

*The*  
**DRAGON**  
*Ark*

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LEARNING RESOURCES FOR  
TEACHERS AND PARENTS  
BY EVA JOHN





# INTRODUCTION

Dragon  
Apprentice  
Challenge

Welcome aboard the Dragon Ark.

We are so pleased that you have decided to join the Dragon Protector on her quest to save these magnificent beasts!

Included in this resource pack are; prompts for discussion, creative and conservation challenges and fun research and reading activities.

As you travel the continents, make a fact file for each type of dragon.

Observation  
Challenge

Look closely at the whole book cover and make notes of what you observe.



# CREW GALLERY



Talk for  
Thought

Look at the different crew members and their areas of expertise. Which of these jobs do you think you'd like to do most, and why?

Discuss what other areas of experience would be useful on long-distant voyages.

Look at some job advertisements on the internet or in newspapers. What features do they have in common?



Employment  
Challenge



The following words and phrases might be useful:  
successful applicant, adventurous team, discretion, skill set, initiative, exciting opportunity, loyalty, idealistic, CV (curriculum vitae).



Draw up an advert, giving the job title, location, salary range, holidays and closing date for applications.

Create and post your adverts on a jobs bulletin board.

Shortlist responses and invite to interview.

Conduct interviews.

Create card profiles for successful applicants.





# CREW WANTED!



Job Title:

Location:

Salary Range:

Date Posted:

Closing Date:

Hours:

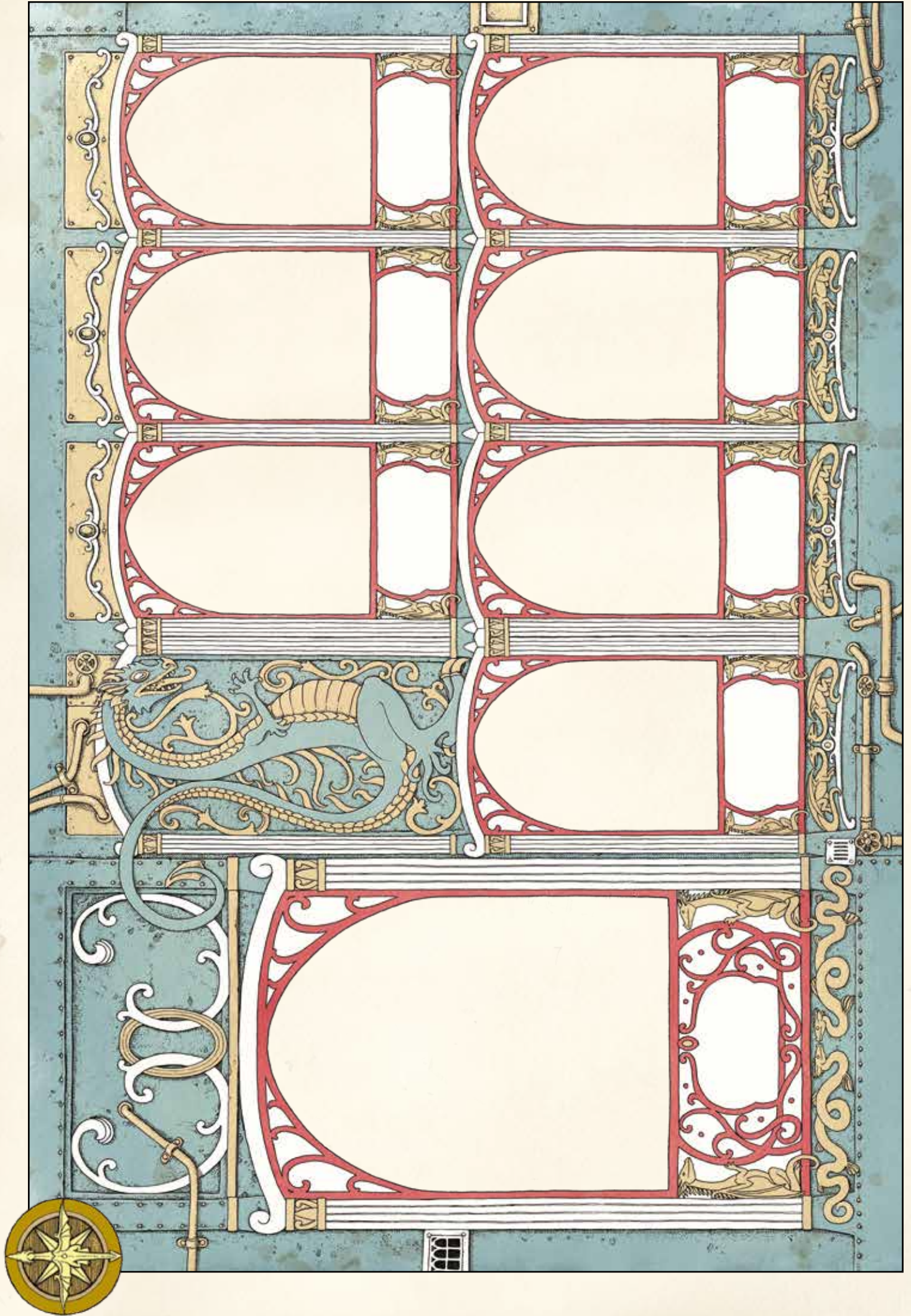
Holiday Allowance:

Contract Type:

Job Description:





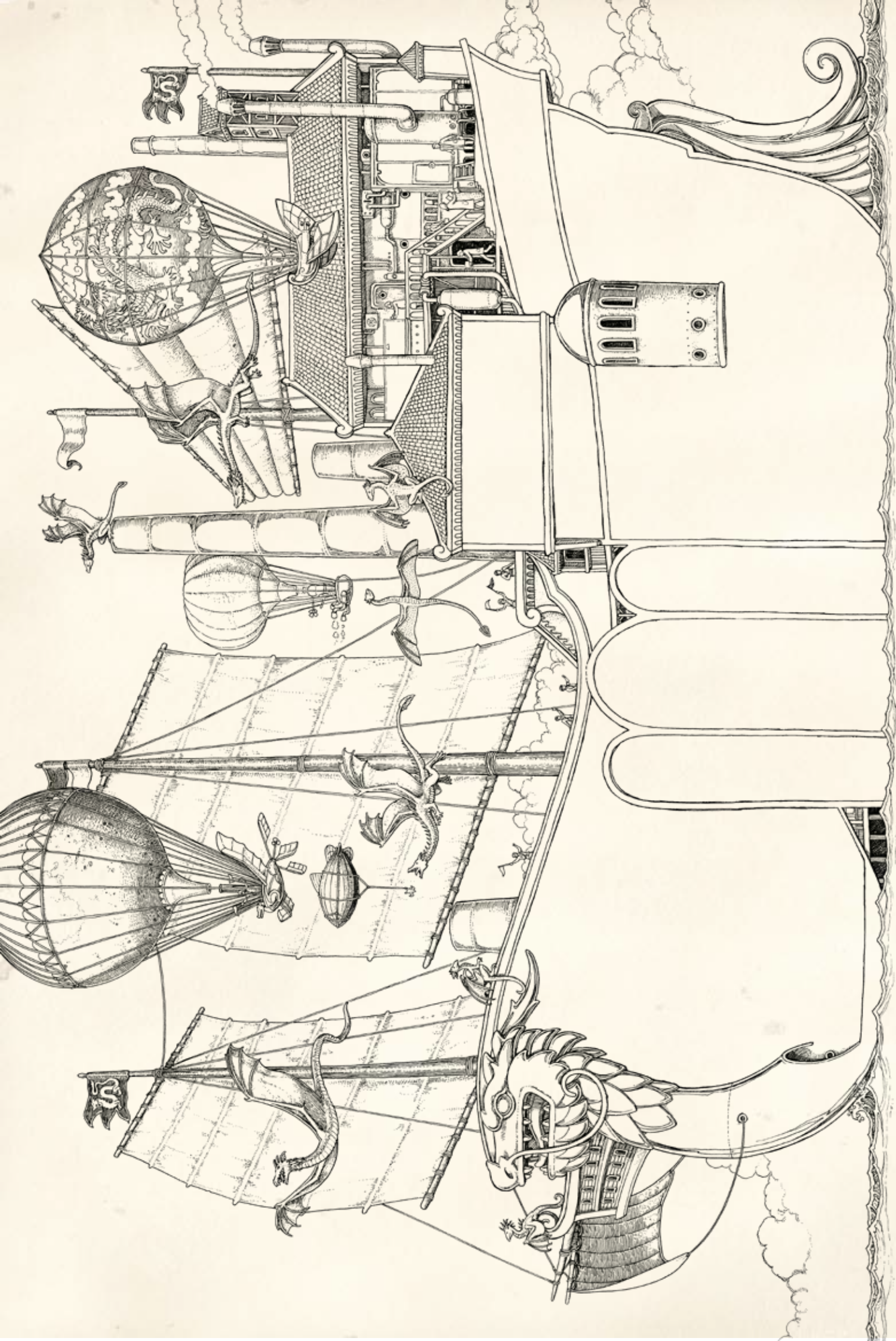


Fill in the names and job titles of your own Dragon Ark crew in the space above.











# THE DRAGON PROTECTOR'S QUARTERS



Design  
Challenge

How would you choose to decorate the Dragon Protector's Quarters if you were the Dragon Protector?

Using a computer or a shoe box, create a 2D or 3D representation of your design.



Conservation  
Challenge

## OCEANIA

What is a major threat to the safety of the limbless worm?

What other creatures suffer from a similar danger today?

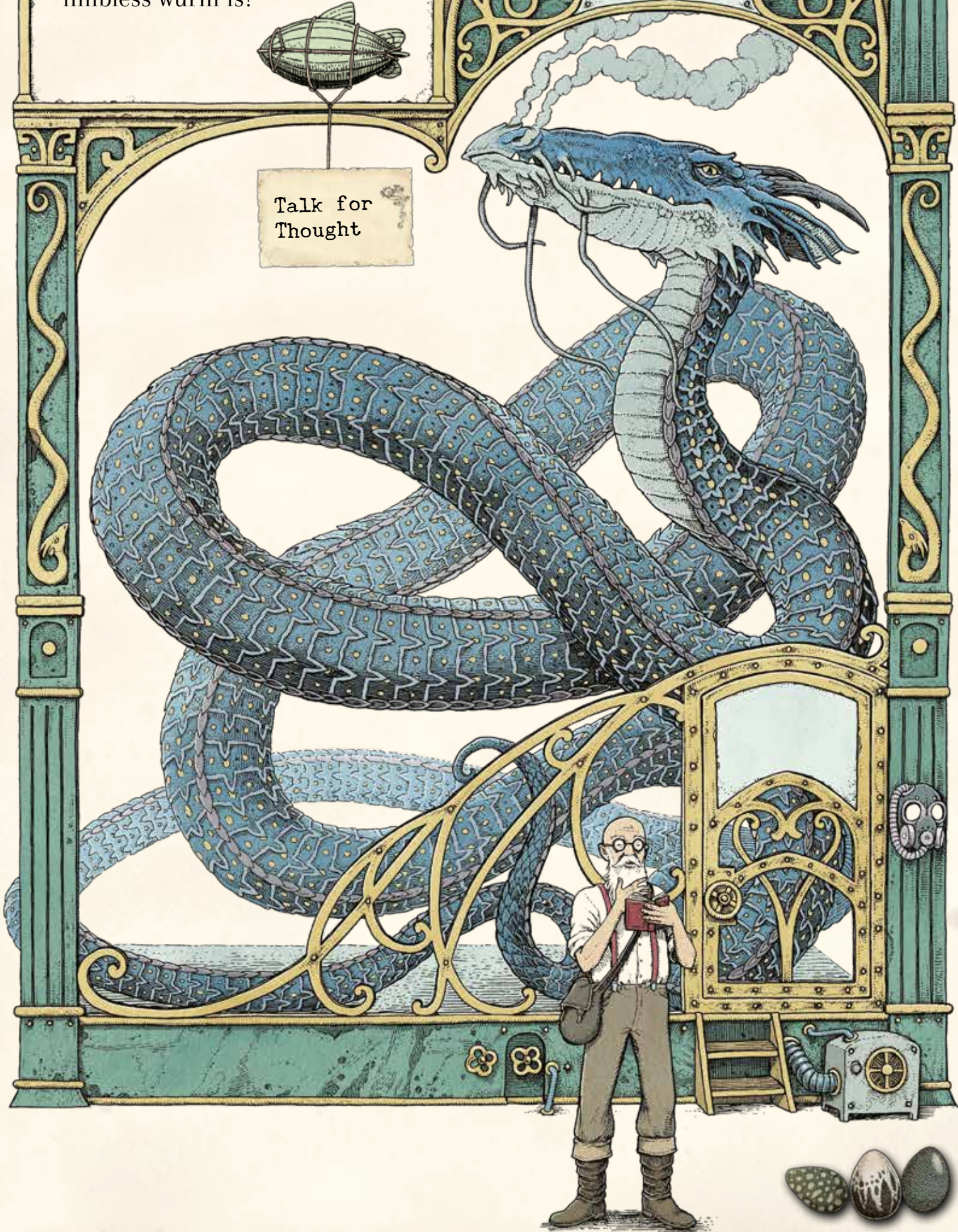
What do you think the best way of overcoming this threat is for all the creatures concerned?



What do you think the most memorable feature of the limbless worm is?



Talk for Thought





# DEEP SEA DRAGONS



## Conservation Challenge



What other threats exist for the sea serpents?

What can we do, as individuals, to help address this danger?



## THE NEW ZEALAND POST HAS TANIWHA TUHIRANGI COME AGAIN?

Long said to be the guardian of the treacherous waters of Te Moana-o-Raukawa (Cook Strait), the taniwha Tuhirangi is believed to have appeared again, although this time not in its sea monster form of legend. Since 1888, a white dolphin has met and guided every vessel making its way through the notoriously narrow, rocky Te Aumiti (French Pass).

This fearsome taniwha is said to have been the guide for generations of voyagers over many hundreds of years, ensuring each and every one a safe passage.

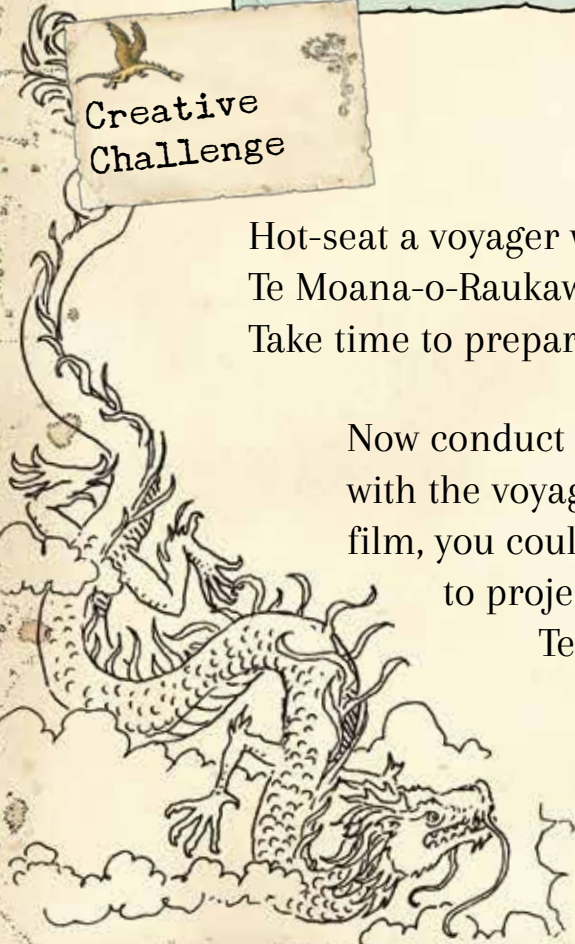
Whether a sea monster in disguise, or just a kindly creature, this guardian dolphin has seen to it that not a single shipwreck has happened on its watch. Long may it stay in our seas!



## Creative Challenge

Hot-seat a voyager who has survived the treacherous waters of Te Moana-o-Raukawa, thanks to the aid of the white dolphin. Take time to prepare questions and possible answers first.

Now conduct a film or audio interview with the voyager. If you decide to film, you could use green-screen to project the background of Te Moana-o-Raukawa.





# ANTARTICA



Conservation  
Challenge



What conservation threat is focused on in this section of the voyage?

What actions can we take, as individuals, to help to combat this threat?

# THE DRAGON IN THE GLACIER

Choosing either the ice dragon or the frost dragon, write a cinquain.

Form: a five-line poem.

(2 syllables)

(4 syllables)

(6 syllables)

(8 syllables)

(2 syllables)

Title

Description

Action

Feelings

Conclusion



Creative  
Challenge

This cinquain on the Oceanic limbless worm is an example:

Wily worm,  
Noxious nostrils  
Exhaling fatal fumes.  
Dangerous dweller of dark swamps.  
Beware!

First collect a word hoard

(there are some word jewels to be found in the text).

Use a thesaurus to extend your range of choice even further.

Play around with the words and their order, saying them out loud to hear the effect.

Think about rhythm, alliteration, onomatopoeia, consonance and assonance.

Practise and perform!





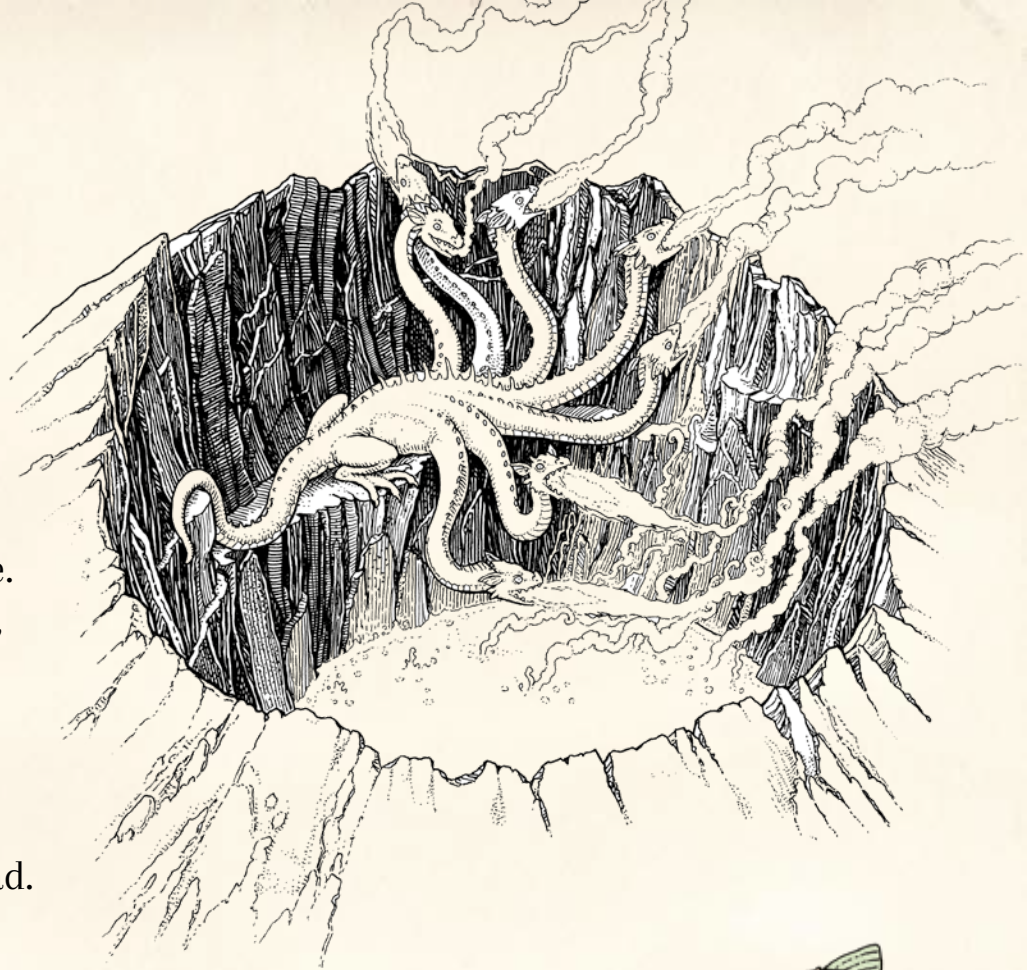
# SOUTH AMERICA

## THE HYDRA



Create your own Hydra image. It could be electronic, collage, drawing or painting

Annotate it with details of the different characteristics and powers belonging to each head.



## DRAGONS OF THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

Find out more about the rainforest and about one creature that you have never heard of before. Draw up a fact file that you can share with other crew members.



Research Challenge



Debate

Should wild creatures be kept as pets?

Debate the pros and cons of domesticating animals and trading in exotic species.





# NORTH AMERICA

## COMMON SPECIES OF DRAGON IN NORTH AMERICA

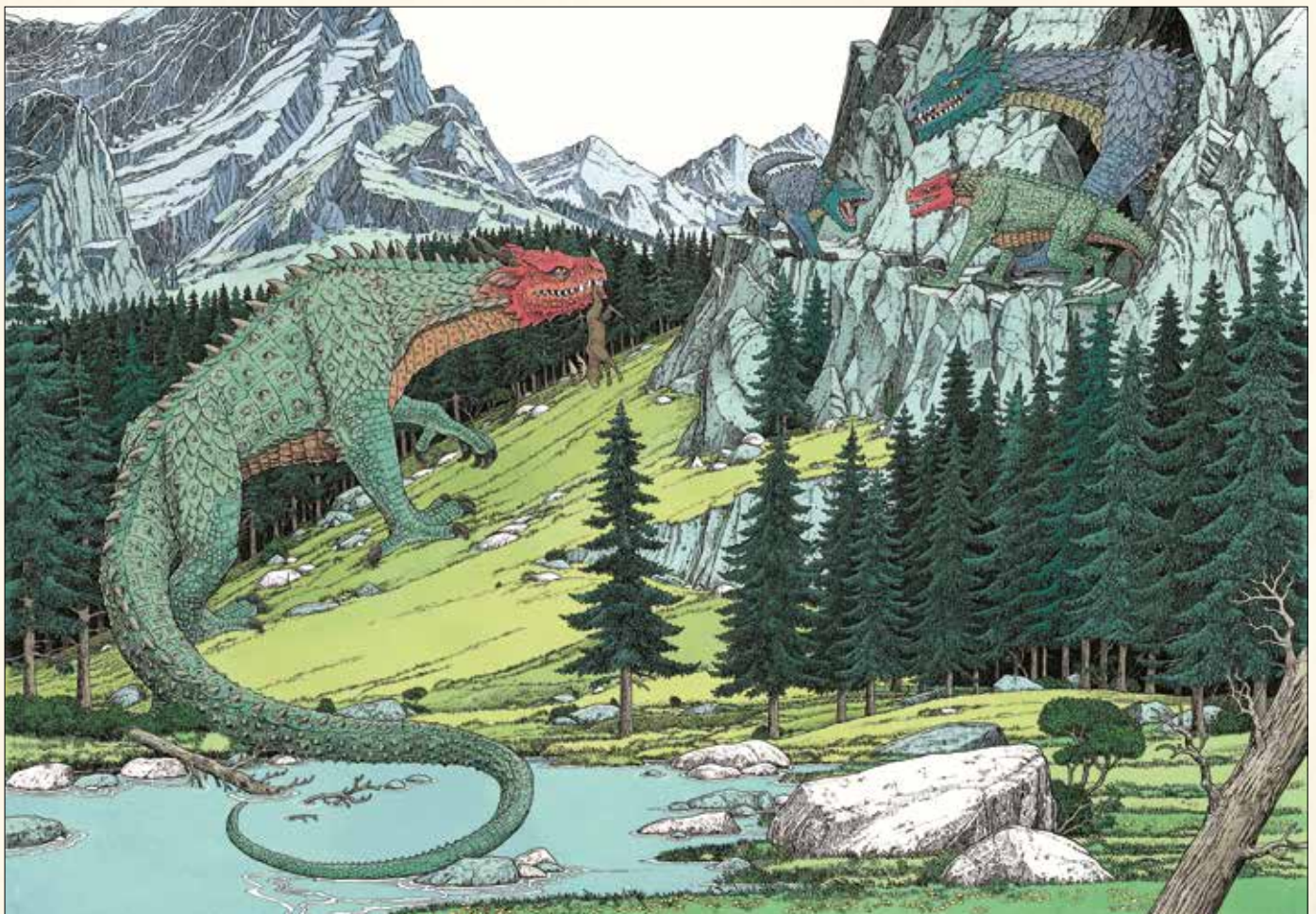
Find out about other animals hunted to the point of extinction for their scales, like the drake, that are exploited by humans for commercial gain.



Research  
Challenge

## MOUNTAIN DRAGONS

Find out about different minerals and create your own information cards, listing their special property and deciding what their function is for dragons.





# EUROPE

## THE LEGEND OF SHERVAGE WOOD



Create your own tale of a dragon

You could invent your own story about a misunderstood dragon protecting trees or its young. You could re-tell a Greek myth, or another ancient dragon tale, as long as it is in your own words.

Make sure your opening is exciting to ensure that you lure your reader in.



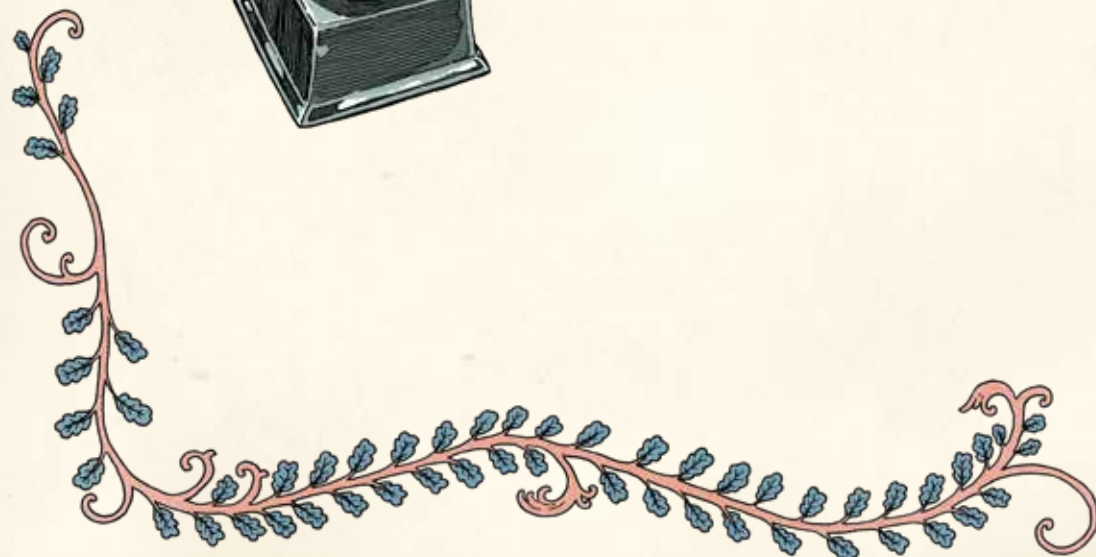
## FOREST-DWELLING DRAGONS

Look closely at different types of leaves.

Choose one, or more that do not feature on this page of the book and create a template.

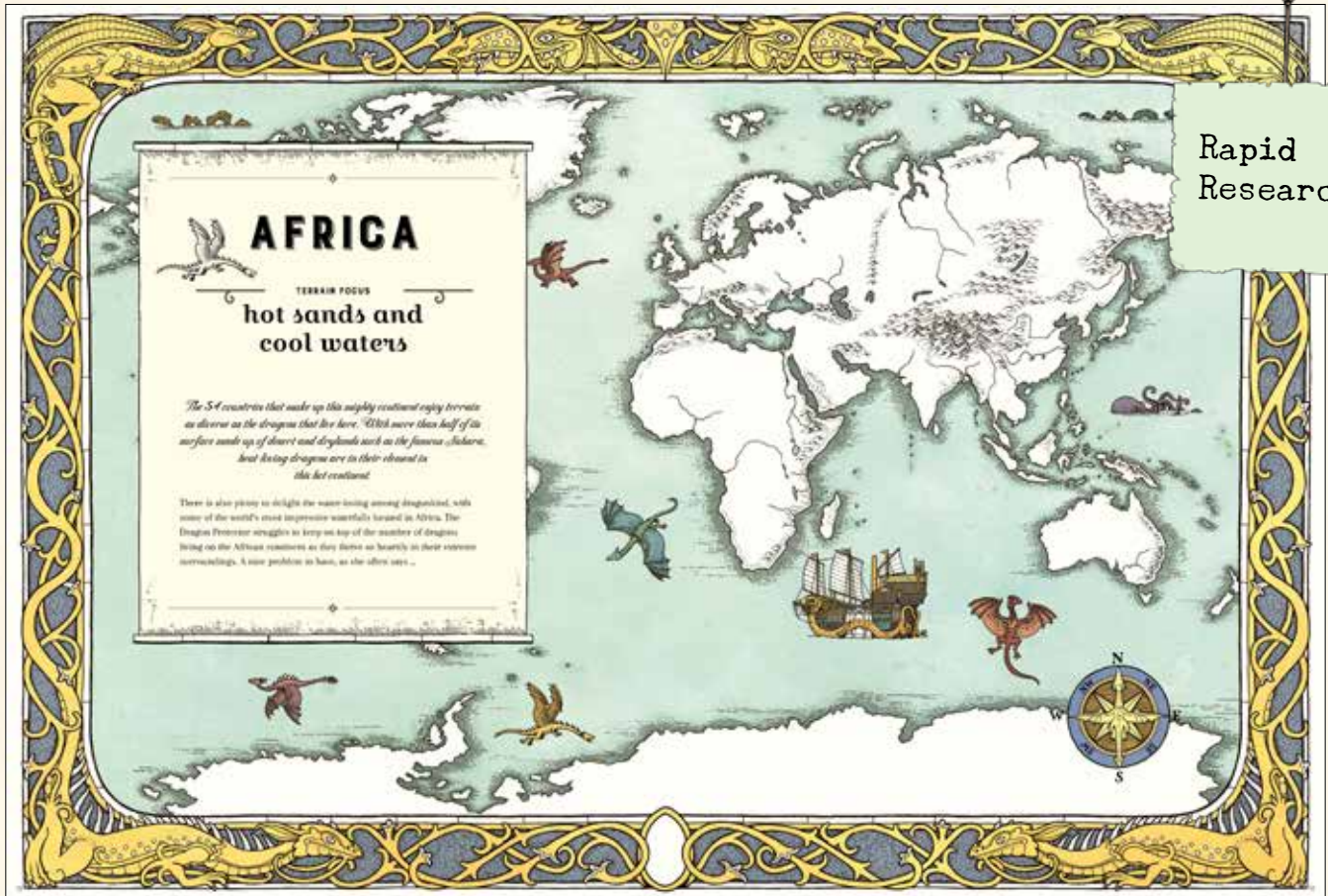
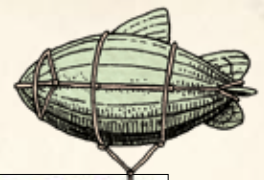
Using this in your design, create your own forest-dwelling dragon.

Name your dragon and create a fact and story file about him/her/them.





# AFRICA



Rapid  
Research

Find out the names of the 54 African countries.

Locate them on a map or globe.

Think of different ways in which you could organize this list.

Here are some possibilities:



Alphabetical order

Coastal/inland locations

Size

Population

Flag colours



# ASIA

## Creative Challenge

Write a short playscript of the balloon expedition to the clouds above Tianmen Mountain, using ideas from the Dragon Protector's log.

Create a backdrop for a shadow puppet theatre, showing the mountain.

Think about how you can make the density of cloud cover over the mountain increase.

Create shadow puppets of the manned balloon and the celestial dragon.

Think of the best way of moving each puppet.

You might use two different methods: perhaps string for the balloon, and stiff wires or sticks attached to the jointed body of the dragon.

Think of sound effects to make your performance more atmospheric.

You could mark the passage of time with the tick of a clock and create your own Oriental music using the black keys of the keyboard.

Practise and perform!





# FINAL CHALLENGES

## FOR THE DRAGON PROTECTOR-IN-WAITING



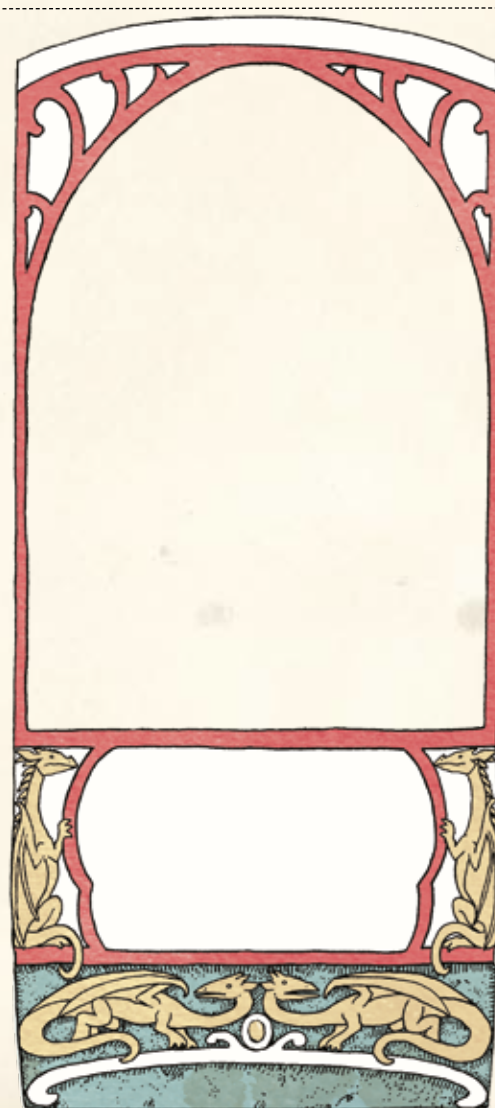
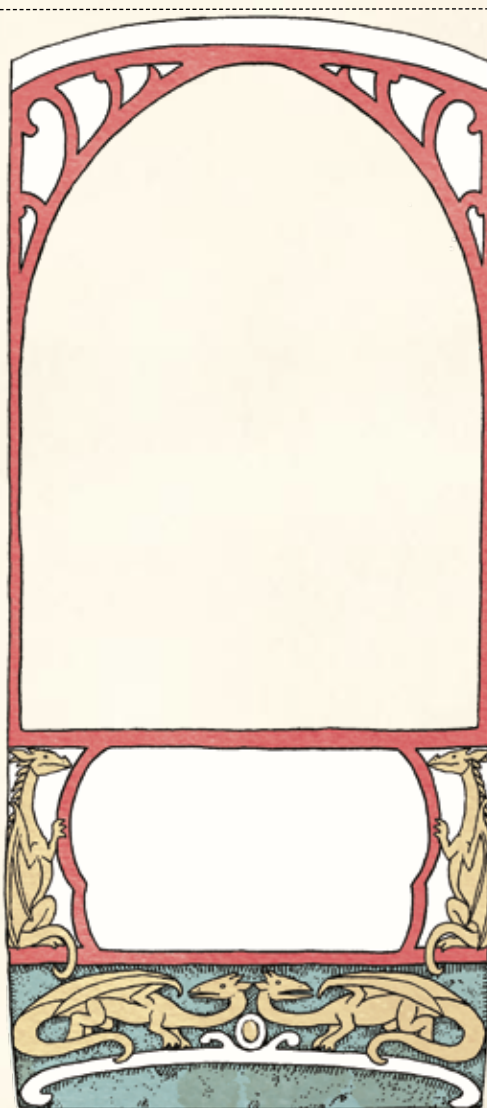
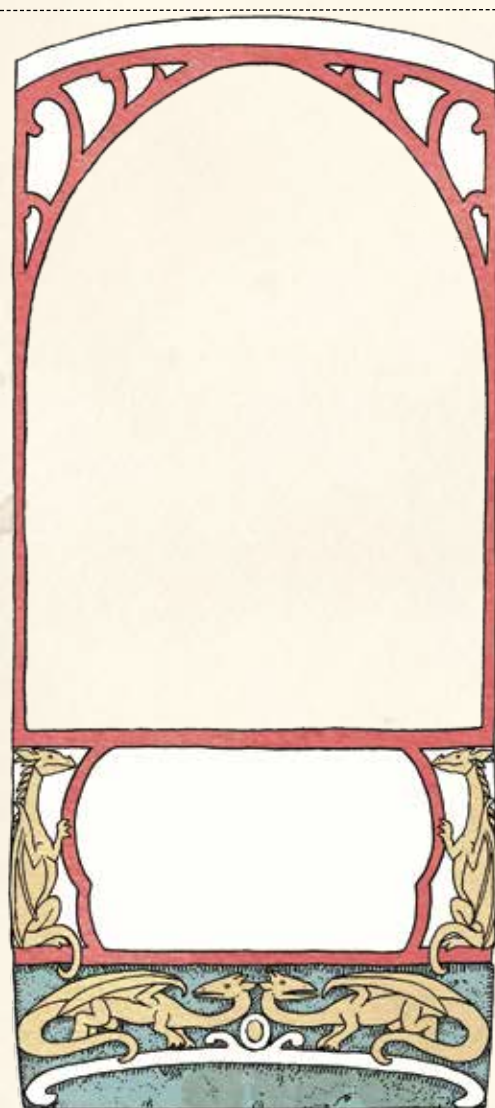
Create a board or card game.

You could use characters, dragons and geographical settings from the book.

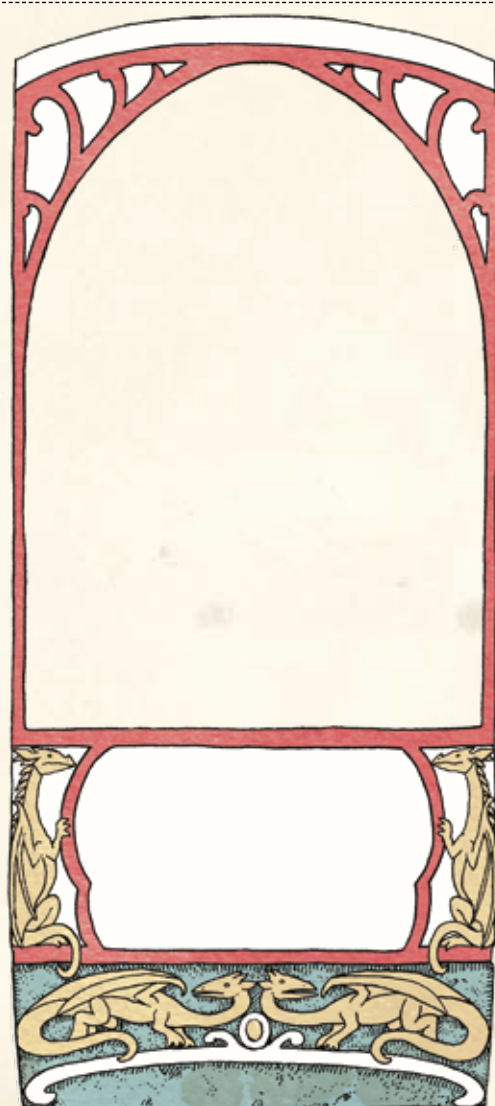
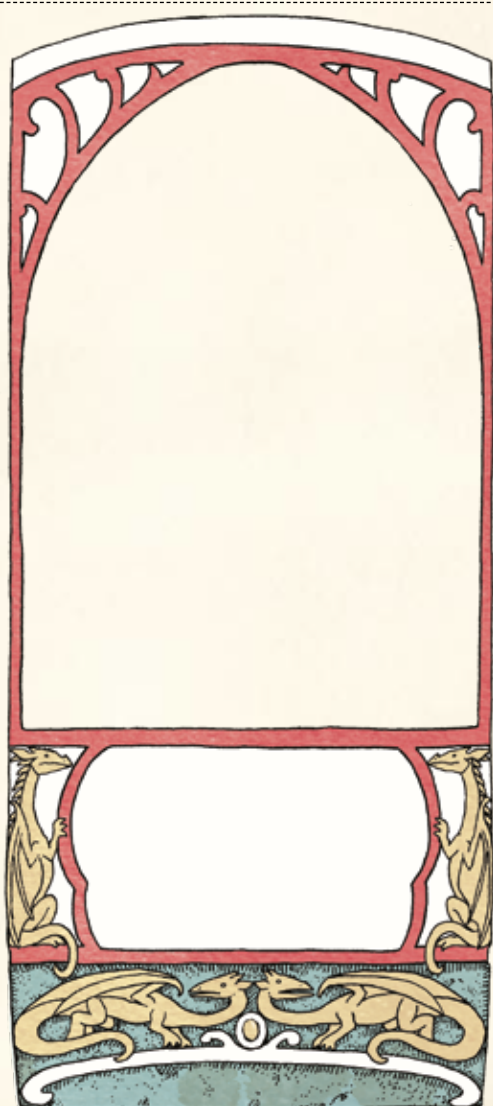
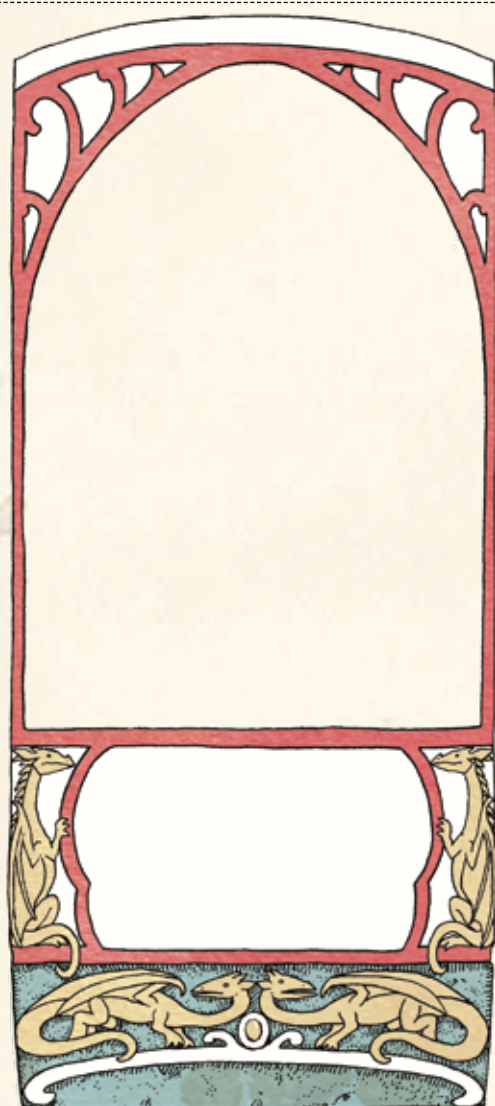
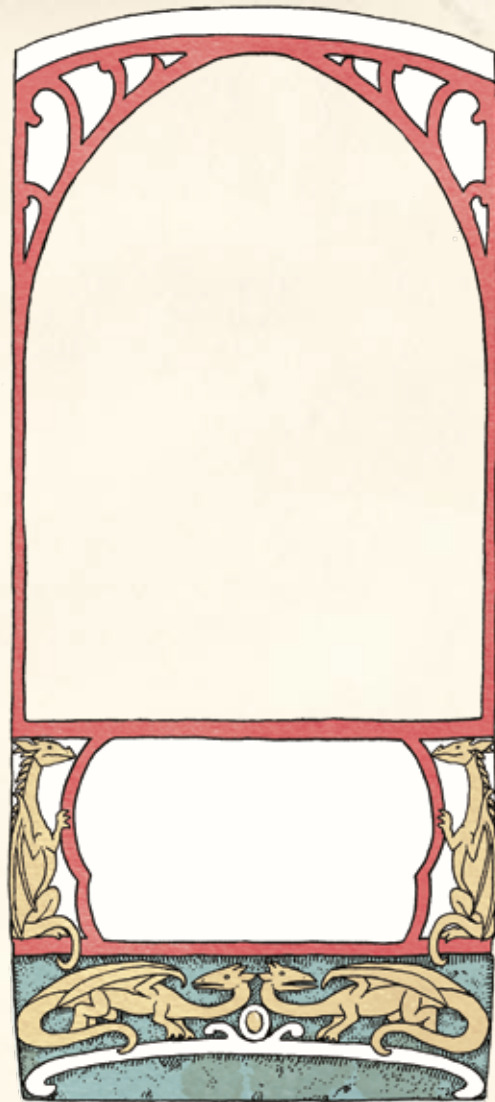
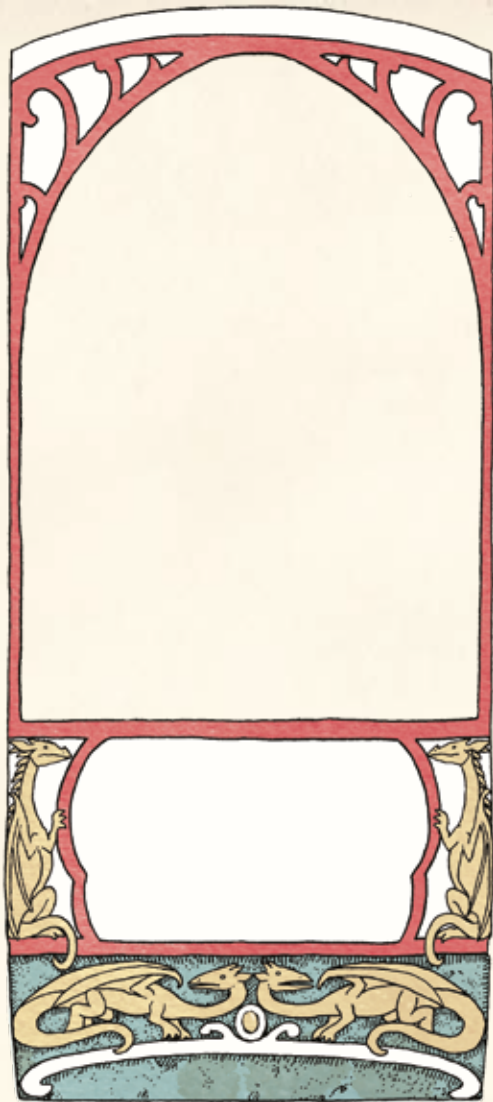
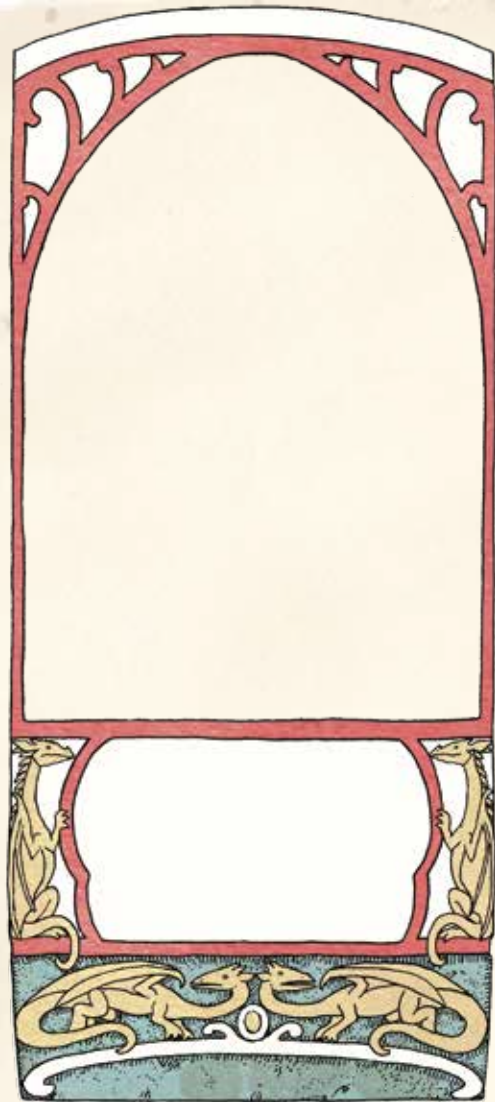
We have created some blank cards for you to print, fill in and cut out.



Design  
Challenge











Reading  
Challenge



Create a hoard of dragon scales or jewels.  
Think about what materials would be best suited for this.



You could use natural materials, such as pine cones for scales or you could recycle things from around the house like aluminium foil or coloured wrappers.

Consider the texture and colour of the things that you collect and how they might be thought of as treasure.

Make a list of all the myths, stories, poems, novels and non-fiction books there are, featuring dragons.



Collect a dragon scale/jewel from the treasure hoard for every item you read about dragons. and incorporate these into a celebratory design.

