



## LADY GODIVA

*Read this story and then answer the questions.*

Godiva was the beautiful wife of Leofric, Earl of Mercia and Lord of Coventry. She lived in the 11-th century.

According to an old legend the Earl taxed the people of Coventry heavily and unjustly. If they were unable to pay those cruel taxes, they were thrown into prison.

Lady Godiva begged her husband to have mercy on the people, but her stony-hearted husband showed no pity. Again and again she begged him, even on bended knees, to be merciful,

until, at last, he answered jokingly, "I will do what you ask only if you ride naked through the streets of Coventry at noon."

Lady Godiva took her husband at his word. She sent her servants through the town to tell the citizens that at noon the next day none of them were to be seen in the streets, and that they had to close all the wooden shutters of their houses. If they obeyed, she would be able to save them from the misery they were suffering from heavy taxes.

Lady Godiva rode naked through the empty streets of Coventry the next day. Every door was closed and every window was shuttered. The Earl of Mercia kept his promise, and lightened the burden of taxes that he had laid upon the citizens.

Only one man, a tailor, watched Lady Godiva as she was riding through the streets. He had made a small hole in the door of his house, and peeped through this hole. The legend says that he was struck blind, and he has been known ever since as Peeping Tom.

### QUESTIONS:

When did Lady Godiva live?

1. Who was she?
2. Why were the people of Coventry living in misery?
3. How did the Earl punish citizens who did not pay their taxes?
4. Did Lady Godiva feel sorry for the people of Coventry?
5. What did she beg her husband to do?
6. Did he listen sympathetically or had he a heart of stone?
7. On what condition did he at last agree to do what his wife asked?
8. Did he expect his wife to agree or was the offer made jokingly?
9. Was Lady Godiva joking or was she prepared to take her husband at his word?
10. What did Lady Godiva's servants tell the citizens of Coventry they must do?
11. When Lady Godiva rode through the streets the next day, were there crowds of people or were the streets empty?
12. Were the doors closed and the windows shuttered?
13. Who was the only person who saw Lady Godiva?
14. What had he done, in order to be able to see her?
15. According to the legend, what happened to the tailor?
16. Did the Earl keep his promise? What did he do?
17. When we talk about a Peeping Tom today, what do you think we mean?
18. Is this a true story?



