MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURES

Greek and Roman myths are filled with fantastic creatures and monsters. Many of these creatures are made up of body parts from various real animals. For example, a griffin is a ferocious monster with the wings and head of an eagle and the body of a lion. A centaur has the four-legged body of a horse and the torso and head of a man.

For thousands of years, artists have used their imagination to represent mythological creatures. Now it's your turn.

READ this description of creatures called Sirens:

The Sirens had beautiful female faces and voices. Some had female bodies, too, but most had the bodies, legs, and feet of birds. Their voices were irresistible to humans. The Sirens perched on rocky cliffs above the sea and used their magical songs to lure sailors, often causing their ships to smash against the rocks.

LOOK for some examples of Sirens in these galleries.

COMPARE two representations of a Siren. Note three ways in which they are similar and three ways they are different.

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People and Stories in Greek and Roman Art

FIND at least three other mythological creatures depicted in these galleries.

We’ve provided a few clues below.

H____________________________________________________ (I live in the sea)

S____________________________________________________ (barking dogs)

C____________________________________________________ (I have my eye on you!)

G____________________________________________________ (stony gaze)

M___________________________________________________ (a-MAZE-ing bull)

C____________________________________________________ (tail of a viper)

SELECT one of the creatures you’ve noted above and list its animal parts. What role do you think the creature played in the ancient world? What do you see in the way the creature is depicted that makes you think that?

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TAKE IT A STEP FURTHER

Back in class, DRAW your own mythological creature and WRITE a story about it.

OR

WRITE your own Siren song. What would you say if you were a Siren?