DRAGONS IN THE WILD

Rolling up the scroll, you place it in your backpack with your notebook. It's time to set out in search of a real dragon! You've chosen one from the scroll to try to find.

After a few days of travel, you reach what you think might be a dragon's habitat. It's a tall mountain filled with a wide variety of unusual plants. There is a human village nearby. You rent a room in the village and spend your days climbing the mountain and exploring. Often, you see a large dragon with long wings soaring over you. One day, the dragon lands on a nearby cliff, walks to the edge, and then does something extraordinary — it seems to walk right off the cliff onto a solid cloud!

Quickly, you cast an invisibility spell you read on the scroll. Without the spell, the dragon would likely know you are watching it. Then, you pull out your notebook and settle in to follow, observe, and learn about the dragon.

TASK ONE

Identify the dragon. Look at the clues around you. Which type of dragon do you think lives here? (Hint: It's one of the dragons on the scroll!)

TASK TWO

Think about what you learned about this dragon, and what you know about animal behavior and habitats. Observe the dragon (in your imagination) and record field notes using the prompts below.

- 1. What type of habitat do you think this dragon needs?
- 2. What do you think the dragon eats?
- 3. What do you think the dragon uses for shelter, and why?
- 4. Consider the dragon's magical abilities. How can it use those abilities to help it survive?
- 5. Consider the dragon's physical attributes. How can it use those attributes to help it survive?

TASK THREE

Continue to observe the dragon, and sketch it on the back of this sheet.

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.

