

Lesson Plan

Different Dragons

Book: *Dragons*

Series: Mythical Creatures

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice comparing and contrasting two ideas described in a text.

Supplies

- Several copies of the *Dragons* book
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Divide students into groups of four or five.

Activity

Dragons appear in stories from many countries around the world. Stories from different countries say different things about how dragons look and behave. The *Dragons* book describes two main groups of dragons: Western dragons and Eastern dragons. It tells the differences between these two groups.

Ask students to read through the *Dragons* book in their groups, looking for facts about Eastern dragons and Western dragons. Students should take notes as they read. Each student should draw a line down the middle of a piece of paper, dividing the paper into two tall columns. They should write 10 facts about Western dragons in the column on the left and 10 facts about Eastern dragons in the column on the right.

Next, students should use a second sheet of paper to write a short essay describing the two kinds of dragons. The essay should begin by listing the two kinds of dragons and telling the countries where each one is from. Next, students should describe the features of the two kinds of dragons. Finally, students should end by describing how the two groups of dragons are similar or different.

Evaluation

Collects students' lists and essays at the end of the activity. Use the attached answer key to give students 1 point for each fact about dragons they list in the correct column. Also give students up to 16 points for their essay, using the following rubric:

- 3 points for naming the two kinds of dragons and where they are from
- 4 points for describing the features of a Western dragon
- 4 points for describing the features of an Eastern dragon
- 3 points for comparing and contrasting the two groups of dragons
- 2 points for organizing the information clearly

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 3 (W 3.2).

Different Dragons Answer Key

Western Dragons

Students can choose any 10 facts from this list:

1. appear in stories from countries in Europe, North America, and South America (p. 10)
2. are fierce fire-breathers (p. 10)
3. are frightening (p. 15)
4. have huge, lizard-like bodies (p. 15)
5. have long necks (p. 15)
6. have sharp claws (p. 15)
7. have strong tails (p. 15)
8. are covered in scales from head to toe (p. 15)
9. can have red, blue, green, silver, or gold scales (p. 16)
10. usually have two wings (p. 16)
11. usually have four legs, though some have only two legs (p. 16)
12. are wicked and dangerous (p. 24)
13. breathe fire and have poisonous breath (p. 14)
14. eat sheep, cows, or humans (p. 24)
15. guard piles of treasure (p. 24)
16. often appear in stories about knights, castles, and princesses (p. 24)
17. fight humans to protect themselves (p. 24)

Eastern Dragons

Students can choose any 10 facts from this list:

1. appear in stories from countries in Asia (p. 10)
2. are wise and powerful serpents (p. 10)
3. have long bodies and short legs (p. 17)
4. tend not to have wings, though some can still fly (p. 17)
5. have a head that looks like the head of a camel (p. 18)
6. have a body that looks like a snake (p. 18)
7. have claws that look like an eagle's (p. 18)
8. have scales like a fish (p. 18)
9. can be almost any color (p. 18)
10. are water spirits (p. 25)
11. rule over oceans and lakes (p. 25)
12. breathe clouds and mist (p. 25)
13. control the weather (p. 25)
14. often help and protect humans (p. 26)
15. bring humans good luck (p. 26)
16. have magical powers in Chinese stories (p. 27)
17. may have powers such as changing size, becoming invisible, glowing in the dark, or turning into water or fire (p. 27)