

Make your own mythical creature

<http://www.thestoryelves.com/invent-your-own-mythical-creature/>
<https://www.wikihow.com/Create-Your-Own-Mythological-Creature>

BASICS

- Write down a list of creatures. They can be your favorite creatures, or just ones you find particularly funny or fascinating.
- Next to each, write down their most interesting body parts and features. (What is interesting to you.)
- Once you have a list, choose four of the creatures to work with.
- The writing part of the assignment might end up looking like this :
 - Lion: Big mane, long tail with fluffy end, big paws
 - Gold fish: Flowy fish fins, bright color, scales
 - Lizard: Feet with nails, scales, a very long tail
 - Owl: Big eyes, short beak, wings, round body
- Now I look at the features and pick the ones I like the most from each creature. If I feel uncertain of what the features look like, I can find pictures and use them for reference for my drawing.
- Then, I am ready to combine the different features into a brand new creature! Sketch it out!



You don't have to draw to be able to create an exciting creature. You can explore options for drawing your creature digitally, through collage, or simply write down your creature's appearance in great detail. Words can create a picture, too.



ADVANCED

- Give your creature a **purpose**: companion, hero, fighter, explorer
- Consider the **personality traits** of your creature: good vs. bad, singular or group life, intelligence
- Assign your creature **specific abilities**, like:
 - Shape-shifting: the ability to change appearance at will
 - Superb strength: a supernatural level of brute strength
 - Flight: the ability to fly
 - Underwater breathing: the ability to swim and breathe underwater
 - Healing: the ability to heal wounds or sickness
 - Foreshadowing: the ability to foresee or predict future events
 - Climbing: the ability to scale walls or climb other tall structures without equipment
- **Name your creature** by using ancient words like Latin or Greek to describe it. For example, in Latin, the word "inpennatus" means feathered. So, if your creature can fly, you might name it Inpennatus, or a variation of the word, like Pennatus.
- **OR...** try creating a unique name for your creature by making an anagram of one of its attributes. (This simply means rearranging the letters of the word. For example, if your creature is a fighter, you might rearrange the letters in the word "fighter," and call your creature a Rheftig.) If you find it difficult to come up with names of your own, try an online name generator. These can help you find unique mythological names quickly.
- Think about the **scale** of your mythological creature. If you envision your creature to be a trickster or as being very sneaky, you might want to make it smaller in stature, like a leprechaun or an elf. If your creature has an attribute like supernatural strength, you may want it to be large in size to show off this attribute. Give your creature a surprising attribute. For example, a small creature with super strength could be surprising and advantageous.
- Consider **texture and animal-like attributes**. Many mythological creatures take on aspects of multiple normal animals, and thus become a more formidable composite creature. For example, the majestic hippogriff has the front half of a gryphon and the back half of a horse. Centaurs have the upper body of a human and the lower body of a horse. Think about the traits of your creature. If your creature is strong and a fighter, consider giving it a physical trait from a strong creature like an eagle, snake, or alligator. If your mythological creature has wings, decide what sort of wings you want them to be. Do you want feathered wings, bat-like wings, wings with scales, or insect wings? Do you want your creature to have scales, smooth skin, fur, or feathers on its body?

ADVANCED (continued)

- Decide on a **color** for your mythological creature. Once you have determined the body type of your creature, you want to assign it a coloring. This might be a singular color or multiple colors. This coloring might be glossy or matte. Take the function of your creature into account. For example, if you want your creature to be camouflaged in its environment, you may want to give it a neutral color. A vibrant coloring, on the other hand, can show off its attributes and make your creature stand out. For example, the phoenix, also known as the firebird, has a bright orange and red coloring, which matches its name and abilities.
- **Create accessories** for your mythological creature. As well as creating the look for your mythological creature, you can also add on to their overall abilities and look with accessories like clothing and weapons. Consider armor. Will your creature's armor be purely natural, like scales, or do you also want to create something for your creature to wear? If you do want to accessorize your creature, think about what material and color you want these accessories to be.

Bringing Your Mythological Creature to Life on Paper

- **Sketch your creature.** This will help you to see your finished creature as you envisioned it. You can draw with a pencil on paper or sketch your creature digitally. Take your time when you sketch your creature. Sketch it from multiple different angles to show off its various physical traits. Be sure to label the creature with its name.
- If you can't draw, ask someone to draw it for you. Alternatively, find similar pictures online and trace over them.
- **Add color** to your sketch. Color will bring life to your mythological creature. You can use it to add detail to your drawing. With color, you'll be able to see your full vision for your creature drawn out on paper. Use markers, crayons, or colored pencils for simple, mess-free color. If you want to create a more complex type of artwork, try using paints. Oil, acrylic, and watercolor will all work for your project. Alternatively, scan your image into the computer and paint it digitally using an image editing program, such as Photoshop.
- **Write** about your mythological creature. Storytelling is an essential part of mythology and bringing your creation to life in your mythological world. Start by simply writing down all of your creature's abilities. Give your creature an origin story, or even multiple alternate origin stories. This is simply an account of where the creature originated. For example, by one account in Greek mythology, centaurs came into being when Ixion fell in love with the wife of Zeus, Hera. Ixion arranged to meet with Hera, but Zeus found out and formed a cloud into the shape of Hera. When Ixion embraced the cloud form, centaurs were made from the union. In addition to origin stories, you can also create stories of the journeys your creature has gone on, and/or the battles it has fought.
- **Weave your mythological creature into a larger narrative.** You'll have to decide whether you want to add your mythological creature to the lore of a world that already exists in a book, movie, or game, or create your own world.

Here are a few examples! Ask if you need help!

centaur sketch by WhiteGriffis on DeviantArt



Minotaur by eronzki999 on DeviantArt



Basilisk at <https://mythologian.net>

