

WHAT IS A DRAGON?

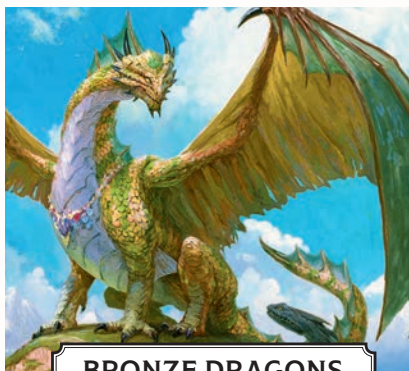
Imagine you are a young adventurer who is exploring an ancient library. You spy an old, dusty scroll shoved in a dark corner and reach for it. As you unroll it, you are astonished to see it is covered with beautiful illustrations of dragons! You pull out your notebook to take notes as you carefully examine the scroll, committed to learning as much as you can about dragons.

TASK ONE

You have become intrigued by the dragon scroll and have decided to set out in search of a real dragon!

Study the illustrations and excerpts from the scroll below. Use the back of this sheet to answer these questions based on your examination.

1. Based on the details provided, what can you infer about the size of dragons as a species?
2. Is there a correlation between each dragon's size and how it behaves?
3. What do the dragons use to protect themselves and hunt?
4. What physical features do the three dragons share?
5. List three adjectives to describe each dragon. (Do not repeat words used below.)



BRONZE DRAGONS

Bronze dragons love the warm climates of tropical islands and hunt from the sea. They have a maximum height of 10 feet, with a wingspan of 80 feet. Their breath weapon is lightning. They love to collect treasure from the sea such as pearls and seashells. These dragons can be quite friendly to humans.



RED DRAGONS

Red dragons are one of the most feared dragons, and for good reason. They can breathe fire, can summon volcanic steam and gas, and even create earthquakes. Red dragons love to live in active volcanoes, but they will create a lair in any tall mountain. They tower above most other dragons, with a maximum height of 22 feet and a wingspan of 150 feet. And as for treasure, they will hoard anything that has any monetary value at all.



WHITE DRAGONS

White dragons are medium-sized dragons. They have a maximum height of 16 feet and a wingspan of 72 feet. They are creatures of ice and snow and are fiercely independent. They can make the weather colder and even create walls of ice and freezing fog. They can use their breath to freeze enemies and prey (they will eat anything that moves). They love any treasure that is clear and shiny.

TASK TWO

Choose an animal species you think has similar physical characteristics to dragons and compare them. Describe the similarities and differences between the two species on a separate sheet of paper. What can you infer about dragons as a species by comparing it to the species of your choice?

FAMILIES: Want to learn more about these powerful and magical creatures? Pick up a copy of Dungeons & Dragons' new illustrated book, *The Practically Complete Guide to Dragons*, available August 15.