**The Legend of the Four sons of Aymon and Charlemagne**

**Bayard** was a ‘super-**horse**’, a magical beast, in a legend about the 9th-century **emperor** and **king** of the **Franks**, **Charlemagne** who ruled over a large part of Western Europe. The story was well known in the **Middle Ages**, not just in France, where the story came from, but also in England. Bayard belonged to **Renaud** of Montauban, the son of Duke Aymon, a **noble baron** at Charlemagne’s court. Renaud and his three brothers (in full armour) could all ride on Bayard’s back at once. Charlemagne’s nephew Bertolai quarrelled with Renaud over a game of chess and struck him. The emperor refused Renaud justice and the quarrel escalated, ending in Renaud killing Bertolai. The **four** brothers fled the court. Most of the story tells of the bitter war between these rebellious barons and Charlemagne. One episode (which reminds us of Robin Hood) tells how Charlemagne held a horse **race**. Renaud’s cousin Maugis used **magic** to **disguise** Renaud and Bayard as a nag and a young boy. They easily **won** the race before escaping, with Renaud snatching Charlemagne’s **crown** as he went. The wars end with reconciliation between the old king and the **rebel sons** of Aymon.

(The words in bold are to be found in the word search overleaf.)

***Language Fun***

1. Which words from the passage are adjectives?
2. Are there any words which can be used as both adjectives and nouns?

***History Research***

What can you find out about the Franks?

This is a legend. It tells a story that did not actually happen, but it explores an issue which was important in the Middle Ages: how should a noble respond when the king did not behave as he should? See what you can find out about King John and Magna Carta.

**Word Search**

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HORSE RACE MIDDLE AGES

SIR BAYARD MAGIC KING

OLD SONS REBEL WIN

EMPEROR FOUR FRANKS COLT

CHARLEMAGNE RENAUD DISGUISE CROWN