

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

A FIELD GUIDE TO DRAGONS

TARGET AUDIENCE

Grades 4-6

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Reinforce language and STEAM skills
- Inspire creative expression and imagination

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The following materials are available at [ymiclassroom.com/dragons](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/dragons):

- This teacher's guide
- Three reproducible student activity sheets
- An educational standards alignment chart
- A version of the program for grades 6-8
- A video that complements the activities
- An online feedback form

HOW TO USE THE PROGRAM

The activities can be used with or without prior knowledge of D&D. Make photocopies of the activity sheets for students and visit the program site at the link above for additional information and resources.

Take your students to [ymiclassroom.com/dragons](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/dragons) to check out the video featuring dragon experts! Get the inside scoop on dragons straight from the Wizards themselves, and then students can amaze friends and families with their new dragon expertise.

ACTIVITY 1: WHAT IS A DRAGON?

Students use analytical thinking and prior knowledge about life science to infer facts about dragons as a mythical species.

Begin this activity by asking students to name their favorite animal. Let them share a bit about why they like this animal. Ask: *What are that animal's characteristics? What makes it special and unique?*

Tell the students that they will be going on an adventure to discover a species of mysterious and mythological creatures: dragons!

Pass out the activity sheet and go over the questions. Help students draw a Venn diagram on the back of their sheets to compare the dragons. Once they've completed the sheet, have the students share their inferences. Ask: *What are some common inferences? What is the evidence for these inferences? What distinguishes dragons from other creatures?*

ACTIVITY 2: DRAGONS IN THE WILD

Students use scientific thinking and recall of details to make logical connections about a dragon's physical characteristics, habitat, and behavior.

Have students use their knowledge about dragons to imagine they found a real dragon and share, in small groups or as a class, what they would do if their goal was to learn about the dragon.

Pass out the activity sheet and go over the questions. Reconvene once students have completed the sheet to have them share their answers. Note: The adventurer encounters a silver dragon.

ACTIVITY 3: AN EPIC ENCOUNTER

Students use the knowledge they've learned about D&D dragons to imagine a mythology around their dragon.

Pass out the activity sheet and go over the instructions with the class. Give your students guidelines for the length of their legends. When the students have completed the activity, invite them to share their stories. Compile the sheets to create your own class guide to dragons!

Extension Activity: Have students continue the adventure! They can use their dragons in their next story, game, or D&D adventure!

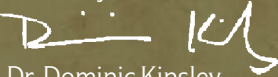
Dear Educator,

Are you searching for a way to spark student enthusiasm while teaching creative writing skills? Take your students on a dragon-quest using this free standards-based language arts and STEAM program for grades 4-6 from Wizards of the Coast, the publishers of Dungeons & Dragons (D&D), and the curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired.

The activities are inspired by D&D's exciting new book, *The Practically Complete Guide to Dragons*. This lavishly illustrated guide showcases the variety of fantastic dragons encountered in the worlds of D&D. With tips on everything from fighting dragons to riding them, to details on their appearance, capabilities, habits, lairs, and treasures, this compendium offers insight into these awe-inspiring creatures. Annotated with dragon wizard Sindri Suncatcher's personal observations and experiences, this book will inspire endless imaginary adventures.

We hope that you will share this program with other teachers at your school. Please let us know your opinion of these learning materials by visiting [ymiclassroom.com/feedback-dragons](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/feedback-dragons). We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

Questions? Contact YMI toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by email at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.



WIZARDS
OF THE COAST

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Don't miss the Q&A with D&D dragon experts at [ymiclassroom.com/dragons](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/dragons)!



WHAT IS A DRAGON?

Imagine you are a young adventurer who is exploring an ancient library. You discover an old, dusty scroll. As you unroll it, you see beautiful illustrations of dragons! You pull out your notebook to take notes to learn about these mystical creatures.

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 about three dragons from the scroll below. Then answer the questions based on your examination.

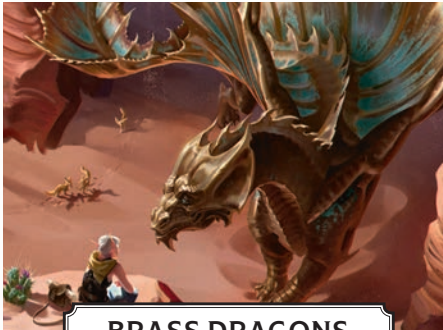
1. What is the size range of the dragons?

2. What do the dragons use to protect themselves and hunt?

3. Do the three dragons share certain features? What are they?

TASK TWO

Infer more about dragons by creating a Venn diagram on the back of this sheet to record your answers. Compare the general distinguishing features of the dragons (for example, the neck, wings, and claws) to those of a lizard. Using this information and your answers from Task 1, what can you infer about dragons as a species?



BRASS DRAGONS

Brass dragons are desert creatures. They have a maximum height of 16 feet and a wingspan of 60 feet, and they can breathe fire or sleep gas to protect themselves. Their distinguishing factor is that their outstretched wings form a triangle shape when in flight. They love treasure made from plant material.



BLACK DRAGONS

Black dragons are small-to-medium-sized. They have a maximum height of 16 feet and a wingspan of 40 feet, and they can breathe pure acid to protect themselves. As their name suggests, they can create complete darkness. They are not friendly and will attack without warning. They hoard treasure in the form of coins and live in stinky bogs.



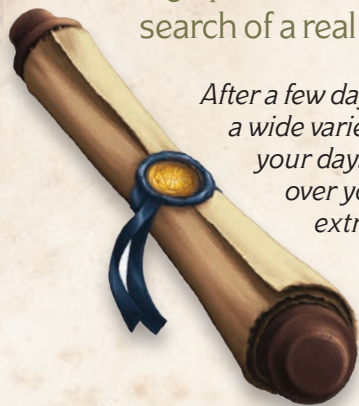
SILVER DRAGONS

Silver dragons are some of the largest dragons. They have a maximum height of 22 feet and a wingspan of 150 feet, and they can breathe a paralyzing gas or frost to protect themselves. Silver dragons make their lairs on high mountains, but are friendly towards humans and often spend years in human form living among people. They will even protect humans they care about! Silver dragons have the power to shape clouds into solid structures. They only hoard small works of art such as jewelry so they can fly with their treasures.

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.

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.

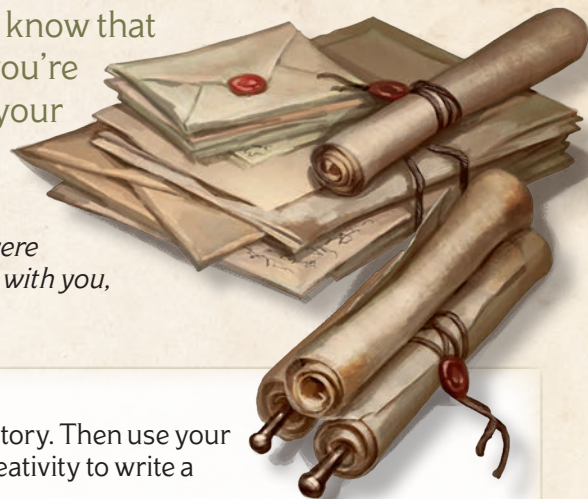
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AN EPIC ENCOUNTER

You have decided it's time to meet the dragon in person. You know that this type of dragon is usually friendly towards humans, but you're still nervous! Gathering up your courage, you emerge from your hiding place and introduce yourself to the dragon.

Success! The dragon is impressed that you can speak some of its language. (You practiced for weeks after finding the scroll.) It's also amazed that you were able to hide yourself from it for so long. The dragon agrees to share its story with you, which you record in your notebook.



TASK

Use your imagination and the prompts below to create the dragon's backstory. Then use your answers, your scientific knowledge about animals, and your fantastical creativity to write a mythology or legend for your dragon.

Is the dragon's backstory shrouded in mystery, or is it a well-known and possibly infamous dragon?

1. What type of dragon is it – is it a patron (a special guardian), ally, or villain?

2. How did the dragon arrive at its current role? What is something that happened in the dragon's past that led to the present?

3. How and when does it use its magical abilities?

4. If someone encounters this dragon, what should they know or be aware of?



Illustrations by Olga Drebas, Katerina Ladon