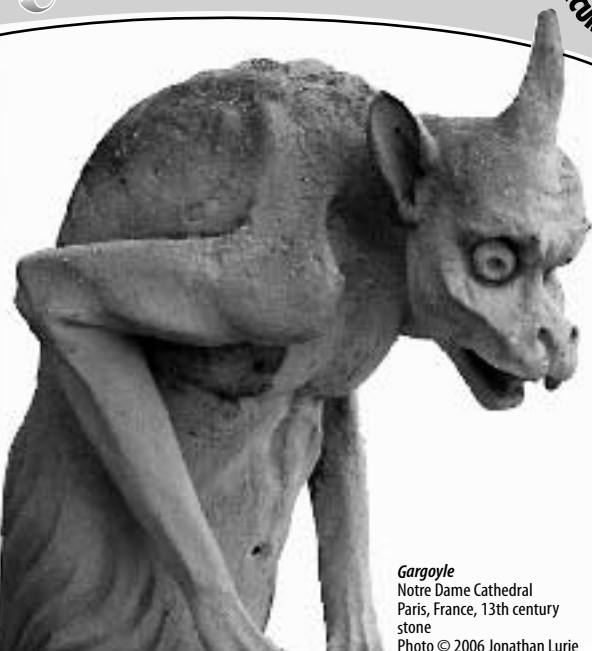


Ancient people believed in monsters & mythical creatures. They wove legends about their strength, ferocity & amazing powers that protected against evil & unknown dangers. Pictures & carvings have kept stories of these beasts alive for centuries.

ranbu guardian (Zhenmushou), Northern Wei to Northern Qi dynasties, mid- to late-6th century, China. Earthenware with pigment. H: 12 1/4 in. (31.1 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art Purchase, Ann Eden Woodward Foundation Gift, 1979 (1979.438)

ARTS FOR ALL!



Gargoyle
Notre Dame Cathedral
Paris, France, 13th century
stone
Photo © 2006 Jonathan Lurie

Gargoyle & Ewers

Medieval craftsmen carved water spout creatures to spew rainwater away from buildings. These gargoyle creatures often represented monsters from old myths, bringing stories to life. Likewise, in 15th century Vietnam, ceramicists made fanciful water containers or ewers shaped like animals & mythical creatures. Water pours from the beak of this phoenix ewer.

Ewer in the form of a phoenix
ca. 15th-16th century, Vietnam
Stoneware with underglaze cobalt-blue decoration
H: 11 1/2 in. (29.2 cm); The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Gift of Betty and John H. Menke, 1992 (1992.27.1)



- ◆ Create a water creature assemblage that spouts water from its mouth. Be whimsical & a little crazy.
- ◆ Gather & position cups, hoses, pvc pipe & disposable containers. Punch holes so that water pours from one to another. Attach together with duct or masking tape.
- ◆ Morph the assemblage into a monster & let the water fun begin!

Created for teachers, parents & kids by:

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS (CSMA) AT FINN CENTER

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MANY THANKS TO: Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University; Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; Jonathan Lurie; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Medieval Bestiary

A bestiary was a popular medieval book of beasts. Each page was filled with the habits & descriptions of real & imagined animals like dogs, bears, unicorns & gryphons. Descriptions of animal traits taught moral lessons to help people live better lives.

- ◆ Make pop-up beasts for your own bestiary.
- ◆ Fold paper. Draw triangle at fold. Cut one side of triangle. Bend at other side.
- ◆ Open paper & refold backwards so piece pops out. Use as a head, beak, fang or nose. Draw rest of monster on paper around pop-out.
- ◆ Add description & life lesson for the beast.



Antonio Tempesta, artist; Italian, 1555 - 1630; *Plate from the series Battling Animals*, 1600; Etching 9.1 x 12.8 cm (image); Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts; 1963.30.37229

Medusa

Medusa was a terrible monster in Greek mythology. Her hair writhed with poisonous snakes. Her gaze was so cruel that a glance could turn someone to stone. When the hero Perseus chopped off Medusa's head, her wild hair days were over forever.



Medusa; drawing from Greek amphora (detail) 490 B.C.; Munich, Staatlich Antikensammlungen

- ◆ Draw a "Bad Hair Day" for a man or woman. First draw the face. Plan where to add hair, mustache or beard.
- ◆ Draw hair with black markers. Use varied lines: thin, thick, wavy, bushy & curly.

Guardian Beasts

Ancient mythical beasts protected against unknown dangers. In Ancient China a "zhenmushou" was a ferocious crouching beast that guarded tombs to keep the spirit of the dead from roaming away. This tiny "baku" from ancient Japan was a monster who ate nightmares. A combination of several animals, a baku brought good luck & sound sleep.

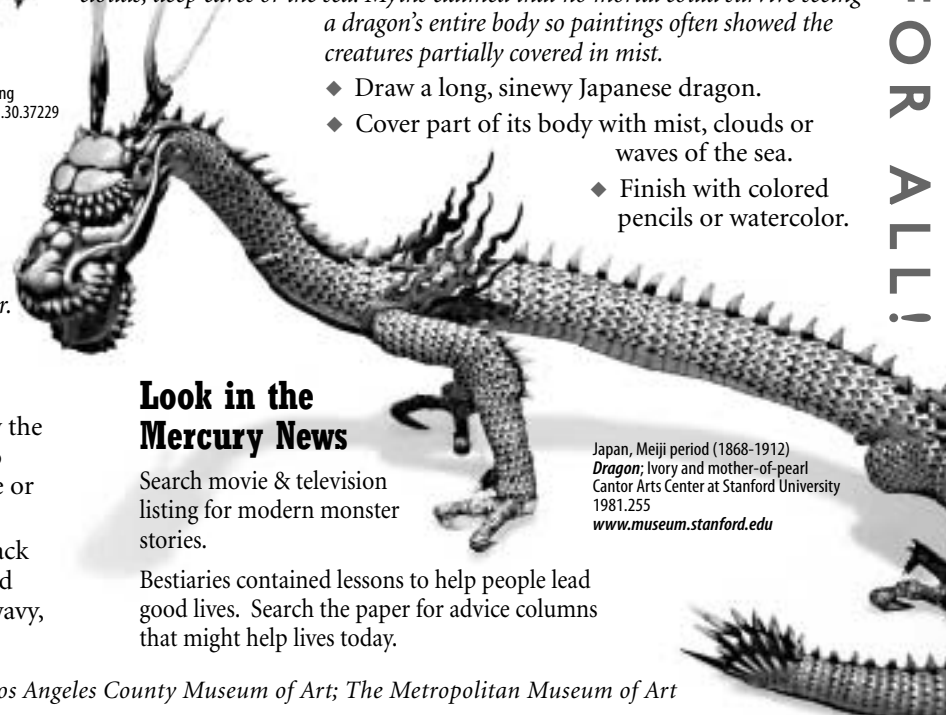


Baku: Monster that Eats Nightmares; Attributed to Gechu, Japan, active 18th century Netsuke, Ivory with staining, sumi (ink) & traces of red pigment; 3 3/4 x 1 5/8 x 1 3/16 in. (9.5 x 4.1 x 3.0 cm) Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Raymond and Frances Bushell Collection; AC1998.249.63 Photograph © 2006 Museum Associates/LACMA

- ◆ Create your own papier mache guardian beast.
- ◆ Tape together paper tubes & boxes for monster shape.
- ◆ Cover with newspaper strips dipped in thinned glue. Let dry.
- ◆ Paint in wild monster colors & name your guardian beast.

Japanese Dragon

Long, slender, strong & good, Japanese dragons were thought to hide in storm clouds, deep caves or the sea. Myths claimed that no mortal could survive seeing a dragon's entire body so paintings often showed the creatures partially covered in mist.



- ◆ Draw a long, sinewy Japanese dragon.
- ◆ Cover part of its body with mist, clouds or waves of the sea.
- ◆ Finish with colored pencils or watercolor.

Look in the Mercury News

Search movie & television listing for modern monster stories.

Bestiaries contained lessons to help people lead good lives. Search the paper for advice columns that might help lives today.

Japan, Meiji period (1868-1912)
Dragon; Ivory and mother-of-pearl
Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University
1981.255
www.museum.stanford.edu