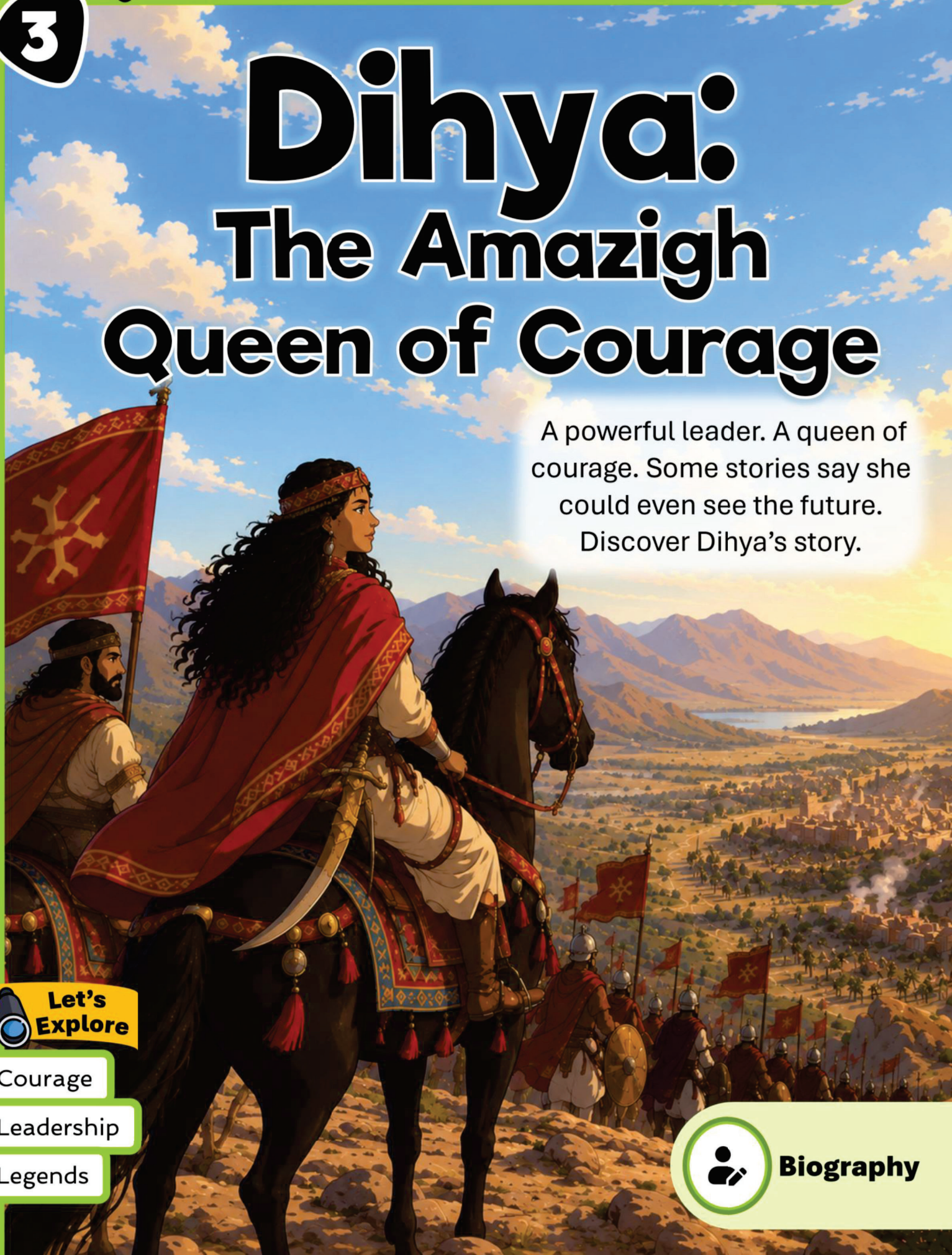
Expanding 3

A2 to A2+

Story Quest Graded Readers

# Dihya: The Amazigh Queen of Courage



A powerful leader. A queen of courage. Some stories say she could even see the future. Discover Dihya's story.

Let's Explore

- ★ Courage
- ★ Leadership
- ★ Legends

Biography

المملكة المغربيــة
Kingdom of Morocco

وزارة التربيـــة الوطنيــة
والتعليم الأولي والرياضة

Ministry of National Education,
Preschool and Sports

## About this Series

This graded reader is part of Story Quest, a series that supports Moroccan students in building their English language skills. Its stories encourage curiosity, build confidence, and foster a lifelong love of reading.

The Story Quest series was developed through collaboration between the Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports, Curriculum Directorate, and Amideast. Together, we help students strengthen their English while opening doors to new ideas, cultures, and opportunities.

Supported by the U.S. Embassy in Morocco.

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# Welcome to Story Quest!

Every story is an ADVENTURE.

- Open the book.
- Discover new words.
- Meet interesting characters.
- Explore new ideas.

And most of all... enjoy the story!




## Your Reading Journey




## Story Snapshot

**Genre**

**Biography** — These readers tell the true story of a real person's life.*

*The pictures in this reader are imagined illustrations, not historical photographs.

**Reader Level**

**3 Expanding**
A2 to A2+ — These books have longer stories, more detail, and richer language to explore.

# Get Ready!

## Look, Think, and Predict

Look at the cover and tick (✓) your answers.

**What will you learn about Dihya?**

- ❑ She is an important leader.
- ❑ She protects people.
- ❑ She makes hard decisions.
- ❑ She travels to new places.

**What interests you about Dihya?**

- ❑ Her horse
- ❑ Her sword
- ❑ Her jewelry
- ❑ The people around her

## Words and Phrases to Know

A. Write the word under the correct picture.

**battle**
**protect**
**lead**
**messenger**

1. 
_____

2. 
_____

3. 
_____

4. 
_____

B. Match the words to their meanings. Write the letter.

____ 1. courage

____ 2. defend

____ 3. legend

____ 4. dignity

a) being brave when something is difficult or dangerous
b) the feeling that you are important and deserve respect
c) an old story, often spoken, that may not be completely true
d) to protect someone or something from attack

Ready? Your **Story Quest** begins now!
Listen as you read. Enjoy the journey!

Enjoy the Story!

# Dihya: The Amazigh Queen of Courage

A queen. A military leader. A woman whose story has survived for more than 1,300 years.

Her name was Dihya.

Dihya lived in North Africa in the seventh century and became a powerful Amazigh leader of the wider Maghreb. Different Amazigh groups had their own communities and leaders, and new armies were moving across the region.



Imagined scene: Dihya with her horse

Dihya was a real person. But over the centuries, parts of her life became mixed with stories and legends.

What did Dihya look like? We do not really know. No picture from her lifetime has survived. Today, artists often show her in beautiful Amazigh clothes and silver jewelry, on horseback, with a sword at her side. Horses were important for travel and fighting in battles.

Later historical accounts of Dihya tell us more about her leadership.

Being a leader in Dihya's world took courage. She had to think about how to protect her people in times of danger.

The land mattered. Which paths were safe for families? Where could children and older people go? Where could fighters defend their communities?



Imagined scene: Dihya planning with other leaders

People wanted to protect their families, their land, and their dignity. They wanted others to value and respect them. Dihya needed their trust and support. She also needed fighters ready to follow her and defend their communities.

Later accounts describe Dihya as a strong military leader.

But leadership was about more than battles. Imagine life in Dihya's time. There were no phones or radios. Messengers carried important news on horseback. They could bring news about danger, sickness, or bad weather.



Imagined scene: Dihya leading her community

Travel was not easy. Some people traveled on horses, but many traveled on foot. Hills, paths, and valleys affected where people could go and how long a journey could take.

When things changed, leaders had to make plans quickly. People might be sick or need to move to a safer place. Strong leaders could help people work together and help each other.

Dihya continued to lead her people for several years. She died around the beginning of the eighth century.

But it was not the end of her story.



Imagined scene: A storyteller sharing Dihya's story

People kept telling Dihya's story. Stories passed from grandparents to children and from storytellers to listeners. Over time, details changed and history became mixed with legend. Dihya became known as al-Kahina. The name suggested that she knew things other people did not. Some legends even say she could see the future.

Did Dihya really see the future?

These legends do not show that she did. The stories about her were written down after her lifetime. Perhaps the legends grew from memories of a leader who understood danger and made good plans. Or perhaps storytellers made her story bigger and more exciting.




Imagined scene: Young people discovering Dihya in a modern museum

Either way, people did not forget her.

Dihya faced danger, made difficult decisions, and brought people together. Today, she is a legendary figure in the history of the Maghreb. More than 1,300 years later, new generations continue to discover her.

Perhaps that is one way a person becomes a legend. A life ends, but their courage and actions continue to inspire others.

Dihya died long ago. Her story lives on.

Keep Exploring!

## Check your Comprehension

Select the best answer.

**1 Why is the story called Dihya: Amazigh Queen of Courage?**

a. She faced danger and made difficult choices as a leader.
b. She was famous for her beautiful clothes and jewelry.
c. She wanted people to remember her for over 1,300 years.

**2 What was one job of messengers in Dihya's time?**

a. They carried important news.
b. They protected mountain paths.
c. They told stories about leaders.

**3 What made travel difficult in Dihya's time?**

a. People could only travel together at night.
b. Hills and valleys affected where people could go.
c. People were not allowed to travel between communities.

**4 Why is it difficult to know the full truth about Dihya's life?**

a. She lived in many different places.
b. Her story became mixed with legends.
c. People stopped talking about her.

**5 The story says that leadership was "about more than battles." What does this mean?**

a. A leader had to face every danger without asking for help.
b. A leader needed a better sword and a faster horse.
c. A leader had to make plans and help people work together.

# Make Connections

Choose **one** task.

## Option 1: What will you be remembered for?

Dihya lived more than 1,300 years ago, but people still tell her story. Imagine people telling a story about you in the future. Complete the sentences.



I want people to remember me for _____

_____.

I hope they say I was _____

_____.

One thing I can do to become this person is

_____.

## Option 2: A Brave Person in History

Create a "Brave Person in History" card. Draw the person or an event from his or her life.

Name: _____ Period: _____

Detail 1 about person: _____

_____

Detail 2 about person: _____

_____

I chose this person because _____

_____

# Answer Key

## Get Ready!

### Look, Think, and Predict

Answers will vary.

### Words and Phrases to Know

**A. Write**

1. messenger
2. battle
3. lead
4. protect

**B. Match**

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. b

## Keep Exploring!

### Check your Comprehension

1. a
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. c

### Make Connections

Answers will vary.

**Sample answer Option 1:**
What will you be remembered for?

- I want people to remember me for my scientific ideas.
- I hope they say I was curious and creative.
- One thing I can do to become this person is try new science experiments.

**Sample answer Option 2:**
A Brave Person in History



Dihya on her horse

**Name:** Dihya
**Period:** 7th century
**Detail 1:** She was an Amazigh leader.
**Detail 2:** She brought people together and helped them make plans in difficult times.
**I chose this person because:**
She had courage in difficult times. I want to be brave when I face problems.