

My Chimera

Many ancient cultures use animals in their mythologies, sometimes combining different animal features into one powerful being. Can you think of some examples?



An example from Greek mythology is the *Chimera*, a fire-breathing monster often represented with the head of a **lion**, the body of a **goat**, and the tail of a **snake**. Let's think about each of these three animals. What are some qualities that make each of them special?

Lion:



Abilities	Physical Features
Fierce Protective Hunting in groups Roaring	Mane Golden fur Claws Sharp teeth

Goat:



Abilities	Physical Features
Climbing mountains Eating almost anything Kicking Headbutting	Horns Hooves Shaggy fur Horizontal, rectangular pupils

Snake:



Abilities	Physical Features
Hissing Sensing with its tongue Eating things whole Shedding skin Slithering	Scales Fangs Venom Smooth, legless body Cold-blooded

Invent Your Own Chimera

Choose three of your favorite animals and list some qualities that make them special. Think about their bodies as well as their abilities. Try drawing a picture of each animal for reference.

Animal #1: _____

Draw a Picture	Abilities	Physical Features

Animal #2: _____

Draw a Picture	Abilities	Physical Features

Animal #3: _____

Draw a Picture	Abilities	Physical Features

Draw Your Chimera

Now that you have thought about your chosen animals, decide what your chimera will look like with features of all three animals combined. What kind of head, body, and limbs will it have? Will it be able to fly, climb, run, or swim? Will it live in water or on land? Try sketching some different possibilities below:

BONUS Activity: Write a Chimera Poem

Are there certain things you and your chosen animals have in common? Do these animals have characteristics that you wish you had? Pretend that you are the chimera you imagined above, and write a short poem from that perspective. See the example below for inspiration:

*My eyes are from a fly,
Able to see in all directions.
My ears are from a bat,
And can lead me around in the dark.
My arms are from a gorilla,
And can lift heavy things.
My back is from a turtle,
A protective shell.
My sense of humor is from a monkey,
Laughing from the trees.
My anger is from a porcupine,
Covered with spikes.
My heart is from an eagle,
Soaring in the sky.*

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