



Mythological Creatures Field Guide

Free classroom resources

Monsters made of other animals

Comparison task, A4 edition

In this file

What	For	Colour	Black and white
Teacher notes and suggested answers	Teachers	3 to 4	
Version 1 The Minotaur column is filled in, as a model	Years 3 and 4	5 to 6	13 to 14
Version 2 Blank	Years 3 to 6	7 to 8	15 to 16
Version 3 A sixth column, "Your choice"	Years 5 and 6	9 to 10	17 to 18
Creature fact file One card per creature, to read from	Everyone	11	19
Board slide The five creatures, and a question to start	The whole class	12	

- This file is A4. Print at actual size (100%). An A3 edition is at mythologicalcreatures.net/resources.
- Each worksheet version runs over two pages. Print those two double-sided.



Minotaur



Ammit



Bai Ze



Nue



Fafnir

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mythologicalcreatures.net/resources



This page is blank on purpose: it is the back of the cover.

Monsters made of other animals. Not for pupils.

Fafnir is deliberately the odd one out. Children should discover that row 1 doesn't work for him. That is the point of the closing question.

Why Fafnir is the odd one out

Norse myths don't typically build creatures from other animals. None of the 15 Norse creatures in the Field Guide is made this way. Fafnir is on the sheet for the contrast. He was born a dwarf, and greed for cursed gold twisted him into a dragon (*Völsunga saga* and *Fáfnismál*, written down in the 1200s).

Choosing a version

Version 1 has the Minotaur column filled in, so children can see how much to write. Version 2 is blank. Version 3 adds a sixth column for a creature children research, or one they invent with the writing frame. Each comes in A3 and A4 (the A4 copy runs over two pages), in colour and in black and white. The creature fact file gives children something to read from.

Version 1's Minotaur column is a short model answer, cut down again on the A4 copy to fit its narrower column. The full answers are on page 2.

Curriculum links

England	KS2 English work on books from other cultures and traditions, and on making comparisons within and across books. KS2 History on how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.
Australia	Years 3 to 6 English: discussing creatures in different cultural contexts, identifying similarities and differences between them, and comparing what different sources say. Years 3 to 6 HASS skills: interpreting information in different formats, analysing it to identify perspectives, and describing the pattern the sheet is built around.
United States	Grade 4 English, comparing myths from different cultures, and the C3 skill of comparing what different historical sources say about the past.

Curriculum links for England, Australia and the United States:

mythologicalcreatures.net/resources/curriculum

Timing and preparation

One lesson of 45 to 60 minutes, or split across two. No prior knowledge is needed if each table has the creature fact file. The Minotaur, Ammit and Bai Ze also have classroom posters; the Nue and Fafnir are in the fact file only. Suggested answers are on page 2.

Start by talking (5 minutes)

Why do you think so many people imagined monsters made from other animals?

Children might say:

- Big, dangerous animals were the real dangers people faced.
- Mixing animals you know is a way to describe something nobody has seen.
- A creature made of several animals can mean several things at once.

The closing question: why might the Norse have been different?

Children might say:

- Norse monsters are often one animal made enormous, like Fenrir the giant wolf.
- Norse stories like changing shape: Fafnir was once a dwarf, and trolls can turn into rocks.
- Fafnir's change is a warning about greed.



Teacher notes

Monsters made of other animals. Not for pupils.

Suggested answers: children might say

A guide for checking, not a mark scheme. Everything here comes from the *Mythological Creatures Field Guide* books.

	Minotaur	Ammit	Bai Ze	Nue	Fafnir
Which animals is it made from? Or how else was it made?	A bull's head on a human body	A crocodile's head, a lion's front half and a hippo's back half	A tiger's head on the body of a Chinese dragon	A monkey's face, a tanuki's body, a tiger's legs and a snake's tail	No animals. He was born a dwarf, and greed turned him into a dragon
Where does it live?	The Labyrinth beneath the Palace of Knossos, Crete	The Hall of Ma'at in the Duat, the Egyptian underworld	Sacred mountains near the Eastern Sea	Palace rooftops and ancient ruins of Japan	Dark caves and lonely heathland in Scandinavia
Is it dangerous, helpful or both?	Dangerous, but also a prisoner of a curse	Both: she eats wicked hearts, but keeps the judgement fair	Helpful: it harms no one	Dangerous: it brings illness and bad luck	Dangerous: a poison-breathing dragon
What is its job in the story?	The monster in the maze, until Theseus outsmarts it	She eats the heart if it is too heavy on the scales	It names 11,520 spirits for the Yellow Emperor	It makes the emperor ill, until Yorimasa shoots it	He guards the cursed gold, until Sigurd defeats him
How do we know about it?	Pictures on Greek pottery from about 2,600 years ago, and a poem by the Roman poet Ovid about 2,000 years ago	Paintings in the Book of the Dead, over 3,500 years ago	The Book of Song (400s CE), then later Chinese books	The Heike Monogatari (1200s) and court diaries	The Völsunga saga and Fáfnismál, written down in the 1200s

The Nue

The Nue doesn't always show its animal body. Old court records describe it arriving as an unnatural black cloud. In the *Heike Monogatari*, the archer Yorimasa shoots into the cloud, and the creature falls onto the palace roof tiles. Old Japanese books also mix its animals differently; the Field Guide follows the *Heike Monogatari*.

Talking about these cultures

Some of these stories are still part of everyday culture, especially in Japan and China. Talk about them as other people's stories, and avoid words like "weird" or "exotic".

Next lesson and sources

Children can design their own creature with the writing frame, *Design your own mythological creature*. The creatures and facts come from the *Mythological Creatures Field Guide* books. MythologicalCreatures.net has 3,500 creatures in all.



Monsters made of other animals

Compare five creatures from five cultures

Name _____ Date _____

	 Minotaur Μινώταυρος 🇬🇷 Greek	 Ammit  ⚡ Egyptian	 Bai Ze 白澤 ☯ Chinese	 Nue 鵺 🇯🇵 Japanese	 Fafnir 𐌳𐌹𐌿𐌴𐌹𐌹𐌳𐌹𐌹𐌴 ☞ Norse
Which animals is it made from? Or how else was it made?	A bull's head, human body				
Where does it live?	A maze on Crete				
Is it dangerous, helpful or both?	Dangerous, but a prisoner too				
What is its job in the story?	Monster in the maze				
🔍 How do we know about it?	Greek pottery, Ovid's poem				



Monsters made of other animals

Name _____ Date _____

Four of these cultures imagined monsters built from other animals. Norse stories didn't usually make monsters this way.

Why might the Norse have been different?

I think... because... This is like... because...



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Name _____ Date _____

	Draw it here Your choice Name _____ Culture _____
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Creature fact file

Read about each creature. Then use what you find to fill in your sheet.

 Minotaur Μινώταυρος 🏠 Greek	 Ammit  🏠 Egyptian	 Bai Ze 白澤 🏠 Chinese	 Nue 鵺 🏠 Japanese	 Fafnir 𐍆𐍅𐍋𐍆𐍂𐍃 🏠 Norse
The Minotaur has a bull's head on a human body. It lives in the Labyrinth, a maze under the Palace of Knossos on Crete. It is dangerous, but it is also a prisoner of a curse. It is the monster in the maze, until the hero Theseus outsmarts it. We know about it from Greek pottery made about 2,600 years ago, and a poem by the Roman poet Ovid.	Ammit has a crocodile's head, a lion's front half and a hippo's back half. She lives in the Hall of Ma'at in the Duat, the Egyptian underworld. She is both dangerous and helpful. When a heart is weighed on the scales, she eats it if it is too heavy with bad deeds. That keeps the judgement fair. We know about her from paintings in the Book of the Dead, made over 3,500 years ago.	Bai Ze has a tiger's head on the body of a Chinese dragon, with one tall horn. It lives on sacred mountains near the Eastern Sea. It is helpful and harms no one. It tells the Yellow Emperor the names of all 11,520 ghosts and spirits, and he has every name written down. We know about it from the Book of Song, written over 1,500 years ago.	The Nue has a monkey's face, the body of a tanuki (a raccoon dog), a tiger's legs and a snake's tail. It lives on palace rooftops and ancient ruins in Japan. It is dangerous: it brings illness and bad luck. It makes the emperor ill, until the archer Yorimasa shoots an arrow into its dark cloud. We know about it from the Heike Monogatari, a war story from the 1200s.	Fafnir was born a dwarf. When cursed gold came to his family, greed twisted his body. He became a huge dragon with no legs, who breathes poison. He lives in dark caves and lonely heathland in Scandinavia. He is dangerous. He guards the cursed gold, until the hero Sigurd defeats him. We know about him from the Völsunga saga and the poem Fáfnismál, written down in the 1200s.



Monsters made of other animals

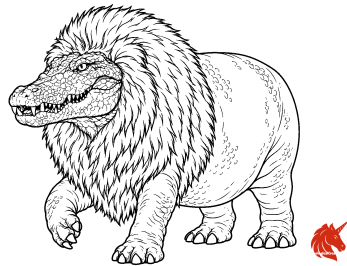
Five creatures from five cultures



Minotaur

Μινώταυρος

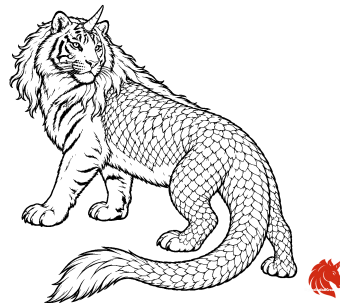
 Greek



Ammit



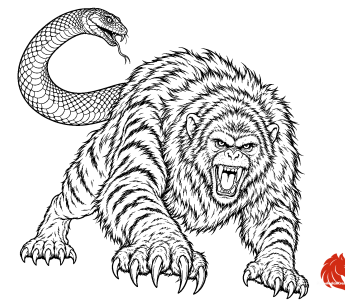
 Egyptian



Bai Ze

白澤

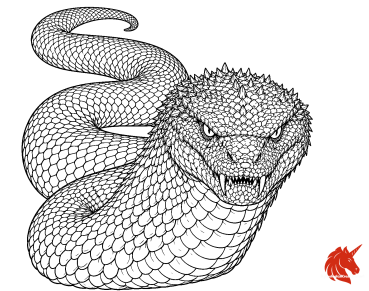
 Chinese



Nue

鵺

 Japanese



Fafnir

Þǫfnir

 Norse

Talk with a partner

Why do you think so many people imagined monsters made from other animals?



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Why might the Norse have been different?

I think... because... This is like... because...



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