

# Finding similarities and differences – 1

To help you understand what you read in text, you sometimes need to think about how things are alike or how they are different and to make comparisons.

Read the description.

## Dragons

1. Dragons are mythical creatures that appear in legends and folktales from all over the world. There are two major types of dragons—eastern dragons (those that appear in Asian legends) and western dragons (those that appear in European legends).

### Eastern dragons

2. Eastern dragons are symbols of wisdom and beauty in Japan, Korea and China. They are seen as kind and friendly to humans and normally bring good luck and wealth. However, if they are not respected they become angry and can use their magical powers to cause terrible natural disasters, particularly floods. Such powers are said to come from a pearl that the dragons carry.



3. Eastern dragons are four-legged, snake-like creatures that hatch from an egg. They have a scaly body, a spiked tail, a head like a camel, claws, large eyes, paws like a tiger, the ears of a bull and often a mane like a lion around their elbows, neck and chin. They don't normally have wings, but they can still fly. They have the ability to breathe fire, but do so rarely. Eastern dragons are said to live in watery places, like caves near the beach or around lakes. An eastern dragon's favourite food is said to be a small bird called a swallow. They do not eat humans.

### Western dragons



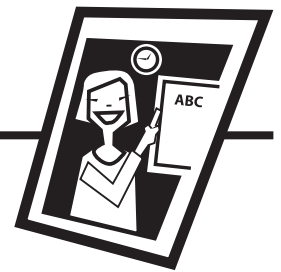
Western dragons are dinosaur-like fire-breathing animals. They may have two or four legs, scaly bodies and a spiked tail. They hatch from eggs. Western dragons have claws and large eyes. They can fly by flapping their bat-like wings. They are ferocious and bad-tempered and many legends tell of them being in battle with brave knights. They eat any type of meat, but their favourites seem to be sheep, cattle and human flesh.

Western dragons have various magical powers.

It was believed that eating a dragon's heart would give someone the power to understand birdsong and dragon's blood could protect against wounds.

Western dragons live on land, often hidden away in caves, mountains or in forests. Because they often hoard treasure in a lair or den, they are a symbol of greed in Western culture.

# Finding similarities and differences



## Learning about the skill

Learn how you can organise information to make it easier to answer questions about similarities and differences.

- Make sure you understand the question and underline the keywords.
- Sometimes it is easy to see how things are different or the same if you are comparing two things. However, if there are three or more things to compare, it can be helpful to organise the information in a chart. Two examples are shown below.
- Always check all the possible answers before making a decision.

1. Which two things do both types of dragons have in common?

- They have scaly bodies and a mane.
- They have a mane and they are ferocious.
- They have magical powers and they are ferocious.
- They have scaly bodies and magical powers.

	Eastern dragon	Western dragon
Scaly body		
Mane		
Ferocious		
Magical powers		

### Choosing the best answer

You will find it useful to use the tick chart above to find the best answer.

- Both dragons have scaly bodies, but only Eastern dragons have a mane, so this is not the best answer.
- Only the Eastern dragon has a mane and only the Western dragon is ferocious, so this cannot be the best answer.
- Both dragons have magical powers, but only the Western dragon is ferocious, so this is not the best answer.
- Both dragons have scaly bodies and magical powers, so this is the best answer.

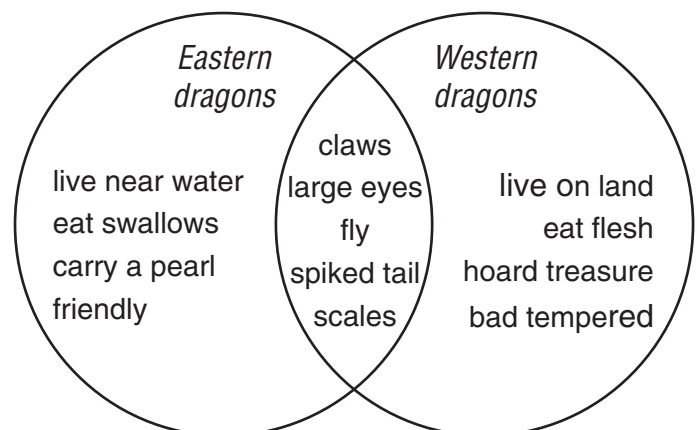
2. Use the Venn diagram to help you complete the sentence.

Western dragons ...

- have scales and are friendly.
- live on land and eat swallows.
- have spiked tails and eat flesh.
- fly and carry a pearl.

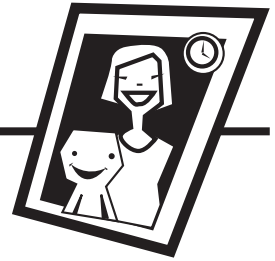
### Choosing the best answer

- If you look at the Venn diagram you can see that Western and Eastern dragons both have scales but only the Eastern dragons are friendly, so this is not a good answer.
- Western dragons do live on land, but they do not eat swallows, so this can't be the best answer.
- Both dragons have spiked tails. The Western dragons also eat flesh, so this is a very good answer, but check all answers.
- Both dragons fly, but only Eastern dragons carry a pearl, so this is not a good answer.



# Finding similarities and differences

## Practice page



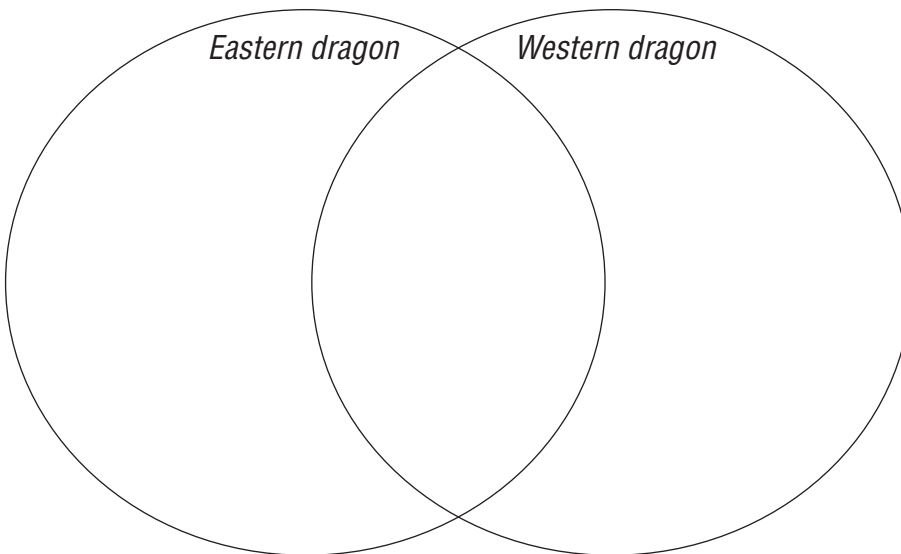
Use similar strategies to those on page 35 to practise finding similarities and differences. (Clues are given to help you.)

**Think!**  
Find the information for each dragon in the text.

1. (a) Complete the tick chart showing similarities and differences.

	<i>Eastern dragon</i>	<i>Western dragon</i>		<i>Eastern dragon</i>	<i>Western dragon</i>
<i>scales</i>			<i>wings</i>		
<i>large eyes</i>			<i>claws</i>		
<i>snake-like</i>			<i>kind</i>		
<i>ferocious</i>			<i>mane</i>		

- (b) Add the same information to the Venn diagram.



**Think!**  
The information with two ticks will go in the middle section.

- (c) Circle true or false after each sentence. Use the information from the Venn diagram to help you.

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| (i) Western dragons have wings and are kind.           | True/False |
| (ii) Eastern and Western dragons have claws and manes. | True/False |
| (iii) Eastern dragons are snake-like and have scales.  | True/False |
| (iv) Western dragons have claws and large eyes.        | True/False |
| (v) No dragons have manes and wings.                   | True/False |

# Finding similarities and differences



## On your own

Think about the strategies you have been using to work out these answers. You could draw a chart or Venn diagram on a separate sheet of paper if you need to.

1. *What is one difference between Eastern and Western dragons?*

- (a) Western dragons can't flap their wings.
- (b) Eastern dragons don't need wings to fly.
- (c) Western dragons can't fly very high.
- (d) Eastern dragons can't fly at all.

The best answer is .

2. *What two things are true only of Western dragons?*

- (a) They can cause floods and their heart has a magical power.
- (b) They live in watery places and cause floods.
- (c) Their heart has a magical power and they battle knights.
- (d) They battle knights and live in watery places.

The best answer is .

3. *Compare what would be likely to happen if a person upset each type of dragon.*

---

---

---

---

---

4. *What is different about the way that Western and Eastern dragons are symbolised and thought of in the cultures they belong to?*

---

---

---

---

---