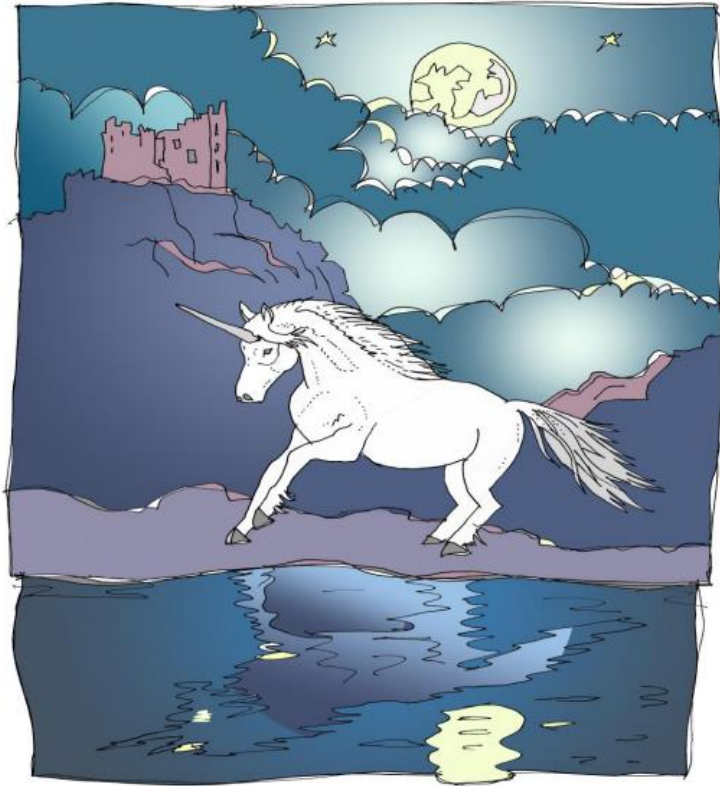


Unicorns Uncovered

We have learned about trolls over the last few weeks and now we are going to learn about some other mythical creatures!



Hello,
Please read my instructions carefully.
You will need something to write
with, or a computer to type on.
Are you ready to become a unicorn
expert? Have fun!



Lesson 1

Sparky-start: mythical beast mix-ups!



In this booklet, you will learn all about unicorns. Unicorns are one of many mythical beasts that have been written about and talked about over time. Let's have some fun with my 'mythical beast mix-up'!

Legends and stories are full of mythical creatures and fantastic beasts that are made up of parts of other animals mixed together. These are called 'hybrids'. They are fun to explore. For example:

Activity 1

Find out about some of these mythical creatures with your own research.



Centaurs have the upper body of a human and the lower body of a horse.



Griffins have the body, legs and tail of a lion and the wings of an eagle.



The Minotaur has the head of a bull and the body of a human.

Activity 2

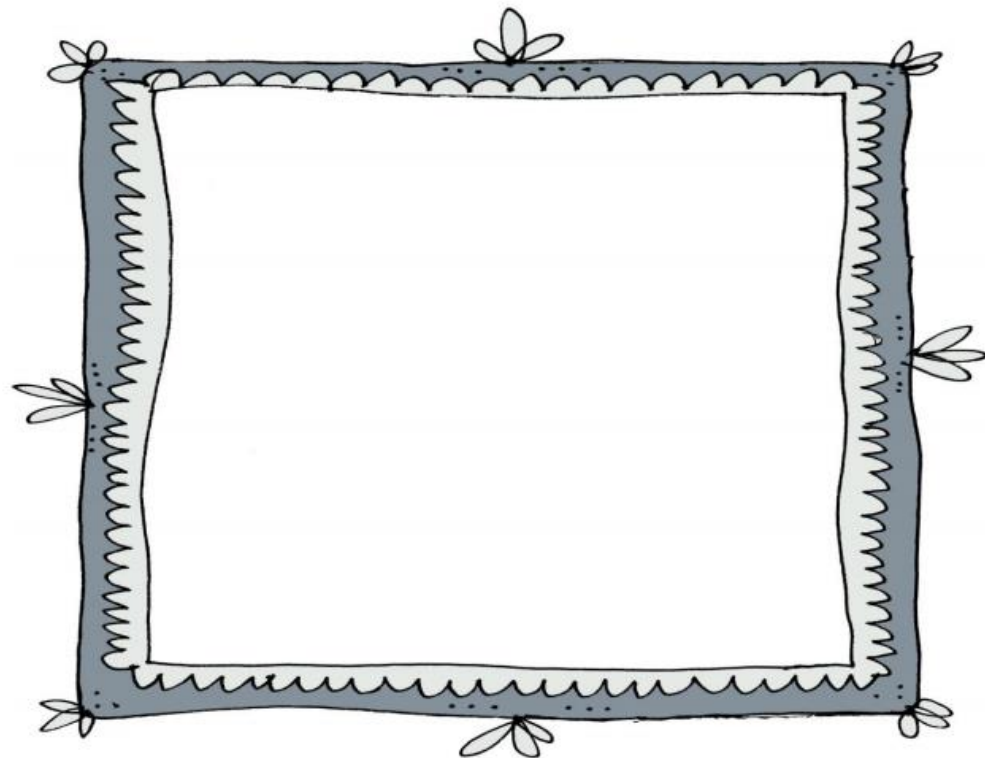
Create your own mythical beast

Invent your own mythical beast

To start our unit of work, spend some time making up your own mythical beast. It could have different parts of interesting animals. Think about its legs, body and head. It might have a tail, wings or fins.

I had a go with some pencil crayons in my notebook. As you can see, I am not brilliant at drawing, but I had a lot of fun. My creature has the head and neck of a flamingo, the body and wings of a penguin, the legs of an elephant and a skunk's tail. I have called it the Flamenguin.

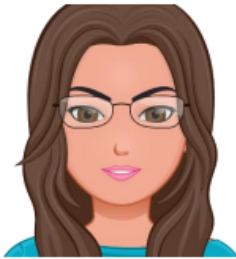
If you would like some help with your drawing, there are lots of really helpful artists and guides online for drawing animals. Google 'how to draw an elephant', for example, and you will be able to find some help. Make sure you tell an adult what you are doing. Draw yours here:



Lesson 2

Activity 1- Read the model texts

2. Model text



There was a time when the unicorn was hated and hunted. During this time, all books referencing the creature were destroyed. Luckily, Professor Dame Folklore owns a damaged copy of 'Unicorns Uncovered'. Unfortunately, the book is badly burnt, torn and water stained so, as you can see, the page I wanted to show you is impossible to read.

Don't worry, I've typed it out for you on the next page.

"You can also listen to this model text online here: <https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/unicorns/s-kpNjhGRD75A>,

THE RIVER UNICORN (FLUVIS UNICORNIS)
THE RIVER UNICORN IS A SHY, SOLITARY CREATURE THAT HAS BEEN SEEN ONLY THREE TIMES IN THE WILD. IT HAS A SANDY-BROWN COAT, A MANE LIKE SEA FOAM, AND A TRANSPARENT HORN THAT SEEMS TO RIPPLE AND FLOW WHEN THE LIGHT CATCHES IT. THE RIVER UNICORN IS THE SAME SIZE AS A SHETLAND PONY. UNSURPRISINGLY, MOST RIVER UNICORNS LIVE ALONG THE BANKS OF RIVERS. BUT YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT THESE ANIMALS ARE RELUCTANT SWIMMERS. OCCASIONALLY, THEY HAVE BEEN SPOTTED SLEEPING IN DENS UNDER THE ROOTS OF ANCIENT WILLOW TREES. IT IS THOUGHT THAT THE POWER OF THE WATER AND THE WILLOW FLOWS THROUGH THE RIVER UNICORN AND ENHANCES ITS MAGIC. MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT THE RIVER UNICORN'S MAGIC. TYPICALLY, THE RIVER UNICORN'S POWER LIES IN ITS HORN. WHEN GROUND INTO POWDER AND MIXED WITH THE CORRECT INGREDIENTS, THE HORN CAN HEAL ALMOST ALL HUMAN AILMENTS. IN ADDITION TO THIS, LEGENDS TELL US THAT ONE DROP OF THE UNICORN'S BLOOD CAN MAKE A HUMAN IMMORTAL. ANOTHER INTERESTING FEATURE OF THE RIVER UNICORN IS ITS ABILITY TO DISAPPEAR INSTANTLY. JUST LIKE WATER, IT CAN SLIP THROUGH YOUR FINGERS AND SEEM TO BE EVERYWHERE, AND NOWHERE, AT THE SAME TIME. THEREFORE, IT IS OFTEN VIEWED AS THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY OF ALL THE UNICORN SPECIES

The River Unicorn (Fluvis unicornis)

The River Unicorn is a shy, solitary creature that has been seen only three times in the wild.

It has a sandy-brown coat, a mane like sea foam, and a transparent horn that seems to ripple and flow when the light catches it.

The River Unicorn is the same size as a Shetland pony.

Unsurprisingly, most River Unicorns live along the **banks** of rivers. But you might be surprised to learn that these animals are **reluctant** swimmers.

Occasionally, they have been spotted sleeping in dens under the roots of ancient willow trees. It is thought that the power of the water and the willow flows through the River Unicorn and enhances its magic.

Much has been written about the River Unicorn's magic. Typically, the River Unicorn's power lies in its horn. When ground into powder and mixed with the correct ingredients, the horn can heal almost all human ailments. In addition to this, legends tell us that one drop of the unicorn's blood can make a human immortal.

Another interesting feature of the River Unicorn is its ability to disappear instantly. Just like water, it can slip through your fingers and seem to be everywhere, and nowhere, at the same time. Therefore, it is often viewed as the most extraordinary of all the unicorn species.

Glossary:

solitary: alone, being the only one

transparent: something is transparent if it lets light through. You can see through transparent objects like windows and cling film.

enhances: to improve (make better) the quality, amount, or strength of something

ailments: illness or injury

immortal: to live forever

Activity 2-

Words! Words! Words!



Go back over the River Unicorn page and underline or highlight any words that you don't know. Ask an adult to help you find the meaning or look in a dictionary online. You might also want to use google images to see pictures of the word.

Can you see I have highlighted my words in yellow? Let's investigate those together:

1. My first word is 'bank'.

I'm sure you know at least one meaning of this word but 'bank' has many meanings. Can you match the definition to the picture? I've done the first one for you.






Draw the pictures out quickly if you cannot print them.

Definition		Picture
An organisation where people can save, borrow, and invest money.		
Sloping, raised land. Sometimes along the side of a river.		
A place where things are stored and used for later e.g. a blood bank		
To fly with one wing higher than the other when turning		
An amount of something to be used later e.g. a word bank		

Lesson 3

Activity 1

Write a short sentence to match each picture. Make sure you use the word ‘bank’, ‘banking’ or ‘banked’. I have done the first one for you.

Picture	Sentence
	I felt the plane bank as we circled the city once more.
	
	
	
	

Activity 2
Shades of meaning

2. My second word is ‘reluctant’. Reluctant means ‘not wanting to do something, so you are slow to do it’.

Squeeze the word: What are you reluctant to do at home or at school? Write several different sentences with the word reluctant in I’ve started one sentence for you.

I am reluctant to ...

Shades of meaning

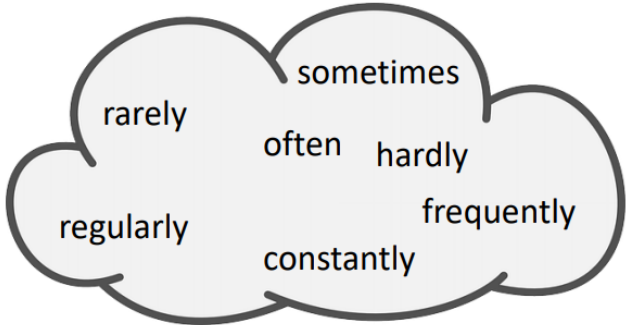
3. My final word is ‘occasionally’.

Occasionally means ‘sometimes but not often’. Write some sentences with the word occasionally in them.

Below is a bank of words and phrases in a cloud. You will also see a scale ranging from never-to-always to show how often something happens.

Pick a word from the cloud. Decide what it means and place it where it belongs on the never-to-always scale:

- Is it similar to ‘never’?
- Is it a lot like ‘always’?
- Does it mean something in the middle? If so, where will you place it?
- Can you think of any more words to add to the scale?



Lesson 4

Activity 1

Read and understand



Experts like Dame Folklore take notes on their subject to gather important information. Use this page to take notes on The River Unicorn.

1. The River Unicorn has only been spotted _____ times in the wild.
2. Most River Unicorns live _____
3. River Unicorns do not like swimming: TRUE or FALSE?

4. The River Unicorn's horn is see-through: TRUE or FALSE?

5. Which is the most powerful part of the unicorn's body? _____
6. Why would a unicorn hunter think that the River Unicorn was special?

Give three reasons:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Activity 2

Grammar

Let's work on our sentences! You will need a piece of paper or a note pad, and something to write with, or a computer.

The Substitution Game

In this sentence from The River Unicorn text, the writer has picked **three** parts of the unicorn to describe in detail.

It has a **sandy-brown** coat, a **mane** **like sea foam**, and a transparent **horn** **that seems to ripple and flow when the light catches it**.

Extra detail has been added in three different ways:

1. two colours have been grouped together into a compound adjective (by using a hyphen) to make a more accurate description: **sandy-brown**;
2. a simile with 'like' is used to describe the mane: **like sea foam**;
3. the phrase '**that seems to**' is used to add a relative clause for extra detail.

1. Colour mixing with compound adjectives

Below you will find a word bank related to colours and texture. Try creating more vivid colour descriptions by combining words on the left with words on the right and joining them with a hyphen to make a compound adjective. Play around with different combinations and see which ones sound good. I have done two examples for you: *burnt-orange*; *cloudy-white*

rusty	pink
sea	black
dusty	grey
creamy	turquoise
misty	blue
midnight	green
smoky	red
murky	purple