

Upper KS2 English Pack

Here be Dragons!



Sources:

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien

https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Main_Page

<https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Dragon>

What do you already know about dragons?

- Make a list of any stories, films or games you know that have dragons in them
- Label the different parts of the dragon below using descriptive language (you might need to stick it in your book first)
- What other words can you use to describe dragons – appearance and characteristics?
- What else do you know about dragons? Start a list called **Dragon Facts**



Dragon Delights

Dragons are **legendary** (in a lot of stories but not proved to be real) creatures that appear in stories all around the world. As they are **serpentine** (like a serpent or snake) creatures, they are often seen as 'baddies'. In fact, the word dragon comes from the ancient Latin word '**draco**' meaning 'huge serpent'. Dragons breathe fire and are sometimes thought to guard treasure. However, in some East Asian cultures, like China, dragons are seen as a symbol of power, strength and good luck for some people. A 'dragon' often dances through the streets to celebrate Chinese New Year because it is thought to bring good luck.

'Here be dragons' was a phrase used by early map-makers (cartographers) on far away, unexplored parts of the maps. It was meant as a warning to keep people away from dangerous places where sea monsters were believed to exist.



There are many stories with dragons in them. One of the most famous is **The Hobbit** by JRR Tolkien. This book is a prequel to (comes before) **Lord of the Rings** and have been made into films. The famous dragon that features in **The Hobbit** is called Smaug. Read his description below. The extract is taken from when Bilbo (the main character) enters Smaug's lair.

As you read, use two colours (or different lines) to **underline** the following:

- **Anything that describes Smaug**
- **Any descriptions of his treasure**



Description of Smaug from **The Hobbit** by JRR Tolkien

There he lay, a **vast** red-golden dragon, fast asleep; a **thrumming** came from his jaws and nostrils, and wisps of smoke, but fires were low in **slumber**. Beneath him, under all his limbs and his huge coiled tail, and about him on all sides stretching away across the **unseen** floors, lay countless piles of precious things, gold **wrought** and unwrought, gems and jewels, and silver red-stained in the **ruddy** light.

Smaug lay, with wings folded like an **immeasurable** bat, turned partly on one side, so that the hobbit could see his underparts and his long pale belly crusted with gems and **fragments** of gold from his long lying on his **costly** bed. Behind him, where the walls were nearest, could dimly be

seen coats of **mail**, **helms** and axes, swords and spears hanging; and there in rows stood great jars and vessels filled with a wealth that could not be guessed.

To say that Bilbo's breath was taken away is no description at all. There are no words left to express his staggerment, since Men changed the language that they learned of elves in the days when all the world was wonderful. Bilbo had heard tell and sing of dragon-**hoard** before, but the splendour, the glory of such treasure had never yet come home to him. His heart was filled and pierced with enchantment and with the desire of the dwarves; and he gazed motionless, almost forgetting the **frightful** guardian, at the gold beyond price and count.

Collect the Coins!

As you know, some dragons guard treasure. How many coins can you collect by completing the following activities?



There are bronze (easier), silver (bit harder), gold (challenge) coins. Collect as many of each as possible.

5 bronze coins = 1 silver

2 silver coins = 1 gold

Match the Words to Collect the Coins

Copy the words in **bold** from the text and find the meaning that goes with it.

A metal that has been worked on eg. bent or twisted into a shape or pattern

sleep

red, rosy, glowing

So big it is not possible to measure it

huge, massive, immense

A loud, deep, resonant sound vibrating

hidden, unnoticed invisible

Something that cost a lot expensive



Scattered pieces small pieces broken off something

Armour made
of metal rings
or plates
joined together
to be flexible



A stock or store
of money or of
something
valuable

helmets

dreadful,
terrible,
horrible

Dragon Tasks

Make a list of
Smaug's Treasure

You get a bronze coin or
everything you list

If you could have one thing off
the list, what would it be?



Draw the description
of Smaug and his
treasure lair

Label it with the words
and phrases you
underlined

Dragons and Harry Potter

Dragons often feature in the Harry Potter stories. Some super fans have created a website with lots of references to these and to the other mythical creatures and fantastic beasts that have emerged from the Harry Potter stories. Here is an example of some of the information that can be found on <https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Dragon>

Draco Malfoy's first name comes from the constellation The Dragon ("Draco" in Latin). The motto of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry is *Draco dormiens numquam titillandus*; Latin for *Never tickle a sleeping dragon*.

Here is an example of a non-chronological report giving information about one of the dragon breeds that is mentioned in the stories.

Norwegian Ridgeback

The **Norwegian Ridgeback** is a species of dragon that is native to Norway, and its typical habitat is the Northern Mountains. It is said to physically resemble a Hungarian Horntail.

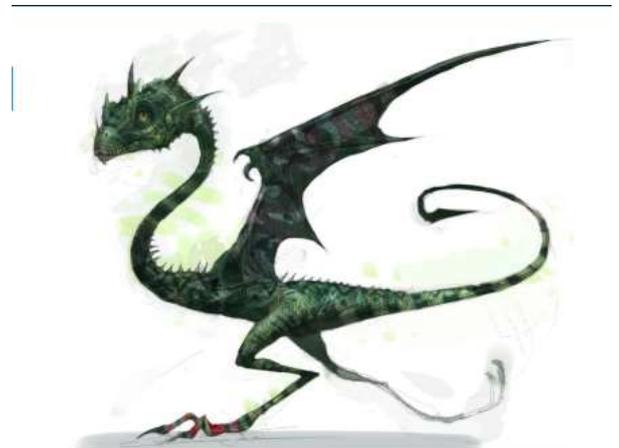
History

In 1802, a Norwegian Ridgeback was reported to have carried off a Whale Calf off the coast of Norway.



Norberta, the Norwegian Ridgeback

In 1991, Rubeus Hagrid received a Norwegian Ridgeback egg from a hooded stranger in a pub. After hatching the egg, Hagrid named the creature Norbert, and tried to raise it with the help of Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Ronald Weasley. However, the dragon was discovered, and eventually Hagrid gave Norbert to Charlie Weasley, who took the young dragon to live with others of its kind in the Romanian Dragon Sanctuary where he worked. In 1997, it was mentioned that it was discovered that Norbert was in fact a female dragon, so her name was changed to Norberta.



Norwegian Ridgeback	
Species information	
Skin colour	Dark green
Related to	Dragon
Native range	Norway
Mortality	Mortal
Affiliation	Romanian Dragon Sanctuary
Ministry of Magic Classification	Beast XXXXXX
Status	Extant
[Source]	

Description and traits

It resembles the Hungarian Horntail, except for the black ridges on its back, the browner texture in its scales, and its less hostile attitude. It has venomous fangs, and its food of choice is large mammals, including water mammals, which is unusual for a dragon. Its eggs are black, and young Ridgebacks develop the ability to shoot flame earlier than any other breeds (around one to three months). Female Ridgebacks are generally more ferocious than the males.

Etymology (where the name came from)

Norwegian Ridgeback is likely a play on Rhodesian Ridgeback, a South African hunting dog used, among other things, to hunt lions. Two other breeds of ridgeback dog exist, the Thai Ridgeback, and the Phu Quoc Ridgeback. Additionally, Ridgeback is a British bicycle company.

Quizzical Dragons

Have a go at the quiz below to add to your coin collection.

How many extra **dragon facts** can you add to your list from what you have read? Have a bronze coin for each fact.

Would you like to be in Smaug's Lair?
Explain your answer

The Hogwarts' motto is 'Never tickle a sleeping dragon'. Why do you think they chose this?
(Think about the literal meaning and then how it works as an idiom)

What is a map-maker called?

Find five interesting facts about Norwegian Ridgebacks

What makes Norwegian Ridgebacks particularly ferocious? Have a coin for each thing you find

Find two words that tell us Smaug is a very big dragon

Would a Norwegian Ridgeback make a good pet? Why/why not?

Where might JK Rowling have got her inspiration for the Norwegian Ridgeback?



'Egg'citing Dragon Writing

The extract from **The Hobbit** describes the point in the story when the main character, Bilbo Baggins, enters Smaug's lair. What do you think happens next?

Write the next part of the story



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What if you found a dragon's egg... or had a dragon tree in your garden... or came across a dragon at Wizard School?

Write your own **Dragon Adventure** Story including an introduction, build up, problem, resolution and ending.

Design your own dragon.

Now use the Non-chronological report about Norwegian Ridgebacks to write an information text about the species you have created.

