High Mountain Wyvern

How can you spot a wyvern?



Did you know? In British heraldry, a wyvern often has two legs and two wings. Look for the creature's two feet on the ledge and the wide membranes that form its wings. Those shapes make a clear silhouette from far away.

Chinese River Long

Why is this dragon over a river?



Did you know? In Chinese art, the long-bodied dragon often appears with clouds or water. Its connection with rain made it a fitting image in a place where crops needed rain to grow. Notice how its body curves like the river.

Volcano Drake

Why does a lava stream have dark edges?



Did you know? Lava is melted rock flowing on the surface. The outer layer can cool and harden while hotter lava continues to move inside. Look for warm colors in the flow and cooler colors in the solid rock beside this imagined drake.

Japanese Sea Dragon

What kind of kingdom does a sea dragon rule?



Did you know? In some Japanese tales, a dragon king rules beneath the waves. The fisherman Urashima Taro visits his palace in a story passed down in different versions. Imagine what its roof might look like from a boat.

Frost Lindworm

How can ice crack across a frozen lake?



Did you know? A lake can make sharp cracks as its ice expands or contracts with a change in temperature. Those lines can stretch far across the surface. The curling outline of the imagined lindworm gives you a second kind of line to follow.

Cloud Dragon

How can you draw a creature swimming through air?



Did you know? Artists can bend a long body into sweeping curves that suggest swimming even among clouds. Dragons in Chinese art often appear amid clouds because of their link with rain. Follow the curve from its head all the way to its tail.

Welsh Red Dragon

Where can you see a red dragon in Wales?



Did you know? A red dragon stands on the Welsh national flag above white and green. It has also appeared in coats of arms. Imagine making a flag from this drawing. Which parts of the dragon would be easy to see from far away?

Feathered Serpent

Where did the idea of a feathered serpent appear?



Did you know? Mesoamerican artists depicted serpents with feathers. In Mexica tradition, the name Quetzalcoatl brings together the quetzal bird and the serpent. Look for the long curves of a snake and the repeated shapes of feathers in this drawing.

Cave Wyrm

What grows from a cave ceiling without being alive?



Did you know? Water that drips through limestone can leave behind tiny amounts of a mineral. Over time the deposits can grow into hanging shapes called stalactites. Look above this imagined cave wyrm and find the points hanging toward the pool.

Naga at the Pool

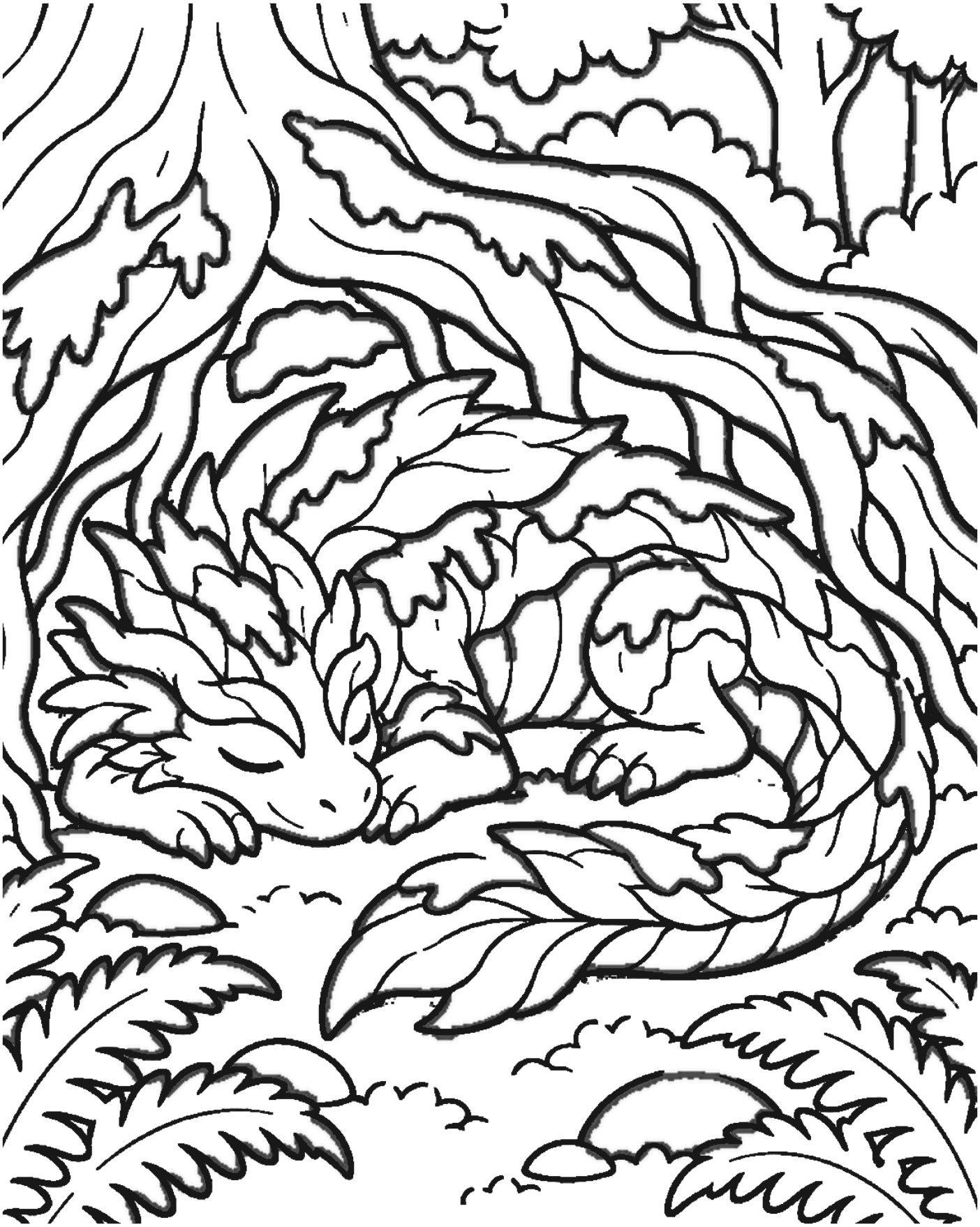
Why do some naga figures have a wide hood?



Did you know? Nagas are serpent beings in several South and Southeast Asian traditions. Artists sometimes give them a cobra's hood, and some sculptures have several heads. This drawing uses one head. See how the curved hood frames the face.

Forest Wyrm

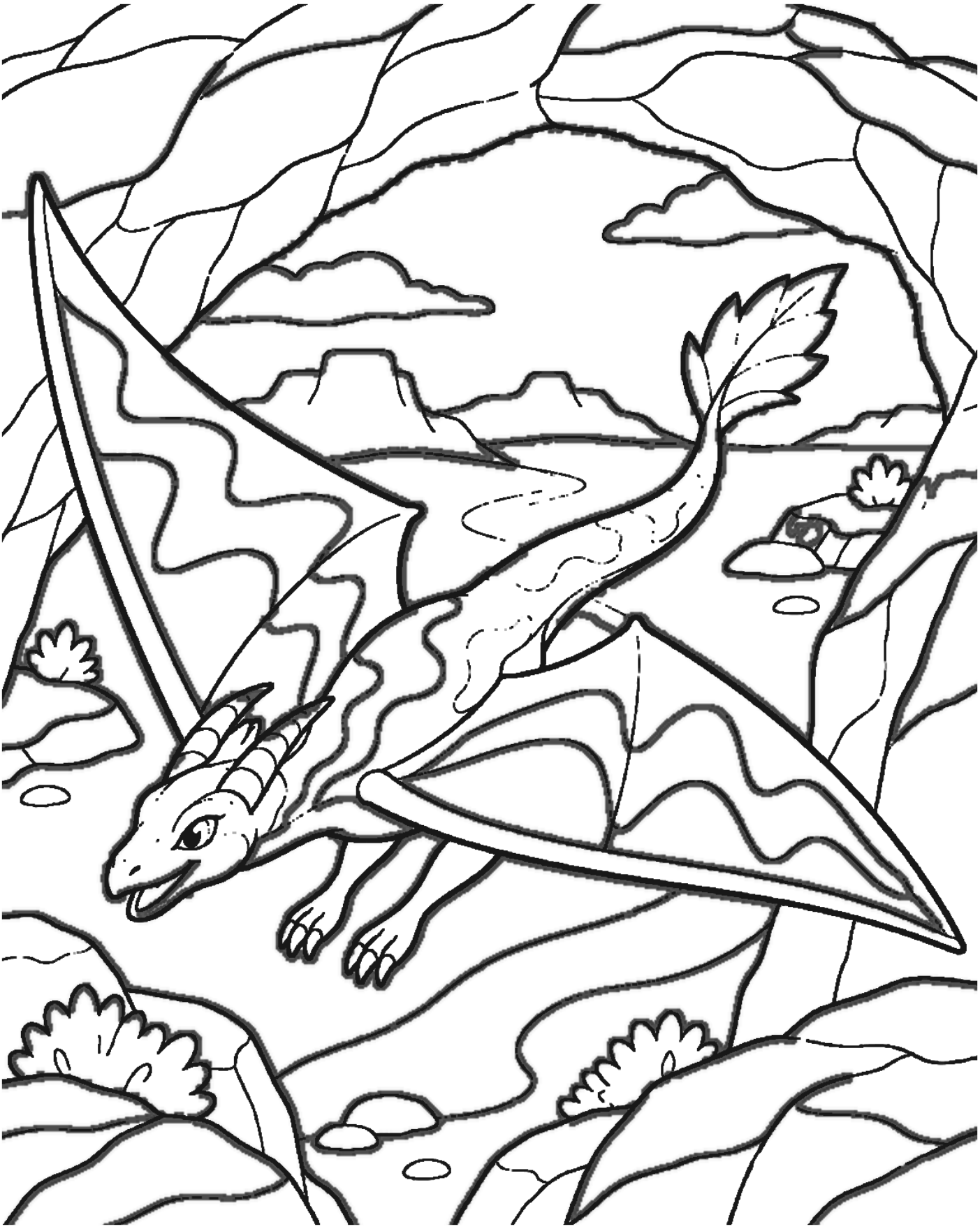
Why do tree roots sometimes show above the soil?



Did you know? Many roots grow close to the surface. Rain or moving soil can expose them over time. Follow the roots around this sleeping dragon and see where they join the trunk.

Sand Glider

How can a hole form through solid rock?



Did you know? Water can get into cracks and help wear away weaker sections of rock. Over a long time an opening can become an arch with stronger stone left above it. Follow the edge of the arch behind this imaginary glider.

Glacier Wing

Why are some parts of a glacier blue?



Did you know? Snow slowly presses into ice as new layers pile up. Thick glacier ice absorbs more red light than blue. Some of the blue light makes it back to your eyes. Look for the tall wall of ice beside this dragon's wings.

Open-Sea Serpent

How do waves help a sea serpent hide?



Did you know? A long creature can seem to vanish when waves rise between its body and a sailor watching from a boat. Stories can turn a short glimpse into a giant sea serpent. Which curves in the picture belong to the waves and which belong to the serpent?

Hoard Dragon

What kind of treasure did a story dragon guard?



Did you know? In the Old English poem Beowulf, a dragon guards a buried hoard with precious objects including a cup. Can you find a cup next to the coins in this imagined cave? Choose a color that helps it stand out.

Mangrove Drake

How do mangrove roots shape a shoreline?



Did you know? Mangroves can have roots visible above the water and mud. Those roots slow water and trap sediment, and small fish can find shelter among them. Trace the path the imagined drake is taking above the creek.

Kelp Dragon

Is there a real animal called a seadragon?



Did you know? Real seadragons are fish related to seahorses. Some have leafy parts that help them blend in with seaweed. Look for leafy shapes on this imaginary kelp dragon and try using some of the same colors on the fins and the kelp.

Steppe Azhdaha

What hero met a dragon in a Persian epic?



Did you know? In the Shahnameh, the Persian Book of Kings, the hero Rustam faces a dragon during his seven trials. Painters have shown that encounter in different ways. This imagined steppe dragon stands on its own among the rocks.

Three-Headed Zmey

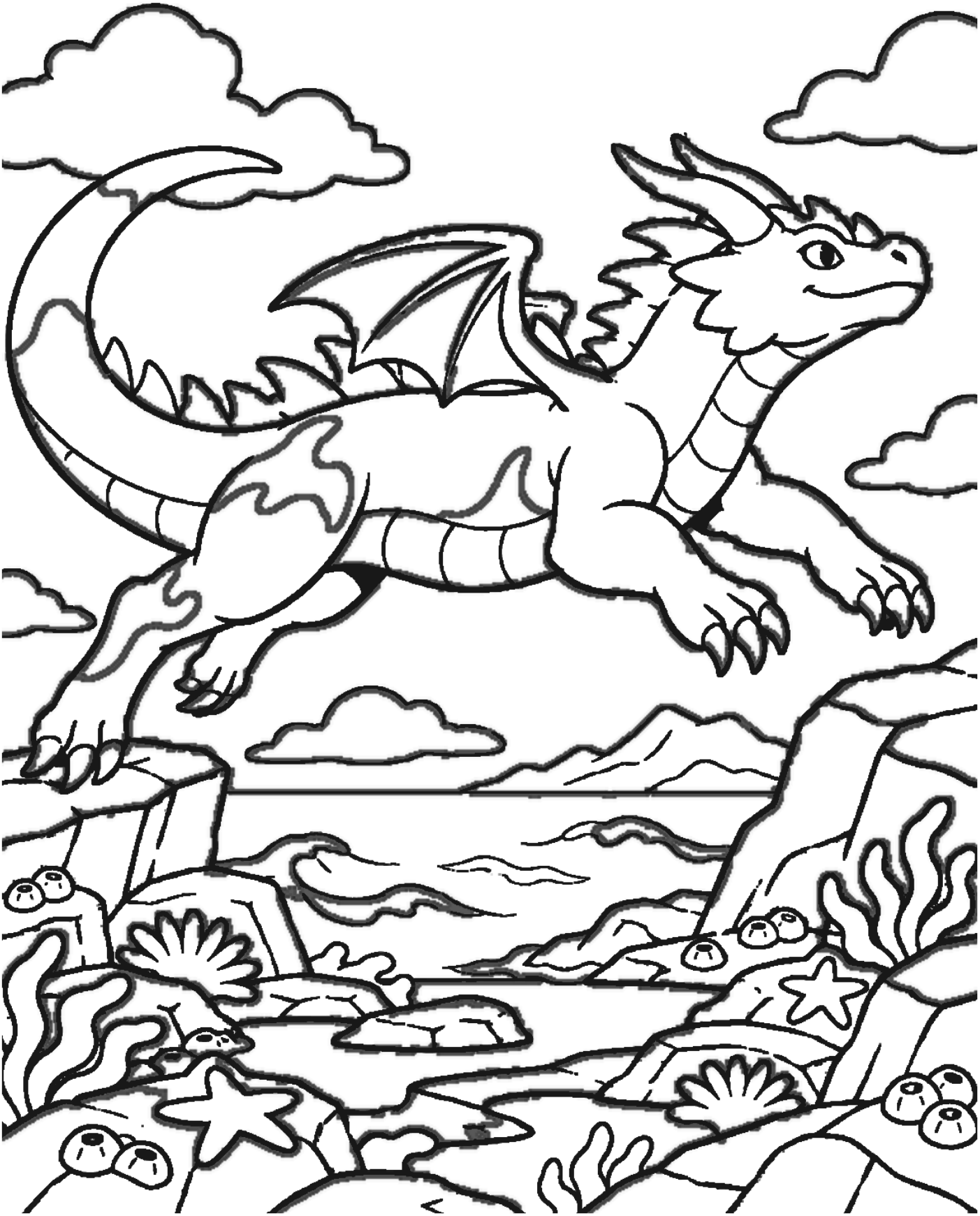
What can three heads add to a dragon story?



Did you know? Russian folktales tell of Zmey Gorynych, a dragon often pictured with three heads. A picture can give each face a different expression. Try making one face look watchful, another curious and the third ready to roar.

Island Drake

What lives in a pool left behind by the tide?



Did you know? When seawater retreats, some can stay in rock hollows. Tide pools can shelter crabs, snails and sea anemones until the tide returns. Look for the little pools between the rocks below this jumping drake.

Moon Moth Dragon

What gives a moth wing its pattern?



Did you know? A real moth wing is covered in tiny overlapping scales. The colors of the scales form spots, bands and other markings. The imaginary dragon has much larger markings. Look for matching shapes on both wings.

Bamboo Dragon

Why does bamboo look like a row of tubes?



Did you know? Bamboo is a grass. Its stem has sections divided by joints called nodes. Look for the rings that mark those joints on the bamboo behind the little dragon.

Cliff Featherwing

How can wings help a bird slow down?



Did you know? A bird can spread its wings and tail to increase drag, the force of the air that slows it. That helps when it comes in to land. This imagined dragon spreads its wings as its feet reach for the rock.

Basilisk in Ruins

Why might a monster have a rooster's head?



Did you know? Medieval artists sometimes drew the basilisk or cockatrice with parts of a rooster and a reptile. With a comb above the head and a trailing tail, this mixed creature is easy to spot. Find one part borrowed from each animal.

Aurora Dragon

Why are the northern lights often green?



Did you know? Particles from the Sun give energy to gases high above Earth. When oxygen releases some of that energy as light, it can glow green. The real northern lights shine over the mountains behind this imaginary dragon.