

There are many stories about mythical creatures all around the world.
Read the information below to find out about these creatures:

The **Minotaur** was a terrible creature with a bull's head and a man's body. It lived in a labyrinth on the island of Crete. Every year King Minos of Crete sent 7 boys and 7 girls into the labyrinth and the Minotaur ate them up. One year Theseus decided to stop the Minotaur. Ariadne, the King's daughter, gave Theseus a ball of string which he used to find his way in and out of the labyrinth. Theseus killed the Minotaur and saved the boys and girls.



Griffins were very powerful, royal creatures with a lion's body and an eagle's wings and head. They were the king of all animals and birds. They lived in the mountains and made nests of gold. They didn't lay eggs, they laid sapphires. They attacked horses and riders that tried to take their treasure. In some stories, they drove the chariots of the gods.

Unicorns were beautiful creatures with a spiral horn. The horn was magical. If they put it in dirty water, the water became clean. It also cured illnesses and protected people against poison. Unicorns were a sign of good luck, but they only appeared in front of good, pure, honest people.



Centaurs were wild creatures, half-man, half-horse. Perhaps the first horse-riders looked like centaurs! One centaur, Chiron, was a famous teacher. He taught Achilles, a Greek hero. When he died he changed into the star called 'Sagittarius'.

- All over the world **dragons** were strong and powerful. Some lived in the mountains, some lived in the seas. Some had 2 heads, some had no legs.
- European dragons were scary. They had wings and breathed fire. In many stories they guarded treasure and kidnapped young girls.
- In contrast, Chinese dragons were good, friendly and intelligent. They were the origin of all creatures. They had 9 animal parts: a snake's body, a fish's scales, a clam's stomach, a tiger's feet, an eagle's claws, a camel's face, a deer's antlers, a cow's ears and golden eyes. Today you can see dragons on temples, doors, furniture and clothes.
- The dragon is the luckiest sign of the Chinese horoscope. People born in 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000 and 2012 are dragons. They are brave, independent, creative and kind.
- The Komodo Dragon is a lizard. It's 3-4 metres long and lives in Indonesia.



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