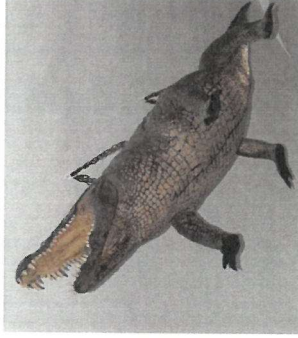


BRNO LEGENDS. WORKSHEET N.1

The Brno Dragon



Source: (Kirk, 2009)

There are several versions of this legend, this one is the best known:

Once upon a time, a dragon settled in Brno, threatening its inhabitants and eating all their livestock. People wondered how to get rid of the monster, but no one could think of anything. Fortunately, one day a butcher who was passing through Brno came forward with a clever solution. When he stopped at one pub, he learned of the disaster that had befallen the town. So, the brave butcher set a trap to rid the town of the dragon. He called for a sheepskin, which he filled with lime and threw it by the river where the monster was usually staying. Thinking it was a sheep, the dragon ate the leather bag. Then the dragon got so thirsty that he drank almost the whole river. There was an expected reaction of the lime and the dragon burst! The townspeople then had the dragon stuffed to commemorate these events. Since then, it has been the symbol of Brno which you can see in the Old Town Hall where it hangs from the ceiling.

Source: Brno Legends

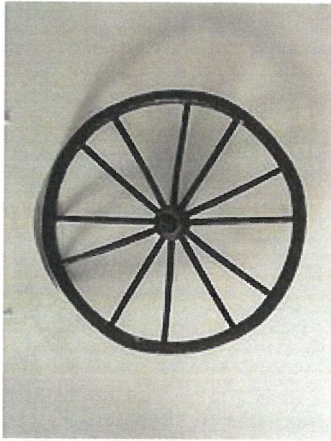
Note: You may have noticed that this dragon looks a lot like a crocodile. Apparently, it was an animal that escaped from roaming comedians and hid in the river Svatka, where it survived during the summer months. But people never saw a similar animal, so they thought it was a dragon.

Source: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/brno-dragon>

Answer these questions:

- 1) What are the main topics of this legend?
- 2) Who are the protagonists (heroes, secondary characters, etc.)?
- 3) Where does the plot take place?
- 4) When does the plot take place?
- 5) What is the message of the story?

BRNO LEGENDS. WORKSHEET N. 2

The Brno Wheel

Source: (Malý, 2008)

The wheel, which hangs in the Old Town Hall, was the result of a bet between Jiří Birk, a craftsman from Lednice, and his friends. He bet 14 thalers that in one day he could cut down a tree, make a wheel and roll it to Brno. This meant starting at dawn in the morning and arriving to Brno before the town gate closed, which was usually around 6 pm. Just consider, that Brno is about 45 km from Lednice, which is quite a long way. It takes a day to walk all the way there.

The legend has it that Jiří Birk reached his destination and won, and the wheel has remained in Brno ever since. At that time, it was an extraordinary feat, it was considered impossible to achieve by normal human means. Birk was later accused of having supposedly invoked the Devil. He was isolated from his community and died in poverty.

Note:

To this day, races are still held in Brno. Every year in October there is a race when teams roll their wooden wheels from Lednice to Brno.

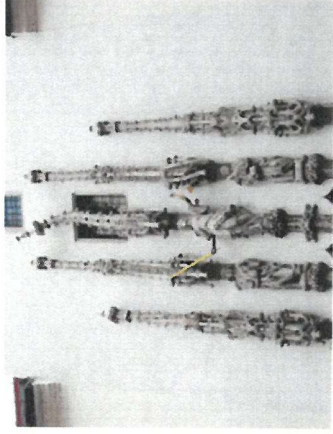
Source: Brno Legends

Activities

- 1) What are the main topics of this legend?
- 2) Who are the protagonists (heroes, secondary characters)?
- 3) Where does the plot take place?
- 4) When does the plot take place?
- 5) What is the message of the story?

BRNO LEGENDS. WORKSHEET N. 3

The Crooked Town Hall Spire



Source: Moravský turista, 2019

This story took place in 1511, when Brno's Town Hall was being rebuilt. The main highlight of the whole event was to be the unveiling of the beautifully decorated gates. The new ornaments were very expected by all people in Brno who were looking forward to see it for the first time at the opening ceremony. The complex ornament was the work of the famous stone mason Antonín Pilgram. At that time, he was in trouble with the councillors who were in no hurry to pay for his work.

He was annoyed by the councillors' attitude so much, that he decided to devise a revenge. Do you ask how? He made the middle spire of the portal above the statue of Justice crooked, so that everyone could see how crooked the Brno Councillors were.

After the unveiling of the portal, Antonín Pilgram told the Councillors what he thought of them, and then he left to Vienna.

The Councillors ordered other masons to repair the crooked spire, but it never lasted in the upright position or long. In the morning of the next day the spire always appeared crooked as it had been before.

Note:

This spire is simply unique. According to many architects, it is much more difficult to make a curved spire than a straight one.

Source: Brno Legends.

Questions:

- 1) What is this story about?
- 2) Who are the main characters? Who are the other characters?
- 3) Where does the story take place?
- 4) When does the story take place?
- 5) What is the message of this story?