

Ejercicios resueltos > Complete the sentences

DRAGONS - Complete

Of all the mythological creatures, few have captured the human imagination as much as the dragon. It appears in the literature and legends of cultures as diverse as China, Japan, Iran, the Mayans, classical Greece, Rome, Judaism, the Babylonians, ancient Egypt, and medieval Europe.

These fascinating creatures have taken different forms and qualities in the mythologies of different cultures throughout history. To the Chinese, a dragon was an immensely wise animal which brought good luck. But for the Norsemen of Scandinavia, it was an evil, terrifying and treacherous monster.

And to the ancient Greeks, the dragon was often a creature of intelligence and virtue - and might be found guarding shrines dedicated to the gods. All these dragons do have some things in common, however. They tend to be shown with huge bat-like wings, long toothed jaws like a crocodile, piercing eyes, sharp eagle-like talons and huge scaly bodies - and they can often breathe fire. Another common point is that they're always creatures of immense power and strength.

But where do dragons come from? The creatures they most resemble, in size and shape, are dinosaurs - but since the last dinosaurs died out tens of millions of years before the first humans ever appeared, that seems an unlikely source of inspiration. One theory is that the earliest humans may have evolved when huge lizards - smaller than dinosaurs, but larger than anything known today - were still around. Another theory is that the dragon represents something submerged in the human subconscious. It's fun to speculate, but nobody knows for sure.

Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the words in brackets when given.

a) Dragons have formed (form) a part of human mythology since long ago. One only has to consult ancient texts to know (know) that this is true

Ayuda: el verbo en el primer espacio debe estar en presente perfecto ya que indica una acción que ocurrió en un momento no determinado del pasado y aún continúa. La preposición *since* es frecuente con este tiempo verbal. La segunda oración es una oración subordinada final (purpose clause) que indica finalidad y lleva *to* + infinitivo.

b) In China the dragon was seen / is seen (see) as a wise and lucky animal while Greek people were afraid of it because of its evil and terrifying reputation.

Ayuda: debemos emplear la voz pasiva del verbo (*be* + *past participle*) en el primer espacio ya que la oración carece de agente (persona que realiza la acción). Tanto el pasado como el presente serían adecuados aunque el pasado se corresponde con el tiempo verbal de la oración subordinada que le sigue (*were afraid*). *Because of* es una preposición que significa "debido a" y se emplea en oraciones causales (reason clauses) como ésta.

c) The Komodo Dragon is the world's largest (large) living lizard although there are some species of reptiles, such as the crocodile that are much bigger (big).

Ayuda: el primer espacio requiere la forma superlativa del adjetivo proporcionado, que se forma con *-est* ya que *large* es un adjetivo de una sola sílaba. En el segundo espacio necesitamos un comparativo que se forma con *-er* pero al que hay que doblar la última consonante ya que el adjetivo acaba en consonante + vocal + consonante.

Rewrite the following sentence in reported speech starting with the words given.

d) "Dragons have played an important role in my life" Steven Spielberg said. Steven Spielberg said that dragons had played an important role in his life.

Ayuda: Al convertir una afirmación en estilo indirecto debemos realizar varios cambios. Después del verbo (said) debemos utilizar la partícula *that*. También hay cambios en los tiempos verbales, que dan un salto atrás. El presente perfecto del estilo directo (*have played*) se convierte en pasado perfecto (*had played*) en estilo indirecto. También hay un cambio en los adjetivos posesivos: *my* se convierte en *his* (que hace referencia a Steven Spielberg).