The Legend of Cú Chulainn

Cú Chulainn is one of the greatest Irish legends. He was known for his strength and bravery on the battlefield. His story was passed on to others by word of mouth but then written down over 800 years ago.

Did You Know?

Cú Chulainn’s real name was ‘Setanta’.

Cú Chulainn’s name means ‘the hound of Culan’. Culan was a blacksmith who worked for the King. Culan let out his hound to guard the grounds while the King was hosting a dinner. Cú Chulainn, who was invited to this dinner, met this fierce hound face-to-face as he tried to get in. Cú Chulainn was carrying his wooden hurl and sliotar, as he was just coming back from a hurling match with his friends. Using his amazing hurling skills, strength and bravery, Cú Chulainn struck the sliotar as hard as he could towards the dangerous hound and defeated him. Feeling bad for Culan, he promised to protect the land until a new hound was raised.
The Legend of Cú Chulainn Questions

1. Cú Chulainn was famous for being a brave and strong warrior? Tick one.
   True ☐
   False ☐

2. About how many years ago were Cú Chulainn’s stories written down? Tick one.
   700 ☐
   800 ☐
   900 ☐

3. Cú Chulainn’s real name was...
   Culan ☐
   Setanta ☐
   Connor ☐

4. Which GAA sport was Cú Chulainn very good at? Tick one.
   football ☐
   handball ☐
   hurling ☐

5. What does Cú Chulainn’s name mean? Tick one.
   Hound of Culan ☐
   Hound of Conor ☐
   Hound of Ulster ☐
The Legend of Cú Chulainn Answers

1. Cú Chulainn was famous for being a brave and strong warrior? Tick one.
   - True  ✔
   - False  

2. About how many years ago were Cú Chulainn’s stories written down? Tick one.
   - 700  
   - 800  ✔
   - 900  

3. Cú Chulainn’s real name was...
   - Culan  
   - Setanta  ✔
   - Connor  

4. Which GAA sport was Cú Chulainn very good at? Tick one.
   - football  
   - handball  
   - hurling  ✔

5. What does Cú Chulainn’s name mean? Tick one.
   - Hound of Culan  ✔
   - Hound of Conor  
   - Hound of Ulster  

Cú Chulainn is one of the greatest Irish legends. He was known for his super strength and amazing bravery on the battlefield. Even as a young boy, Cú Chulainn was stronger than any man. He went to a school called the Macra where he was trained as a great warrior. His story was passed on to others by word of mouth but then written down over 800 years ago in a collection of Irish stories called the Táin.

Did You Know?

Cú Chulainn was not his actual name, this name was given to him by King Conor. His real name was actually ‘Setanta’.

Cú Chulainn’s name means ‘the hound of Culan’. Culan was a blacksmith who worked for King Conor. He had let out his hound to guard the grounds while the King was hosting a dinner. Cú Chulainn, who was invited to this dinner, met this fierce hound face-to-face as he tried to get in.

Cú Chulainn used his amazing strength to play the Irish sport of hurling. He was very talented at this sport and was late for the King’s dinner as he was playing a hurling match with his friends from school. When he met the fierce hound, Cú Chulainn used his amazing talent, strength and bravery, and struck the sliotar as hard as he could towards the dangerous hound and defeated him.

Feeling bad for Culan who owned the hound, Cú Chulainn promised to protect the land until a new hound was raised. This is how he got his new name ‘Cú Chulainn’.
The Legend of Cú Chulainn Questions

1. As a boy, Cú Chulainn was stronger than any...
   - bull □
   - man □
   - fox □

2. At school Cú Chulainn was learning to become a...
   - doctor □
   - farmer □
   - warrior □

3. About how many years ago were Cú Chulainn’s stories written down?
   - 700 □
   - 800 □
   - 900 □

4. What is the name of the collection of stories in which his story was written?

5. What does Cú Chulainn’s name mean?

6. Why was Cú Chulainn late for the King’s dinner?

   ____________________________________________________________
The Legend of Cú Chulainn Answers

1. As a boy, Cú Chulainn was stronger than any...
   - bull
   - man ✓
   - fox

2. At school Cú Chulainn was learning to become a...
   - doctor
   - farmer
   - warrior ✓

3. About how many years ago were Cú Chulainn’s stories written down?
   - 700
   - 800 ✓
   - 900

4. What is the name of the collection of stories in which his story was written?
   - The collection of stories was called the Táin.

5. What does Cú Chulainn’s name mean?
   - Cú Chulainn’s name means the hound of Culan.

6. Why was Cú Chulainn late for the King’s dinner?
   - Cú Chulainn was late for the King’s dinner because he was playing a hurling match with his school friends.
The Legend of Cú Chulainn

Cú Chulainn is one of the greatest Irish legends. He was known for his super strength and amazing bravery on the battlefield. Even as a young boy, Cú Chulainn was stronger than any man. His superhuman strength was linked to his spiritual father ‘Lugh’ the Sun God. His mother was called ‘Deichtine’ and his father, who was a Chieftan in Louth was called ‘Sualdam’. Cú Chulainn went to a school called the Macra. This school was set up by King Conor in County Armagh in Ulster. Here Cú Chulainn was trained as a great warrior. His story was passed on to others by word of mouth, but then written down over 800 years ago in a collection of Irish stories called the Táin.

Did You Know?

Cú Chulainn was not his actual name, this name was given to him by King Conor. His real name was actually ‘Setanta’.

Cú Chulainn’s name means ‘the hound of Culan’. Culan was a blacksmith who worked for King Conor, who had let out his hound to guard the grounds, while the King was hosting a dinner. Cú Chulainn, who was invited to this dinner, met this fierce hound face-to-face as he tried to get in.
Cú Chulainn used his amazing strength to play the Irish sport of hurling. He was very talented at this sport and was late for the King’s dinner because he was playing a hurling match with his friends from school. When he met the fierce hound, Cú Chulainn used his hurling skills, strength and bravery to strike the sliotar as hard as he could towards the dangerous hound and to defeat him.

Feeling bad for Culan, he promised to protect the land until a new hound was raised. This is how he got his new name ‘Cú Chulainn’.

Did you Know?

Tayto Park, an amusement park in County Meath, has a wooden rollercoaster ride named after Cú Chulainn. This ride is now one of the biggest wooden rollercoaster rides in Europe. It goes at speeds of up to 90km per hour and reflects Cú Chulainn’s power and strength!
The Legend of Cú Chulainn Questions

1. Cú Chulainn was known for his strength, but where was it said he got it from? Tick one.
   - eating vegetables
   - his spiritual father, the sun god
   - the sun

2. Can you find a word which means the same as ‘fighter’?

3. What was Cú Chulainn’s school called?

4. What does Cú Chulainn’s name mean?

5. How do we know Cú Chulainn was good at hurling?

6. How do we know that the legend of Cú Chulainn’s power and strength are still being recognised and remembered today in Ireland?
The Legend of Cú Chulainn Answers

1. Cú Chulainn was known for his strength, but where was it said he got it from? Tick one.
   - eating vegetables
   - his spiritual father, the sun god
   - the sun

2. Can you find a word which means the same as 'fighter'?
   - warrior

3. What was Cú Chulainn’s school called?
   - Cú Chulainn’s school was called the Macra.

4. What does Cú Chulainn’s name mean?
   - Cú Chulainn’s name means ‘the hound of Culan’.

5. How do we know Cú Chulainn was good at hurling?
   - We know Cú Chulainn was good at hurling because he killed the angry hound with a sliotar.

6. How do we know that the legend of Cú Chulainn’s power and strength are still being recognised and remembered today in Ireland?
   - Today Cú Chulainn’s power and strength is remembered through a wooden rollercoaster ride found in Tayto Park.