

# The Legend of William Tell



## William Tell



According to legend, William Tell was an expert with a bow and arrow who lived in the mountains of Switzerland.

At the time, Switzerland was under the control of Austria and a nasty ruler named Gessler. Gessler thought he was so important that the citizens should salute him even when he wasn't there. So, he put his hat on a pole in the center of town and commanded the citizens to bow down to it whenever they passed it.

William Tell arrived in town one day with his son and refused to salute the hat. Gessler was very upset, but instead of killing William Tell right there he challenged him to shoot an apple off his son's head with one shot. If he succeeded, William Tell could remain free.

William Tell did shoot the apple off his son's head with a single arrow. But Gessler noticed that before he tried, Tell had taken two arrows out of his quiver and asked why. William Tell answered, "If I had missed, that second arrow would have been headed your way."

Giachino Rossini even wrote an opera about it....

Click on the link to hear it! This was Rossini's last opera, so we promise it's good!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIbYCOiETx0>