



0. Magna Carta - Story Preface

1. WHAT IS THE MAGNA CARTA
2. THE SOURCE OF TROUBLE
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Runnymede - made famous in the early 13th century as the place where King John agreed to the Magna Carta (the "Great Charter") - is not far from Windsor Castle. Image of Runnymede by Wyrdbligh, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC BY 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)

*At Runnymede, at Runnymede,
Your rights were won
At Runnymede!*

Rudyard Kipling

Popular British writer of stories and
poems 1865-1936.

King John (Lackland) was a bad king. At least, that's how history remembers him.

According to legend, he gave Robin Hood (also called Robin Longstride and Robin of Locksley) - the heroic archer of Sherwood Forest who died a treacherous death - a terrible time.

He tried to steal the throne from his brother, Richard the Lionheart, while Richard was out of the country.

He was a lousy son to his mother, the famous Eleanor of Aquitaine (once portrayed by Katherine Hepburn).

Yet ... King John gave his barons (and ultimately the world) the Magna Carta, one of the greatest legal documents ever written and a cornerstone of modern national constitutions.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Magna-Carta)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Magna-Carta>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Magna-Carta)

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King John Lackland

Image: Effigy, King John I's tomb, [Worcester Cathedral](#).

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Robin Hood - Robin Longstride

Photo of the Robin Hood Memorial, in Nottingham, by Olaf1541. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Eleanor of Aquitaine

Image of the mural at the Chapel of Sainte-Radegonde in Chinon, France. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD

Quoted passage from *The Rough Guide to The Loire*, by James McConnachie.

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Richard I - The Lionheart

Image of Richard I from Westminster, online courtesy [Royal Monarchy.gov](#)

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Quoted passages, from Royal Monarchy's biography of Richard I.

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Robin Hood - Death at the Priory Gatehouse

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD

Quoted passages, from *The Mystery of Robin Hood's Grave*, online courtesy Barbara Green and the BBC.

Quoted passages, from "A Brief History of Bloodletting" by Gilbert R. Seigworth, online courtesy PBS.

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Grave of Robin Hood

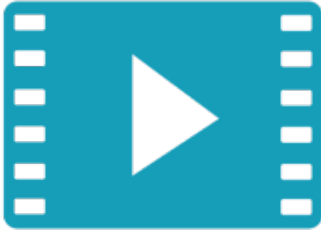
Image online, courtesy [Elizabeth Ashworth](#).

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Magna Carta

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Eleanor of Aquitaine - Portrayed by Katherine Hepburn

Clip of interview, with Sir Anthony Hopkins, who discusses his role as Richard the Lionheart in "The Lion in Winter." Online, courtesy BBC.

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