

Name: _____

Date: _____



Directions: Read the story. Answer the questions below.

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

by Charles Perrault

Once upon a time there was a king and queen who for a very long time had no children. After a time, a little daughter was born to them, and they were so pleased that they gave a christening feast to which they invited a number of fairies. Unfortunately, they left out one older fairy who was very angry. She said the princess should die when she reached the age of 16, by pricking her hand with a spindle.

All the other fairies, except one, had already given the princess their beautiful gifts. This last one said she could not prevent part of the wicked wish coming true; but her gift should be that the princess should not really die, but only fall into a deep sleep. It should last for a hundred years, and at the end of that time, she should be awakened by a king's son.

It all happened as the fairies had predicted. When the princess was 16 years old, she saw an old woman spinning and took the spindle from her to try this strange new work. Instantly, she pricked her hand and fell into a deep sleep, as did everyone else in the palace. Around the castle grew some roses and hedges, thick and prickly.

At the end of the hundred years, a king's son heard of the castle, and the enchanted princess who lay asleep there and was determined to rescue her. He cut his way through the thick prickly hedge, and at last, he came to the princess. When he saw how lovely and how sweet she looked, he fell in love with her. He stooped down and kissed her lips.

At once, she awoke. The king and queen and all the courtiers, who had fallen asleep at the same time all awoke at the same time.

As the princess was as much taken with the prince's appearance as he was with hers, they decided to be married. The wedding was celebrated the same day with great pomp and ceremony.

1. What caused the Princess to fall into a deep sleep?

2. Write one question you want to ask about the story below and answer it.
