

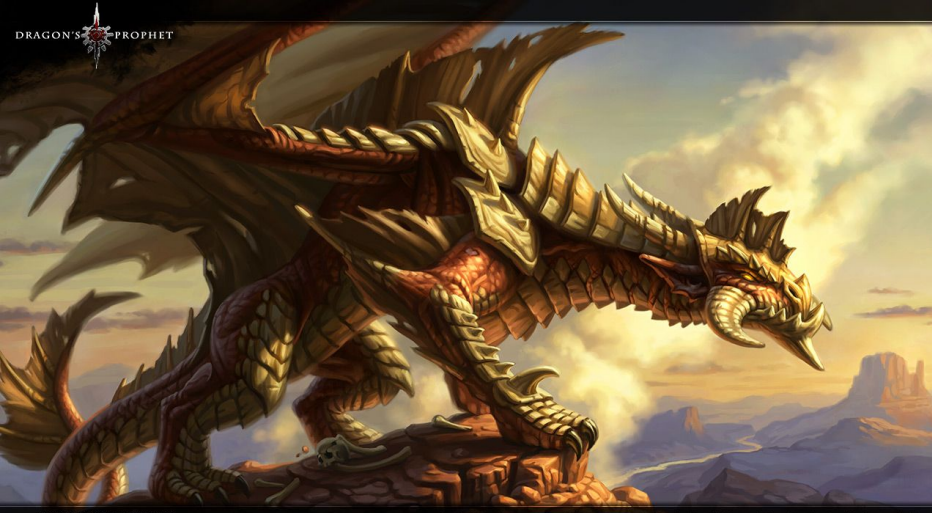
Dragons Around the World

Liz Bradley

What is a dragon?

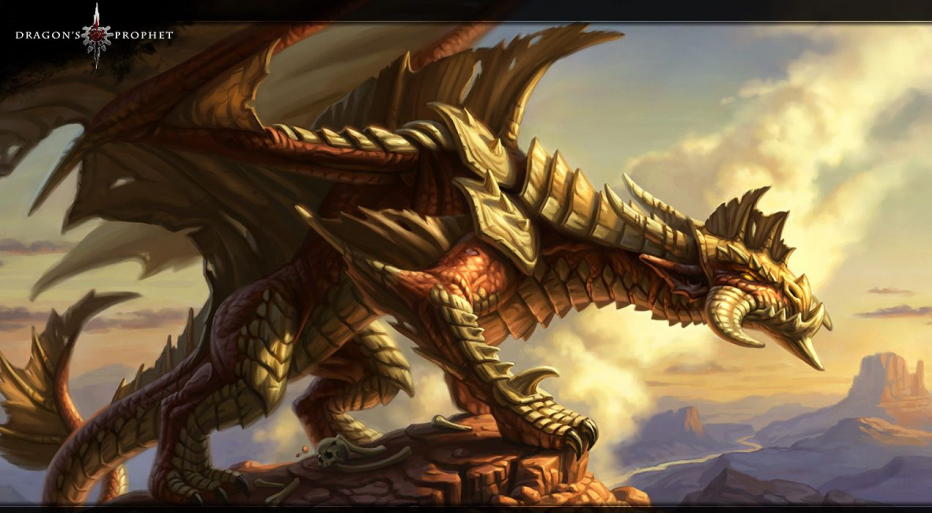


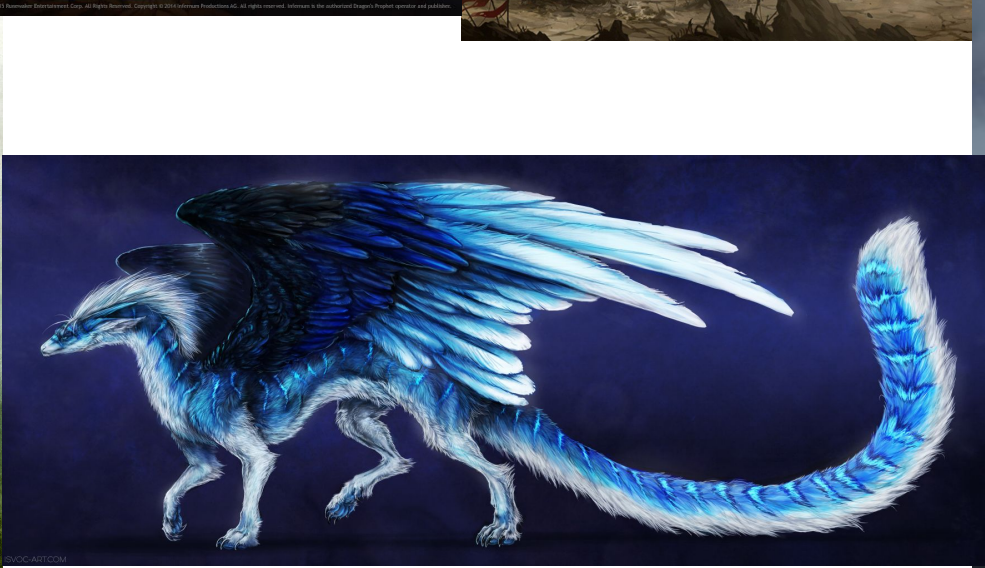
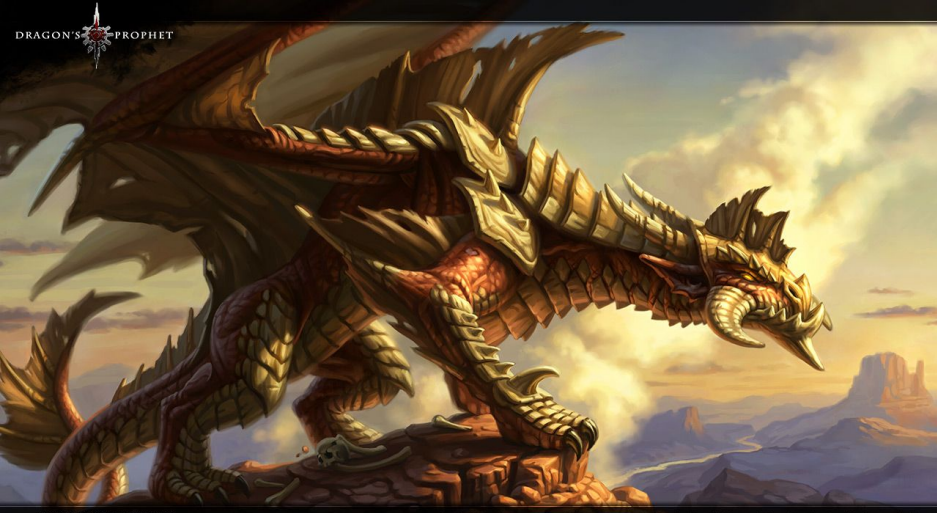




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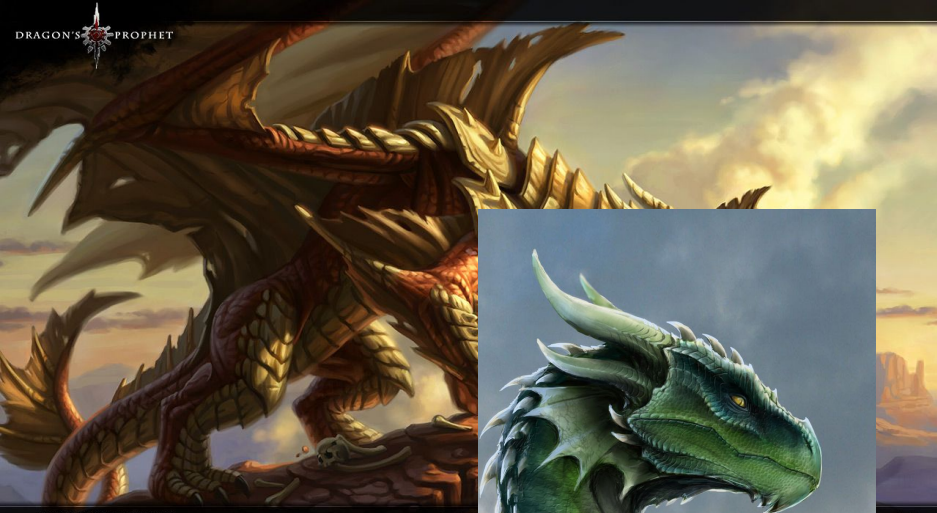


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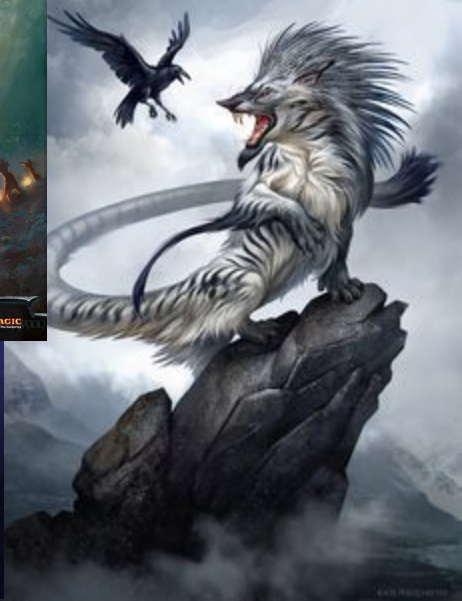
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Dragon



Wyvern



Drake



Drake



Drake



Wurm

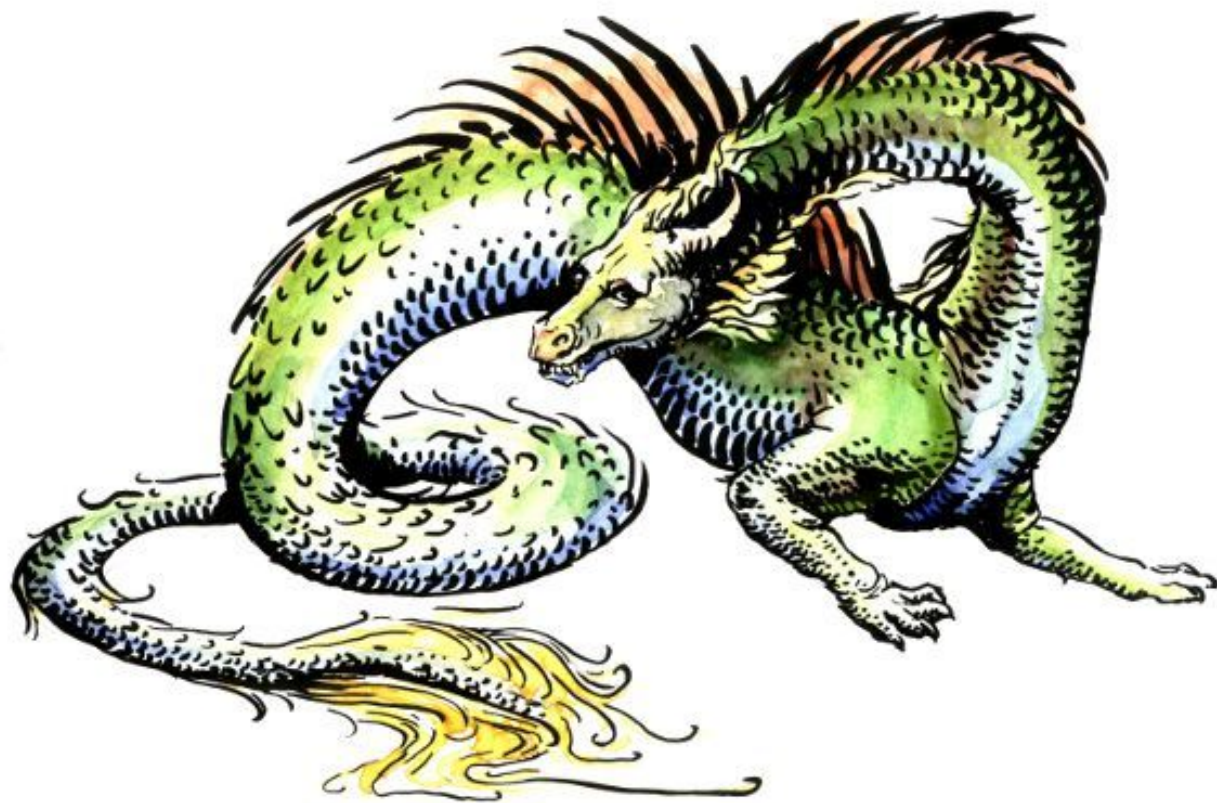


Amphithere



© William O'Connor/Dracopedia

Lindwurm



Dragons

What is a dragon?

The Encyclopedia of World Mythology and Legend defines a dragon as “a fantastic beast that appears in world mythology and folklore as either demonic or beneficent”.



Where did they come from?

Dinosaur Fossils





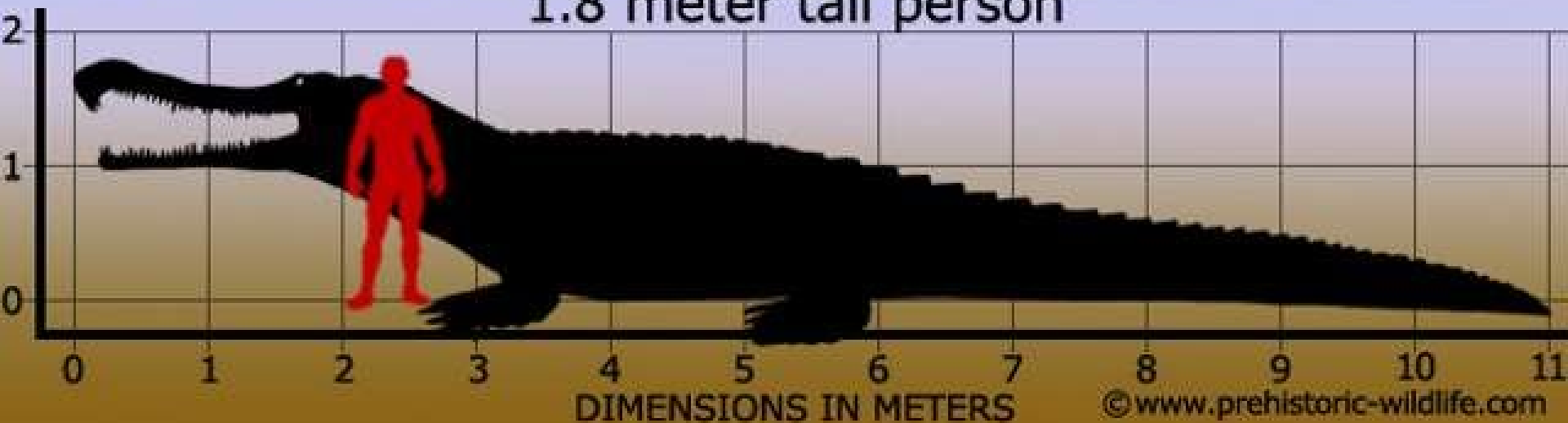
Whale Bones



Crocodiles



Lower estimated size of Sarcosuchus compared with a 1.8 meter tall person



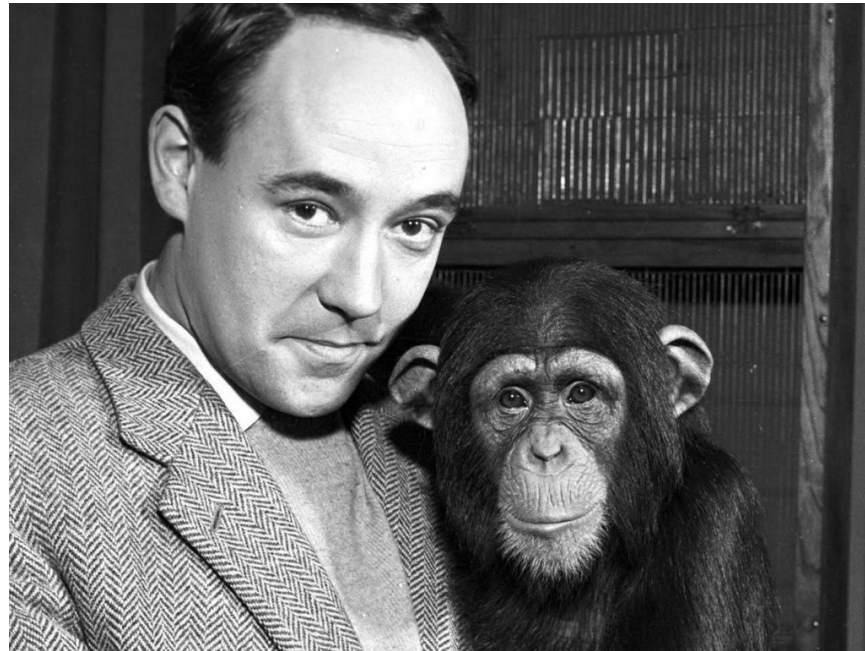
Fear of Large Predators





Desmond Morris

“It is as though there was once a whole family of different dragon species that really existed, before they mysteriously became extinct.”



European Dragons



Humbaba

- One of the first mentioned European dragons
 - Dated back to 2000 B.C.
- Found in the Epic of Gilgamesh as the monster that guarded the Cedar forest of Amanus in Mesopotamia
- Could change faces
- Killed by Gilgamesh

Dragons in Christianity

- Many stories of saints slaying dragons
- Dragons in Christianity are synonymous with the Devil
- The Devil is derived from the dragon in the Old Testament
- Dragon in the Old Testament is derived from Tiamat, a Babylonian female dragon monster.

Saint George and the Dragon



Biblical Daniel Exploded a Dragon

- Dragon was being worshipped as a false god
 - Second commandment out of the Ten Commandments of Christianity says to not worship anyone else but God
- Daniel fed the dragon a cake, making it explode
- Different variations of the story have different ingredients for the cake
 - Baking pitch, fat, and hair
 - Straw and nails
 - Camel skins and hot coals
 - Poison and tar

Ladon

- Greek dragon
- Guarded the tree that grew the golden apples of the Hesperides, which Hercules had to get to complete his eleventh labor
- Had one hundred heads
 - Each one spoke with a different voice
- Killed by Hercules

Fafnir

- Norse dragon
- Originally a human
 - Son of the magician Hreidman
- Corrupted by the cursed ring Andvarinaut
 - Caused him to lust after gold and other treasures
- Killed his father and took all his gold
- The curse turned him into a monster inside and out, eventually turning him into a dragon
- Continued to hoard treasure until the mythological hero Sigurd killed him

Jormungand

- Norse dragon
- Also known as the World Serpent
- Son of Loki
- Thrown into Midgardian oceans by Odin
- Once he had grown large enough to encircle the globe, he held his tail in his mouth
 - Makes Jormungand similar to Egyptian dragon Ouroboros
- At the end of the world, Jormungand will be killed by Thor, and Thor will be killed by Jormungand's venom

Nidhogg

- Most feared dragon in Norse mythology
- Represents evil
- Is coiled around the base of Yggdrasil, the tree of life
- Eats the corpses of evil-doers and gnaws on Yggdrasil's roots
- Nidhogg and Yggdrasil are the only things that Norse mythology says will survive the end of the world

Oriental Dragons



天外有天
身印正月
鐵掌一龍

in flower tattoo



Oriental Dragons

- Benevolent creatures, often seen as gods and associated with water and rain
- Chinese call them “Long” (龙)
- Japanese call them “Ryu” (竜)
- Japanese dragon culture came from Chinese dragon culture
- Chinese and Japanese dragons are essentially the same
 - Long, snake-like bodies
 - Four short legs and no wings
 - Whiskers
 - Large, round nose
 - Fur on face, neck, and sometimes spine
 - Deer ears
 - A pair of horns

How Many Toes?

- Among Chinese dragons, the number of toes is significant.
 - Imperial dragons have five toes on each paw
 - Normal dragons have four toes on each paw
- Among Japanese dragons, it is not.
 - Most have three toes on each paw

Rain and Royalty

- Ch'en Nan
 - Chinese sage who controlled rain by controlling dragons.
- When an emperor dies, he ascends to heaven as a dragon
 - The weight of the dragon's feet on the clouds creates rain
- Dragon is often synonymous with Emperor
 - Dragon's throne = Emperor's throne
 - Dragon's face = Emperor's face

Yamata no Orochi



Yamata no Orochi

- Evil, eight-headed dragon found in the sacred Shinto text Kojiki
- Feasted on maidens from local villages
- Killed by Susanoo-no-Mikoto
 - Susanoo set out a trap baited with a giant vat of sake (sah-KAY)
 - Yamata no Orochi drank all of the sake and passed out
 - While Orochi was passed out, Susanoo chopped him to pieces

Evolution from Art



Evolution from Art



Other Dragons

Angont

- Native American dragon
- Aggressive, poisonous drakes
- Lived in forests, caves, lakes, and other dark places of the world
- Could create natural disasters and plagues
- Sought after by medicine men for cures

Amhuluk

- Native American dragon
- Water serpent with big horns
- Found in the waters near Forkend Mountain
- Bogeyman type of legend
 - If children got too close to the water, Amhuluk would come up and impale them on its horns before dragging them down into the water, where they would never surface again

Apalala

- Buddhist dragon
- Originally a man named Kasyapa Buddha
 - Controlled rain by controlling evil dragons who could create storms
 - In return, villagers gave him grain
 - Over time, villagers stopped giving him grain, making him angry
- Prayed to be reborn as a dragon to punish the people
- Was reborn as the dragon Apalala and flooded and stormed the villages
- Sakyamuni Buddha came through the area and convinced Apalala that he was doing wrong
- Together, they came to an agreement where Apalala got crops every twelve years, which he could take by flooding the area

What's Next?