. George refused to deny his faith in Christ, even under extreme torture. He was eventually beheaded on April 23rd, AD 303, near Lydda in Palestine.

Stories of his courage soon spread across the Middle East and 8) ___ Europe. On one of 9) ___ walls in 10) ___ old Christian monastery in Egypt (St. Antony’s), there is 11) ___ picture of St. George that dates back to 12) ___ 7th century.

2. Read the rest of the story. There are fourteen lines. Ten of them contain one extra word. The word is **the**, **an** or **a**. Find the extra words and write them in the column on the right. The first two lines have been done as examples.

1	King Richard I made St. George the patron saint of England. Richard’s dream	✓
2	was to liberate Jerusalem. He organized an army (called the Crusaders) and left the	<u>the</u>
3	England for the Holy Land in 1190 to fight the Muslim a leader Saladin. Richard’s	_____
4	soldiers carried the emblem of St. George, a red cross on a white background, on their	_____
5	tunics and a shields.	_____
6	There are the many stories about St. George. One of the most famous legends is that	_____
7	he fought and killed a dragon in England. It is an unlikely that he ever visited England	_____
8	and even more unlikely that he killed a dragon. However, the dragon was a commonly	_____
9	used to represent the devil in the Middle Ages, which may be how the story started.	_____
10	More recently, on St. George’s Day, 1564, one of an England’s most famous writers	_____
11	was born: William Shakespeare. In a Shakespeare’s play <i>Henry V</i> , the king finishes	_____
12	his the battle speech with the famous line “Cry ‘God for Harry, England and St.	_____
13	George!’” This reference to St. George has helped to immortalise the saint in English	_____
14	tradition. Patriotic to the end, Shakespeare died on the St. George’s Day in 1616.	_____