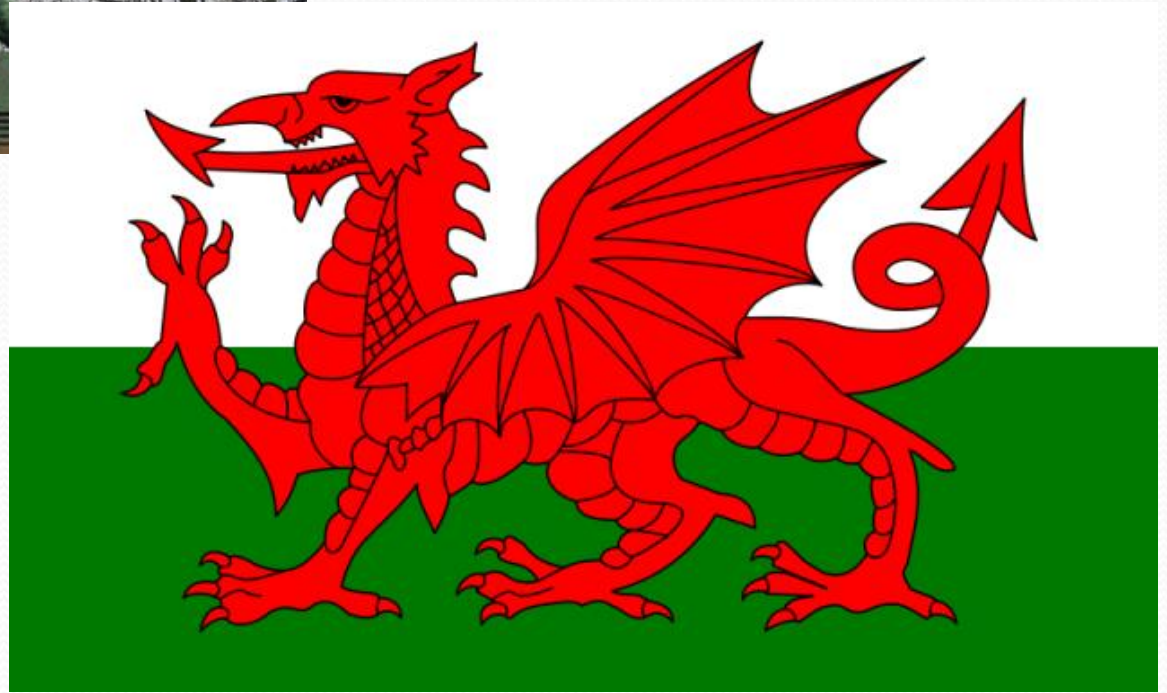


Chinese Dragon Culture

1. European Dragons
2. Chinese Dragons' Origin and its Image
3. Many Symbols of Dragon
4. Dragon and idioms



I. European Dragons

- **European dragons**

- They are legendary creatures in folklore and mythology
- Two implications-
 - Dragon is usually portrayed as **evil** in many countries
 - Aggressive and warlike.
 - In some countries it is portrayed as **hero**
 - It is National symbol of Wales.
 - It is part of the **National flag**
 - It is seen as a protector of **Slovenia**
- **Some of these facts could be questions in the..**



- Features of European dragons-
 - Many modern stories represent dragons as extremely intelligent creatures...
 - They can talk, associated with powerful magic.
 - In the modern period the dragon is typically depicted as...
 - A huge fire-breathing, scaly and horned dinosaur-like creature, with two big legs and a long muscular tail!





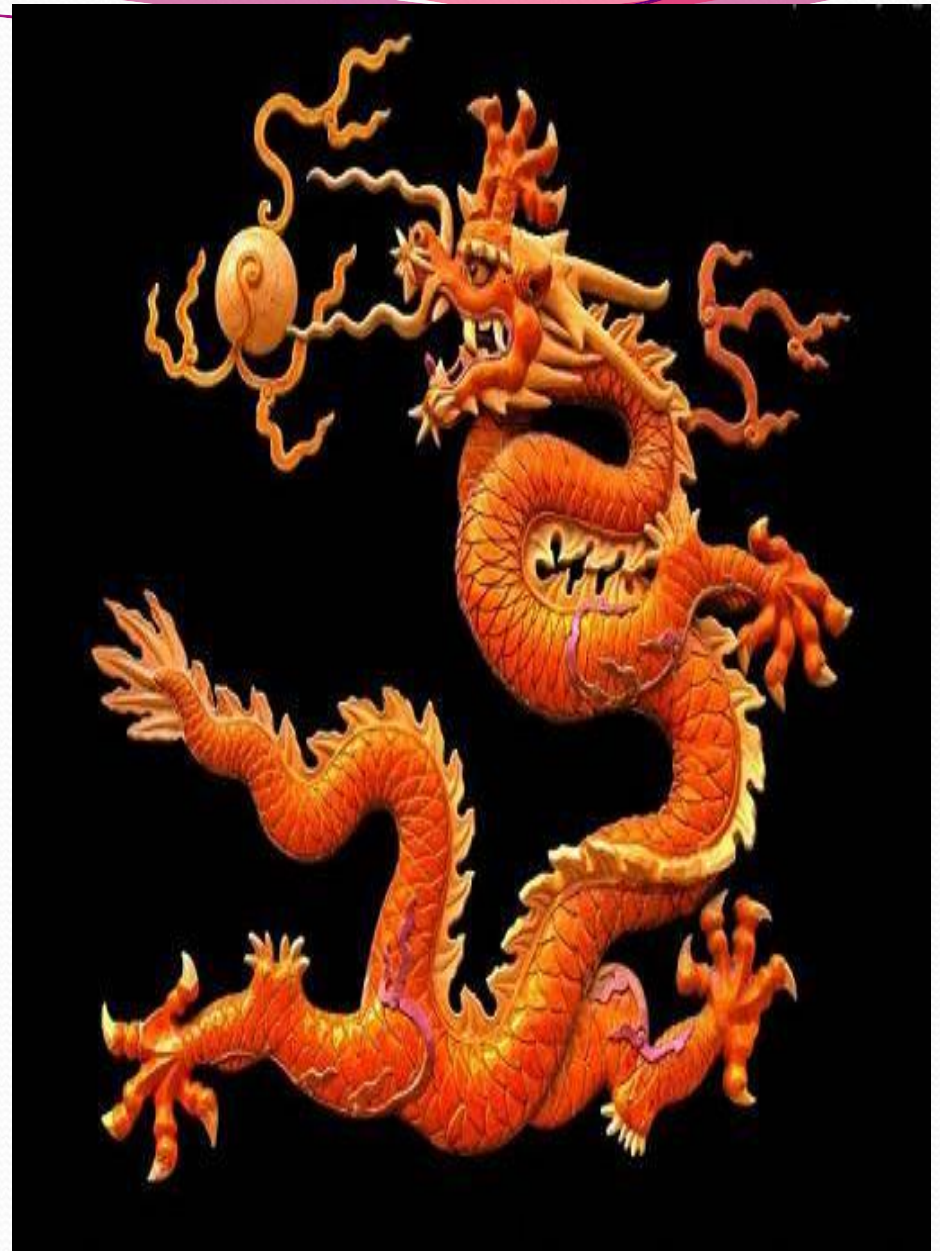


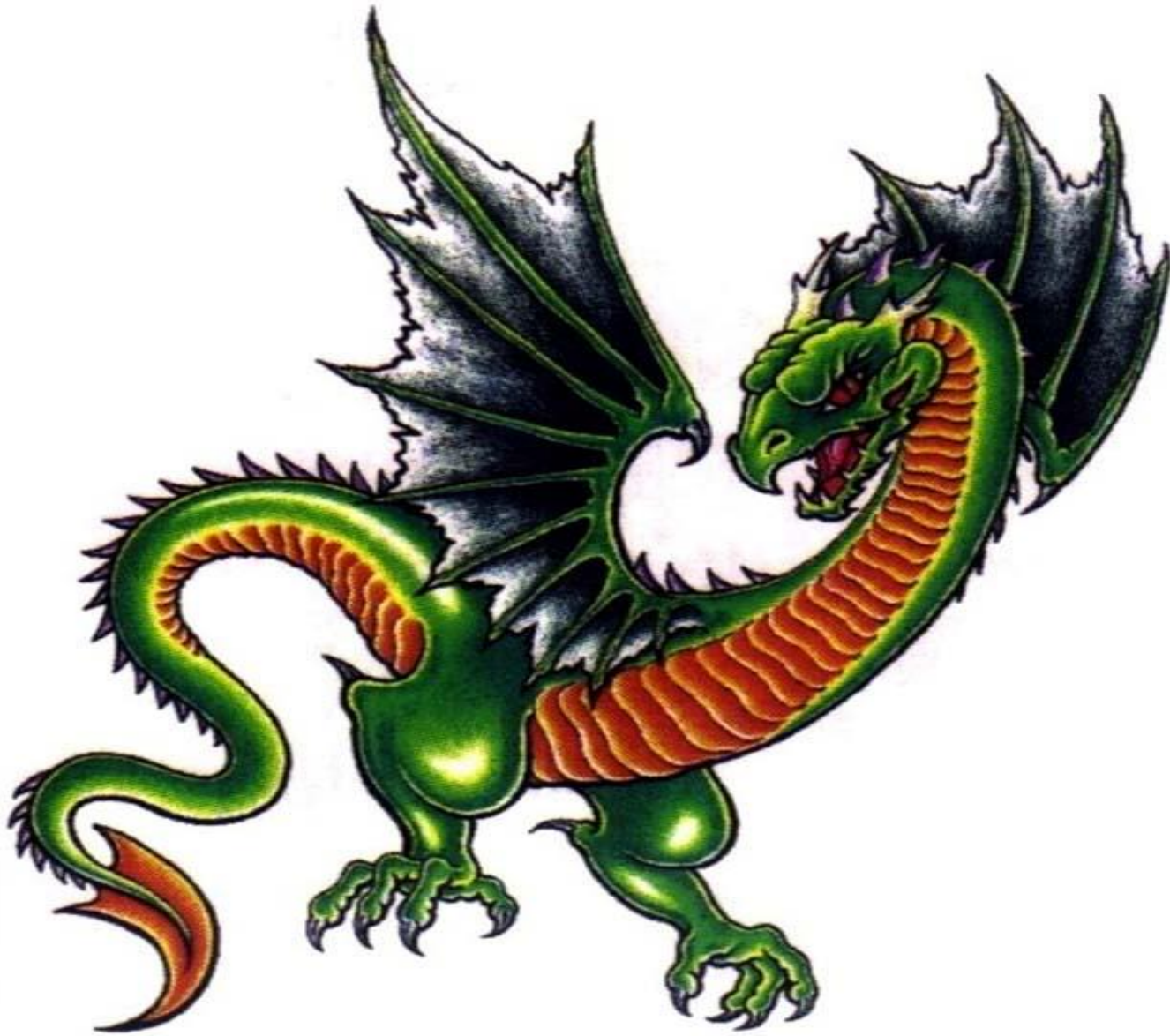
- The Dragon is **composed** of body parts of other animals:
 - The **Horns** of a **deer**
 - The **Mouth** of an **alligator**
 - The **Body** of a **snake**
 - The **Scales** of a **fish**
 - The **Claws** of an **eagle**
 - The **Ears** of an **ox**

What will **YOUR**
dragon look like?



Quiz





2. Chinese Dragons' Origin and its Image

- Origin of the concept of dragon
 - Chinese dragons are **legendary creatures** in Chinese mythology and folklore
 - History-
 - It originated with the **Yellow Emperor** (2696 - 2598 BC)
 - Some scholars believe that it originated from totems of different tribes in China.
 - It was imagined as a giant with super-natural forces-
 - Ancient people did not understand thunders, bolts, floods, storms and tsunamis.
 - It was thought the natural phenomenon were controlled by dragons.



The C-shaped Jade Dragon of Hongshan Culture

- It was unearthed in Liaoning, China
- It dated from about 4700 BC to 2900 BC
- Earliest totem.



Changes to the shape of dragons









3. Many Symbols of Chinese Dragon

- Symbol of a strong force
 - Ruler of the weather and sea
 - Many natural phenomenon were controlled by dragons- Thunder storms, lightning bolts, floods, storms and tsunamis
 - According to a mythological story, the Chinese Dragon is called the 'King of the Sea Dragon' (海龙王)
 - There were four 海龙王
 - 东海龙王
 - 西海龙王
 - 南海龙王
 - 北海龙王
 - They lived in the dragon palaces under oceans
 - They were worshiped by the people to beg for the rain to stop, to prevent floods.
 - **Could you use this imagery in your designs?**



- **Symbol of power and authority**

- Chinese emperors thought they were the real dragons and the sons of the heaven (真龙天子)
- Dragon bed 龙床
- Dragon chair 龙椅
- Dragon robe 龙袍
- Dragon body 龙体; “龙体欠安”
- Dragon son 龙子
- Also dragons can be seen on the buildings in the imperial palace.

Could you use these Chinese letters in your designs?









● Symbol of Chinese nation

- Dragon is symbol of China
- “世界的东方有一条龙，它的名字叫中国”
- Dragon is on the National flag of the last feudal dynasty, the Qing Dynasty.







新婚大喜！ 百年好合！



前生注定

喜結良緣



囍





- Symbol of ability and success
 - 望子成龙
 - 北大一条虫，出去一条龙
 - Dragon vs. worm 虫

4. Nine Dragons Wall (九龙壁)







● **There are three nine-dragon walls in China**

- The biggest and oldest one, located in Datong, Shanxi
 - It was built in Liao Kingdom (916~1125 A.D);
- The most sophisticated and beautiful one is the one in the Beihai (North Sea) Park in Beijing;
- The third one is in front of the Ningyong Gate in the Forbidden City

● **Shape of the dragons**

- Each dragon is playing with a unique jewellery ball.
- The dragons were painted in different colours with three dimension, and were handcrafted with the highest level of workmanship.

- The Nine Dragon Wall in Bei Hai Park
 - After hundreds of years the colors of the ceramic tiles remain brilliant.
 - The wall was built in **1756**.
 - It is 21m long, about 15m high and 1.2m thick.
 - It is faced with 424 7-coloured ceramic tiles.
 - There is a giant dragon at the center of the wall
 - It is flanked by four dragons on each side.
 - In addition to these nine large dragons, the wall is covered from edge to edge with many smaller dragons.
 - There are **635** dragons in all.





V. Dragon in Traditional Festivals

- The dragon also plays an important part in Chinese festivals, especially in Chinese New Year.
- **The Dragon Dance**
 - Originated during the **Han Dynasty** and was started by the Chinese who had shown great belief and respect towards the dragon.
 - It is believed to have begun as part of the farming and harvest culture, also with origins as a method of healing and preventing sickness.
 - It was already a popular event during the **Song Dynasty**
 - It had become a folk activity and like the lion dance, was most often seen in festive celebrations.















- **The Chinese Dragon Dance** has spread throughout China and to the whole world.
 - It has become a special performance of the arts and Chinese physical activities.
 - It symbolizes bringing good luck and prosperity for the year ahead.
 - In the **Qing Dynasty**, the Dragon Dance team of the province of Foochow was invited to perform in Peking and had been greatly praised and admired by the **Qing Emperor**, which earned great fame for the team
 - Since then, the Dragon Dance has become more popular
 - The Dragon Dance is a highlight of **Chinese New Year** celebrations
 - It was held worldwide in Chinatowns around the world.



● 龙腾虎跃

- Describe a occasion or a scene very active
- 腾、跃： move, act and jump up and down quickly like dragon and phoenix

● 生龙活虎

- Similar to above
- Describe persons with active energy

● “四小龙” 、 “四小虎”

- *Could you use these Chinese letters in your designs?*



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