MYTHICAL CREATURE RESEARCH PROJECT
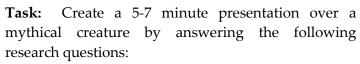
Due date: _____

Introduction: Since the beginning of time, humans have used their imaginations to fill in the spaces beyond what is known with magical beasts and monsters. Some of these creatures were born from literature and myth, but for many ancient people, these creatures were real beings that lurked just beyond the borders of society. Stories of these creatures have persisted thousands of years into our own time. Although many people do not believe in their actual existence today, they live on through popular culture (books, films, TV shows, and video games). They are still the creatures that haunt our dreams and inspire our imagination.

Task: Create a 5-7 minute presentation over a mythical creature by answering the following research questions:
1. What is the creature, its habits, and characteristics?
2. When did stories of the creature begin?
3. Why do you think people dreamed up this creature?
4. What basis does the creature have in reality?
5. How has the creature assimilated into popular culture?
6. Why do you think this creature has remained popular or faded into obscurity?

Scoring: This presentation is worth 200 points. A breakdown of the points is listed below.

> **Visual aid (75 pts.)** You must have an effective visual aide (either physical or digital). Your visual aid should include *numerous* pictures of the creature. All information on your visual aid should be succinct, and all text should be large enough to read from the audience. Whole paragraphs of information should not be included.

> **Public Speaking Skills (25 pts.)** Engage your audience, stand up straight, speak loudly, keep your hands out of your pockets, and do not read directly off your visual aid. Be prepared to answer questions from your audience about the creature you choose.

> **History of Creature (25 pts.)** Give as much background on the creature as you can. When did this creature first appear in stories? Are there any theories where the idea for

the creature came from? What is the creature's basis in reality? From which region or country did it originate? How long ago?

Description of Creature (25 pts.) What does it look like? What does it eat? Does it have any special or magical attributes? Why is it famous? Does it have any natural (or supernatural) predators? You should have plenty of pictures of your creature to give your audience a visual image of the creature.

Modern Day Variants (25 pts.) How have tales of this creature been kept alive—through literature, film, or art? Is it in any movies, TV shows, books, video games, or other works? Mention these in your presentation. Has the idea of the creature changed over time? If the creature is not present in pop culture, why do you think this is so?

Works Cited Page and Research Folder (25 pts.) With your presentation you will turn in a folder of the research you have collected. Include a physical copy of any internet sources you use. You must have at least *four* sources. *One* source must be a non-internet source. Use the library to find your creature mentioned in a print source. When you have all your sources, create a Works Cited page that uses MLA format.

Choose of the following creatures from the list. Only *one* person per class may have a certain creature. Make sure to tell the teacher which creature you have chosen.

Baba Yaga	Goblin	Loch Ness Monster	Troll
Banshee	Golem	Manticore	Unicorn
Basilisk (Cockatrice)	Gremlin	Mermaid	Vampire
Centaur	Griffin	Mothman, The	Wendigo
Chimaera	Jersey Devil, The	Oni	Werewolf
Chupacabra	Kappa	Phoenix	Yeti
Dullahan, The	Kelpie	Satyr (Faun)	Zombie
Dwarf	Kitsune	Tanuki	
Elf (Gnome)	Kraken (Sea Monster)	Tengu	
Fairy	Leprechaun	Thunderbird	
Genie (Djinn)	Leshi	Tokoloshe	

Alternate Assignment: Write a 3-4 page paper that performs all the same functions as the presentation. Your "Works Cited" page does not count as one of the pages. The paper should be in 12 pt. Times New Roman font and use MLA format.

Plagiarism Warning: Be sure to put all your research into your own words. Any information copied and pasted from the internet into your paper will result in a zero on the project.