

Ejercicios resueltos > Write in your own words

DRAGONS - In your own words

Of all the mythological creatures, few have captured the human imagination as much as the dragon. It appears in the literature and legends of cultures as diverse as China, Japan, Iran, the Mayans, classical Greece, Rome, Judaism, the Babylonians, ancient Egypt, and medieval Europe.

These fascinating creatures have taken different forms and qualities in the mythologies of different cultures throughout history. To the Chinese, a dragon was an immensely wise animal which brought good luck. But for the Norsemen of Scandinavia, it was an evil, terrifying and treacherous monster. And to the ancient Greeks, the dragon was often a creature of intelligence and virtue - and might be found guarding shrines dedicated to the gods. All these dragons do have some things in common, however. They tend to be shown with huge bat-like wings, long toothed jaws like a crocodile, piercing eyes, sharp eagle-like talons and huge scaly bodies - and they can often breathe fire. Another common point is that they're always creatures of immense power and strength.

But where do dragons come from? The creatures they most resemble, in size and shape, are dinosaurs - but since the last dinosaurs died out tens of millions of years before the first humans ever appeared, that seems an unlikely source of inspiration. One theory is that the earliest humans may have evolved when huge lizards - smaller than dinosaurs, but larger than anything known today - were still around. Another theory is that the dragon represents something submerged in the human subconscious. It's fun to speculate, but nobody knows for sure.

In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. (?)

a) *How do dragons appear in European cultures?*

Dragons appear in different ways according to cultures. For example, in Scandinavia, dragons were seen as evil and dangerous monsters. On the other hand, the Greeks considered dragons virtuous and intelligent creatures. For both cultures dragons are powerful and strong creatures.

Ayuda: la respuesta la encontramos en el segundo párrafo que nos explica las formas y cualidades de la figura del dragón de acuerdo con las diferentes culturas.

Vocabulario: *according to:* según; *evil:* malvado; *both:* ambos/as; *powerful:* poderosos.

b) *Is there any connection between dragons and dinosaurs? Explain.*

At first sight, it seems possible to think that there is a connection between dragons and dinosaurs, due to their close resemblance. However, taking into account that dinosaurs disappeared before the first humans appeared, it is implausible to think of them as connected to dragons. Nevertheless there is a theory claiming that humans evolved at the same time that huge lizards did. These huge lizards, which were smaller than dinosaurs but bigger than anything known today, may have inspired the figure of the dragon. .

Ayuda: la respuesta la encontramos en el tercer párrafo que aporta varias hipótesis acerca de los orígenes de la figura del dragón. De acuerdo con el texto, es improbable que el dinosaurio sirviera como fuente de inspiración de la figura del dragón puesto que éstos se extinguieron antes de que los humanos aparecieran en la tierra pero posteriores y enormes lagartos que convivieron con los humanos pudieron valer de inspiración.

Vocabulario: *at first sight:* a simple vista; *close:* cercana; *resemblance:* apariencia; *implausible:* poco convincente; *claim:* afirmar.