



# ARCHERY FACTS FOR WRITERS

## A WRITING CHEAT SHEET

### Terms to Know

1. **Anchor point:** a point on the face where the archer draws the bow fully back and pauses to aim. Common anchor points are the mouth, nose, or chin.
2. **Arrow rest:** a device that holds the arrow against the bow until it is released. On modern bows only, traditional archers used their fingers as arrow rests.
3. **Limbs:** the upper and lower ends of a bow
4. **Nock:** 1) The act of placing an arrow on the bow. 2) The notch at the end of an arrow where it attaches to the bowstring. 3) The notches on the ends of the bow's limbs where the bowstring is attached (on traditional bows only).
5. **Draw weight:** the amount of pounds of force needed to pull back a bow string to full draw.
6. **Fletching:** the feathers at the end of an arrow that stabilize it in flight.
7. **Shaft:** the main body of the arrow, usually made of wood.
8. **Loose:** the act of releasing an arrow from the bow.
9. **Quiver:** a container that holds the arrows, made of leather and worn on the back or at the hip.

## Facts to Remember

- ▶▶▶ You can only hold a draw for so long with a traditional bow before your arm tires, while the pulley system of modern compound bows holds the weight for you.
- ▶▶▶ Archery takes years of practice to master, and war bows require strength to draw.
- ▶▶▶ The battle commands for medieval archers were: Nock, draw, loose! We only started to use the term “fire” in modern times.
- ▶▶▶ Shooting a bow for an extended period of time is tiring. Gloves are worn during long shoots or when using a bow with a heavy draw to protect the fingers.
- ▶▶▶ Bows don't creak when drawn; they are silent.
- ▶▶▶ Arrows don't whistle.
- ▶▶▶ An arm guard (or bracer) is a protective piece of leather worn on the forearm of the hand holding the bow to prevent the bowstring from slapping the arm.
- ▶▶▶ Traditional bows are unstrung when not in use, while modern compound bows always remain strung. Medieval archers also carried spare bowstrings with them.
- ▶▶▶ Quivers only hold so many arrows. Estimate around 25 for a large quiver and 12 for a small quiver.
- ▶▶▶ Bow types and shooting techniques vary among cultures.
- ▶▶▶ Right-handed archers draw with their right hand and place the arrow on the *left* side of the bow; Left-handed archers draw with their left hand and lace the arrows in the *right* side of the bow.