

En

KEY STAGE

2

LEVELS

3–5

English Writing

Spelling Test

Dragons

Teacher's version

2012

Dragons

The dragon is a creature belonging to the world of mythology, legend and **fantasy**. We find **stories** about dragons in the Chinese, European and South American **cultures** and many others. They are **associated** with wisdom and long life, and are often said to be more **intelligent** than humans.

In Chinese history, a dragon was the symbol of the emperor and of good luck. The traditional Chinese New Year parade includes a group of people who wind through the streets **wearing** a large dragon costume.

Some dragons are **considered** to be **dangerous**, but many other tales have **majestic** dragons that look for or give help, or interact with the **characters** in a peaceful way.

Dragons are often drawn to look like dinosaurs and other **extinct** animals.

Many people **believe** a dragon:

- is big and **impressive**
- has up to four legs, claws, **scales**, spikes on its back, a tail and a long neck
- sometimes has wings and is able to fly
- can quite often **breathe** fire
- hatches from an egg.

The dragon is the **emblem** of the capital city of Slovenia and can be spotted in many places, from the licence plates on cars to a **bridge** which is embellished with four dragons.

There are several lizards that have the name 'dragon', the best known being the Komodo Dragon. These creatures are restricted to a few small **islands** in Indonesia, where they rule **supreme**. They can run as fast as a dog for short **stretches** and have deadly bacteria in their mouths which they use to kill prey.