Dragons are legendary creatures, typically with serpentine or otherwise reptilian traits, that feature in the myths of many cultures.

There are two distinct cultural traditions of dragons: the European dragon, derived from European folk traditions and ultimately related to Greek and Middle Eastern mythologies, and the Chinese dragon, with counterparts in Japan, Korea and other Asian countries.

Dragon Facts?

The traditional European dragon is a large reptilian creature with wings who lives in underground caves filled with treasure. They can breathe fire.

Chinese dragons are more serpentine in shape who possess four legs and no wings. They are often considered signs of good luck, power and strength.

Dragons vary drastically according to different stories and mythology. Some can talk and perform magic. Some can assume human form. Some are affiliated with non-fire elements and can breathe ice, lightning and other elements.

Dragons have a place in legends, historical accounts and artwork from around the world. To name a few, there’s an Aboriginal depiction of a water monster that resembles a plesiosaur, an ancient historical account of serpents in Egypt with bat-like wings, the epic poem Beowulf with its account of a fiery flying serpent, and Native American petroglyphs (etchings in stone) that resemble dragons. Dragons are depicted on flags, emblems, tapestries, maps, pottery, pictographs, and more.

Why are there so many dragon legends from cultures around the globe? Why do descriptions of these magnificent animals often sound similar to what we call dinosaurs? How could our ancestors carve, paint, or write about these creatures if they have truly been extinct for millions of years?