

# What's a Bestiary?

You are going to watch a video about a Medieval Bestiary. Have you heard of a bestiary before? Or can you guess what it is?

Watch the video and answer the questions:

1. What is a bestiary?
2. When were bestiaries created?
3. Was the information they contained factual or fictional?
4. Which film was inspired by a bestiary?

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# The Whale: A Story from a Bestiary

**Listen to the story 'The Whale' from a medieval bestiary. Do you think the information is factual or fictional? What do you think it was supposed to teach people?**



[https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/whale-swimming-ocean-save-planet-campaign-media-remix\\_15604452.htm#page=1&query=whale&position=2](https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/whale-swimming-ocean-save-planet-campaign-media-remix_15604452.htm#page=1&query=whale&position=2)

# Descriptive Language

Look at the phrases below. Can you remember which animal from today's lesson they described?

It drags the ship and its crew down to the depths.

magical healing powers

the monster snaps its jaws shut

hybrid creature

It gives out a sweet scent

fearsome creature

supernatural creatures

mythical creature

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# Task: Write an Entry for a Whole Class Bestiary



**You are going to write an entry for a bestiary about the ‘mythical’ animal you invented earlier in the lesson, similar to the story about the whale.**

**In your entry, remember to include:**

- The animal’s name
- A description of the animal – what it looks like, where it lives, what it eats, how it behaves
- Whether it is common or rare/endangered
- What special powers or abilities it has
- What its relation with humans is like

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## Task: Success Criteria



- Include all of the information you've been asked for
- Remember to use a range of descriptive language
- Organise your entry into clear paragraphs
- Remember bestiaries are beautiful books – so try to include an image of your animal!
- Reread your work to check for mistakes