

This Sceptered Isle

1. **It's not Stonehenge, but one landscape in this place included a large standing stone known as the Odin Stone, where marriage ceremonies were conducted with each side holding hands through a hole in the stone. A late 18th century historian of this place claimed that that one monument was a 'Temple of the Moon', paired with a similarly shaped one he claimed was called the 'Temple of the Sun'. According to one saga named for this place, while the men of the Earl Harald were sheltering from the snow, two of them went mad inside one ancient monument. That ancient monument was also inscribed by crusaders and others, including an inscription that says (*) 'Thorny fucked, Helgi carved' in runes. A storm uncovered a settlement in this place originally thought to be Pictish, but whose eight dwellings, linked by low covered passages, were shown by carbon dating to be Neolithic. For 10 points, name these Scottish islands, the location of prehistoric sites such as Maeshowe, the Standing Stones of Stenness and Skara Brae.**

ANSWER: Orkney Islands

2. **Against Matthew Paris' claim that the *Schola Saxonum* in Rome was founded by Ine of Wessex, William of Malmesbury suggested that it was founded by this ruler. In a letter to Osberht, Alcuin claimed how this ruler's son 'had not died for his sins, but the vengeance for the blood shed by' *this ruler*. One structure ascribed to this ruler's efforts has been called 'a dead monument in an empty landscape', though conflicts recorded in the *Annales Cambriae* may suggest the purpose of its construction. During this ruler's reign, Hygeberht was elevated to the position of Archbishop of (*) Lichfield, an elevation that did not long survive the death of this ruler, whose son's successor Coenwulf petitioned the pope to return Lichfield to a bishopric. This ruler was the first to introduce Frankish-style pennies on a wide scale, and also includes gold coinage modelled on Abbasid dinars, and unique portraits of his queen Cynethryth. For 10 points, name this king of Mercia, to whom Asser ascribed the construction of a large dyke against the Welsh.**

ANSWER: Offa

3. **The Natural History Museum in London contains the skull of a Barbary lion excavated at this building. Macaulay said of the burials in one chapel within this larger building 'there is no sadder spot on the earth than that little cemetery'. One of the best surviving examples of Romanesque, or Norman, architecture in the British Isles is this building's Chapel of (*) St John the Evangelist, which, from the reign of Edward II, was used as a royal and state archive. The Caen [Con] stone originally used for details on this castle's keep were replaced with Portland stone in the 17th and 18th centuries. The Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, rebuilt by Henry VIII was the usual burial place of people executed within this building. Animals kept in a menagerie in this building include an elephant gifted to Henry III by Louis IX, and a polar bear sent by Haakon IV of Norway. For 10 points, name this castle, whose White Tower was built by William the Conqueror in the southeast of England's capital.**

ANSWER: Tower of London

4. **A secret attempt by one holder of this title to betray his nominal liege was the treaty of Westminster-Ardtornish, signed with Edward IV. The last person to hold this title independently was noted as 'a scholar more fit to be a churchman than**

to command so many irregular tribes of people'. That holder of this title oversaw much of the destruction of its power during a civil war fought with their son, Angus Og. This title was created by a man who was awarded much of his realm by Edward Balliol, and that man was a descendent of an Norse-Gaelic warlord who had seized a similar territory (*) Somerled. The final civil war over this title was won by Angus at the Battle of Bloody Bay, but a decade later Angus was murdered by his harpist, allowing the Stewart kings to claim this title, which ever since is given the heir to Scottish monarchs. For 10 points, name this major title of Medieval Scotland, whose last holders were the heads of Clan Donald, centred on the Hebrides.

ANSWER: Lord of the Isles

5. **This person's December crossing of the channel was delayed due to bad weather, which led to the first meeting between this person and their future husband occurring at the bishop's palace at Rochester. The countess of Rutland, who served this woman as well as two predecessors and one successor, noted that unless a relationship improved 'it will be long ere we have a duke of York.'. The marriage of this individual was probably driven by the increasing diplomatic isolation of their spouse's (*) kingdom which saw Charles V and Francis I withdraw their ambassadors, and the need to build links with the Schmalkaldic League in Germany. Despite rumours following her successor's execution that she was to be recalled and even that she was pregnant, this woman retained the status of 'king's beloved sister' that she had gained following a 1540 annulment. On first meeting this woman, the king noted that they were 'nothing so fair as reported', a reference to a flattering portrait by Hans Holbein, For 10 points, name this woman, the fourth wife of Henry VIII.**

ANSWER: Anne of Cleves

6. **The founder of this dynasty avenged the death of his brother by breaking the rules of sanctuary when he killed King Ivar and his sons on Scattery Island. Following the illness of Muirchertach of this dynasty, the king of Connacht took the opportunity to permanently weaken its powerbase after winning the battle of Glanmire. That victory led to a treaty which divided this dynasty's realm, with their former vassals the Mac Cárthaigh taking power in Desmond. The remaining lands of this dynasty were repeatedly granted as a lordship to Hiberno-Norman families such as the De Clares, who often allied with competing branches of this dynasty for control of that kingdom of (*) Thomond. For 10 points, name this dynasty, which took its name from the King of Munster who ended the Uí Néill domination of the High Kingship of Ireland, the slain victor at the Battle of Clontarf.**

ANSWER: O'Brien (accept Ua Briain, Ó Briain)

7. **Tolkien published an essay about one word in a text describing this event, which he translated as 'overmastering pride', taking a negative view of the actions of a central participant in this event. That participant is described in a *Life of St Oswald* as 'tall of stature standing above the rest', and, in the main text about this event, tells an invading army that 'points and blades will settle this business, grim war-play, before we pay tribute'. Along with other parts of the Cotton library the main text describing this event was completely destroyed in the (*) Ashburnham House fire, which damaged the manuscript of Beowulf as well. It's not Stamford Bridge, but during this battle a river crossing was held for some time by Wulfstan, Aelfere and Maccus, until their commander apparently gave his opponents a chance to cross, leading to his death at the hands of 'heathen savages'. Fought in 991 on the**

banks of the Blackwater river, for 10 points, name this battle between the men of Essex, led by Bryhtnoth, against an invading Viking force, and memorialised in an Old English poem.

ANSWER: the Battle of Maldon

8. **The presence of large quantities of imported Mediterranean pottery at two different sites associated with this name have been claimed to prove its historical existence, and recent archaeological at one of them has suggested that it was not actually an early monastic community, but a high-status site. The antiquarian John Leland in 1542 was the first person to ascribe this name to the other site excavated by a team under Leslie Alcock in the 1960s, where, despite the excavation discovering a large 'feasting hall', Alcock notes in his epilogue 'We did not find the fabulous [this place]'. That site, (*) Cadbury Castle in Somerset is sometimes called this name, as is another site, where Richard, the second son of John, built a 13th century castle in order to claim the prestige of this name, where a sixth century stone with the name Artognou inscribed has been found. Often connected to Tintagel in Cornwall, for 10 points, name this legendary place, first mentioned by Chretien de Troyes in his work *Lancelot*, the supposed seat of King Arthur.**

ANSWER: Camelot

9. **Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles* claims that this ruler 'was at libertie to pay his tribute or not' to a man who Holinshed's main source, Geoffrey of Monmouth, claims that this ruler has served as a 'a strenuous knight'. It has been argued that this ruler was behind the flight of king Dubnovellaunos to Rome, as recorded in the *Res Gestae* of Augustus. This ruler's bronze coinage was the most commonly struck in Iron Age Britain, and Suetonius in his *Life of Caligula* describes this ruler as (*) 'rex Brittanorum', the first person to be ascribed that title. Cassius Dio describes the defeat of this ruler's sons, Caractacus and Togodumnus, and the capture of this ruler's capital Camulodunum, modern Colchester. For 10 points, name this pre-Roman king of the Catuvellauni, who Shakespeare portrayed in a romance where this man has a daughter, Imogen.**

ANSWER: Cunobeline (accept Cymbeline)

10. **One work commissioned by a person with this name claims that their mother, Gytha, was the sister of Cnut, likely to emphasise how their father had risen thanks to the Danish conquest - that same work calls this person a 'Minerva', paired with a 'Solomon'. Another person with this name has been uncertainly identified with a woman who held 270 hides of land just prior to the Conquest, making them one of the largest landholders in England. That person with this name, who was probably married *more danico*, is described in the *Waltham Chronicle* as identifying a body since 'she had at one time been the (*) king's concubine, and knew the secret marks on his body'. One person with this name, who had commissioned the *Vita Edwardi*, was buried by William the Conqueror alongside that man at Westminster Abbey, while the other disappears from the historical record after bringing a body back from Hastings. For 10 points, give this name, shared by the consorts of Edward the Confessor and Harold Godwinson, who had the epithets 'of Wessex' and 'Swanneck'.**

ANSWER: Edith (of Wessex, Swan Neck)

11. **Some of the best preserved *leachta* are found at this place, although their purpose still remains unclear, although one near the boat-shaped Large Oratory**

in this place is surrounded by three burials. Archaeology suggests that this place was not dedicated to its namesake until the construction of a church around 950, since its mortared walls contrast with the dry-stacked construction of earlier buildings. The existence of one community in this place is known to date as early as the 8th century, because a man named Suibni of [this place] is mentioned in a matyrology of around 800, The most characteristic buildings of this island are the (*) clochans, beehive-shaped huts, five of which survive. Supposedly founded by St Fionan in emulation of the Desert Fathers, for 10 points, name this Irish island off the coast of Co. Kerry, home to an early monastic settlement, best known in modern times for being Luke Skywalker's place of exile in the Sequel trilogy.

ANSWER: **Skellig Michael** (accept **Sceilig Mhichil**)

12. **One ballad that tells a legendary version of this person's life invents a conversation between them and a departing lover, who tells them 'Faire ladies brooke not bloodye warres/Soft peace their sexe delightes'. A 16th century poem titled 'The Complaint of' this person speaks in their voice, where they say, 'A Crowne was at my feete, Scepters obaide me'. According to John Stow's *The Annales of England*, this person lived in a 'house of wonderfull working' - within that house at Woodstock, this person was supposedly hidden within a maze, where 'the queene' found their way to them 'and so dealt with' this person. Buried at Godstow Abbey just to the north of Oxford, later tales claimed that this person was either stabbed or poisoned by that (*) queen in revenge for her trysts with her lover. The daughter of Walter de Clifford and subject of many popular poems and ballads,, for 10 points, name this mistress of Henry II, nicknamed 'the Fair'.**

ANSWER: **Rosamund** the Fair

13. **Claims that this author was a major source for Machiavellian thought in England have been disputed, and this author himself noted that 'All ages have given us examples of [his] goodly policie'. This author's final work, *A Discourse of the Originall and Fundementall Cause of Naturall ... Warre* arguably foreshadows Malthus by claiming that it is overpopulation that drives conflicts. In a poem by this author, they declare (*) 'Go, Soul, the body's guest/Upon a thankless errand'. This author's major prose work, composed during over a decade of imprisonment, is over 1 million words long, in 5 volumes, but only goes from creation to 146 BC in its study of the title subject. For 10 points, name this Elizabethan and Jacobean gentleman, executed in 1618, author of *The History of the World*, who failed to find El Dorado.**

ANSWER: Walter **Raleigh**

14. **According to the *Historia Brittonum*, ascribed to Nennius, this kingdom was founded by a Brythonic speaking warrior, who drove out the Irish from a region known as Venedotia. Gildas scolded one king of this kingdom, Maelgwin Hir, as 'strong in war, but stronger to destroy your soul'. Tostig and Harold Godwinson shattered the united Wales formed the one ruler of this kingdom (*) Gruffydd [Grif-ith] ap Llywelyn. One ruler of this kingdom, often known partly by its name to distinguish him from a prince of Powys. That ruler expanded this kingdom's power along with his brother Cadwallon and expanded his realm to the river Dee. That man, buried in Bangor Cathedral, was Owain the Great, whose descendants Dafydd and Llywelyn the Last were the first to use the title Prince of Wales. For 10 points, name this kingdom in northern Wales, which lasted from the post-Roman period until the conquests of Edward I, centred on Anglesey and Snowdonia.**

ANSWER: Gwynedd (Gwyn-eth)

15. **The most northerly known one of these structures is recorded in an inscription from the fort at High Rochester, north of Hadrian's Wall. Another example of these structures was excavated at Brocolitia, near a well sacred to Coventina, and was likely built for the Batavian cohort. Winston Churchill intervened to allow archaeologists to investigate one of these structures for longer following its discovery in 1954, where a relief showing the namesake of these places is flanked by the chariots of the rising Sol and setting Luna. The most famous example of these structures in Britain was recently moved back the Bloomberg Space in the (*) City of London, where it was excavated. For 10 points, name these religious structures, dedicated to a god popular amongst Roman soldiers, often depicted in the act of killing a bull.**

ANSWER: Mithraea (accept Mithraeums, prompt generously on 'temples of Mithras')

16. **Ordericus Vitalis claimed that this person was 'the greatest oppressor of the people and the destroyer of monasteries'. This person's appropriation of lands from the see of Canterbury were eventually reversed through the actions of Lanfranc, the first Norman appointed archbishop. 10 years after the Harrying of the North, this man, who also held the secular title of Earl of Kent, was sent to devastate the north-east again following the murder of Walcher, bishop of Durham. According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, whenever the king was in (*) Normandy, this man ruled England. Though Freeman suggested this man wielded a club in battle to avoid shedding blood, their portrayal in an artwork they commissioned suggests that, although shown wearing armour, their primary role in the Conquest was as support. For 10 points, name this man, half-brother of William the Conqueror, who as bishop of Bayeux commissioned the Tapestry.**

ANSWER: Bishop Odo

17. **A 1487 statute often cited as founding this institution did not do so, as it appears in documents with similar powers in the aftermath of Jack Cade's rebellion in 1453, but confusion about its date of creation are clear from the reign of Elizabeth onwards. William Camden praised this institution 'if we look to its age it is most ancient; if we look to its dignity it is most honourable'. The New Oxford Companion to Law notes that this institution becoming a 'byword for injustice, brutality, and the (*) arbitrary use of judicial power' is more due to politics than legal truth, though cases such as those brought against William Prynne, who was fined and lost his ears in the pillory led to its abolition by the Habeas Corpus Act. Increasingly unpopular under the early Stuarts because of the exercise of the royal prerogative, for 10 points, name this court, revived by Henry VII in 1487, and named for the heavenly decoration of a room at Westminster.**

ANSWER: Star Chamber

18. **The earliest example of one object made from this good was discovered in 2000 on the Norfolk coast at Happisburgh. This good was produced in an arc across southern England, including at Cissbury in Sussex, but similar goods produced at Langdale in the Lake District were not excluded from the east. Another object made from this good was found by 'London's first archaeologist', John Conyers, during the excavation of a supposed elephant in 1679 - that object, named for Gray's Inn Lane made from this good, is in the British Museum's Enlightenment Gallery. Extraction of this raw material at one major site was done with picks**

made from the left (*) antlers of red deer, with 50ft deep shafts. Extensively mined at Grimes Graves in Norfolk during the Neolithic, for 10 points, name this good, used to produce tools such as the Happisburgh Hand Axe.

ANSWER: Flint axes/tools (prompt on stone by asking 'what type')

19. **Mortimer Wheeler's claim to have discovered a mass grave of victims of one of this commander's campaigns have been called into doubt recently, with one projectile shown to be a javelin rather than an artillery projectile. Recent studies have argued that this commander led their forces up the River Arun in Hampshire, rather than from Richborough in Kent. One biographer claims that this commander 'fought thirty battles with the enemy [and] reduced to subjection two powerful nations and more than twenty *oppida*'. In that campaign, Cassius Dio reports that this man's brother Sabinus, served as his lieutenant, and during that campaign this man captured Vectis, the modern Isle of Wight. Tacitus notes that because this man previously had command of the (*) Second Legion in Britain and distinguished himself in the field, the province favoured him over Vitellius. For 10 points, name this Roman whose successes in Britain led to his later appointment to fight the rebellion in Judea, and hence to becoming Emperor in 69.**

ANSWER: Titus Flavius Vespasianus

20. **According to one chronicle, one commander at this battle was 'absolutely amazed' when their opponent's standard was spotted, since they had believed that their foe was still at Burton-on-Trent. That same chronicle describes how that same commander had heard a prophecy that they would die at Berwick, assuming the town in their homeland, and realised their error on learning the name of the small village near them. This battle did not start until two hours before dusk due to negotiations, and the opening exchanges were defined by (*) duelling longbows, the effects of which Thomas Walsingham described: 'the King's men fell as fast as leaves fall in autumn after the hoar frost'. A failed attack on that king killed his standard bearer, Sir Walter Blount, but resulted in the death of the leader of the other side, which was followed by a flanking manoeuvre in which Harry, Prince of Wales was wounded in the face by an arrow. For 10 points, name this battle, fought in Shropshire in 1403, where Harry Hotspur was defeated by Lancastrian forces under Henry IV.**

ANSWER: Battle of Shrewsbury