

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

A FIELD GUIDE TO DRAGONS

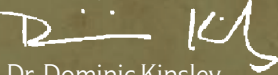
Dear Educator,

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 6-8 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 [yemiclassroom.com/feedback-dragons](https://www.yemiclassroom.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@yemiclassroom.com.



WIZARDS
OF THE COAST

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TARGET AUDIENCE

Grades 6-8

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

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

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

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

- This teacher's guide
- Three reproducible student activity sheets
- An educational standards alignment chart
- A version of the program for grades 4-6
- 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 [yemiclassroom.com/dragons](https://www.yemiclassroom.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 share the most unusual animal they can think of. 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. 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 that they discovered, tracked, and observed a real dragon. Have them share how they would learn about that 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 white 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: Continue the adventure! Have students use their dragons in their next story, game, or D&D adventure.



Illustrations by Olivier Bernard

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

WHAT IS A DRAGON?

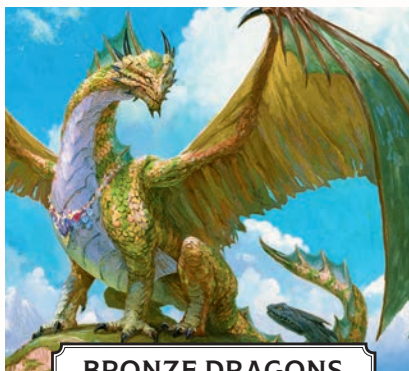
Imagine you are a young adventurer who is exploring an ancient library. You spy an old, dusty scroll shoved in a dark corner and reach for it. As you unroll it, you are astonished to see it is covered with beautiful illustrations of dragons! You pull out your notebook to take notes as you carefully examine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

DRAGONS IN THE WILD

Rolling up the scroll, you place it and your notebook in your backpack. It's time to set out in search of a real dragon! You've learned a few things about dragons from the scroll, so you have a general idea of where one might be lurking.



After a few days of hard travel, you reach what you think might be a dragon's habitat. Although it's spring, it's unusually cold in the little valley you found, and it's filled with freezing fog that looks like it's here to stay. You set up camp in a nearby uninhabited cave, unpacking a warm tent, sleeping bag, and boots lined with fur. You also cast a spell you found in the scroll to reduce the chance of the dragon locating you. Without the spell, the dragon will likely know you are there before you even catch a glimpse of it. Then, you pull out your notebook and settle in to observe.

You have studied the dragon for several weeks, and now it's time to introduce yourself!

TASK ONE

Identify the dragon. Look at the clues around you. What 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 and record field notes in your notebook for each category below.

- Habitat: _____

- Food: _____

- Magical abilities: _____

- Physical attributes: _____

- Treasure: _____

TASK THREE

Continue to observe the dragon. Sketch it on the back of this sheet.



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AN EPIC ENCOUNTER

You've decided it's time to meet the dragon in person. Knowing that this type of dragon is fiercely independent, you will have to prove yourself to it. You gather up the treasure you brought with you just for this purpose, and you gather up your courage as well. Then you emerge from your hiding place and confront the dragon.



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

TASK

Use your imagination and knowledge to create a backstory for your dragon. Consider its origins, character traits (personality), physical traits, magical abilities, and role in the community (patron, ally, villain). And, of course, its name. Write your notes below. Then write the myth or legend of your dragon on separate paper. Be creative – you're the biographer

