Welcome to the greatest show on Earth! This set showcases the most impressive, iconic and amazing animals from around the world. Read about real animal heroes, create remarkable creatures using your wild imagination and join two boys who journey around the globe making animal friends as they go. You may even meet some mythological beasts. You decide what is real and what is fantasy.

Books in This Set: Creaturepedia; Remarkable Animals (mini edition); Creaturepedia Activity Book; A Walk on the Wild Side; Animal Heroes; 50 Wacky Things Animals Do; Mythological Beasts

Learning Objectives: Identify animal traits, characteristics and behaviors from animals around the world, heroic acts of animals, and distinguish between real and mythological creatures.

Essential Questions in This Unit:

- How do physical and behavioral traits help animals survive?
- How does the variation among individuals affect their survival?
- How does an animal’s different body structures relate to its ability to adapt to its environment?
- What makes an animal amazing?
- What is a mythological creature?
- How are real animals and mythological creatures related?

Read to find out:

1. Name some of the habitats that you read about.
2. What types of animals lived there?
3. What behaviors and characteristics do the animals in that habitat need to survive?
4. Why do we have farms?
5. Record a list of farm animals from the texts.
6. Do the same for Ocean and Island, Jungle, desert and grassland, woodland and “pets”
7. How can you combine parts of different animals to invent a creature? (Read Remarkable Animals)
8. What colors can bring attention to the creature’s important characteristics?

9. How can asking the “Five W’s” (who, what, where, when, why) help me to imagine more details about my creature?

10. What is a hybrid? Find examples from the texts.

11. When ancient Greeks invented creatures, what did they think about?

12. Why did they invent these Mythical creatures?

13. What is a myth?

14. How can the attributes of different materials (shape and texture) bring out ideas about different animals?

15. What does the setting/habitat (either invented or real) tell us about the animals that live there?

16. List examples of mythical creatures, and explain why they are “hybrid creatures”.

17. Find interesting facts about the following creatures in Remarkable Animals:
   - Platypus
   - Trunkfish
   - Baboon
   - Alligator
   - Weevil

18. How do the illustrations in the text enhance the meaning?

19. How does Adrienne Barman structure Creaturepedia?

20. Can you find the brilliant beasts that are mythical or never really existed?

21. Find the origins of the mythical creatures from above

22. Compare and contrast a real animal hero to a creature from mythology.

23. How does author Julia Moberg use alliteration in Animals Heroes?

24. How do the animals prove that they are man’s best friends?

25. Use adjectives to describe the amazing animals in the book.
Activities

Write a poem about one of the animal heroes that you admire.

Invent a hybrid, mythical creature by combining characteristics of different, real animals. Create a setting to tell a story about the animal using paint of other materials.

Choose a creature form Creaturepedia that you were not familiar with. Research the animal and create a PowerPoint presentation.

Research a mythological creature. Report on the origin, myth and physical characteristics.

Use the elements of collage to visually represent an invented creature. Select, combine, and attach materials to match qualities of animals. Write a description.

For more information on this topic, please refer to the books below:

9781633222953 50 Wacky Things Animals Do
9781633221598 Animal Heroes
9781847806963 Creaturepedia
9781847808356 Creaturepedia Activity Book
9781847807625 Remarkable Animals (mini edition)
9780760355435 Ultimate Expeditions: Mythological Beasts
9781847809148 Walk on the Wild Side, A

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