

## Materials Needed:

- World Map (physical or political)
- Access to internet or books/encyclopedia with dragon myths from different cultures
- Paper, colored pencils, or markers
- Optional: Globe

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## Introduction: Where Do Dragons Roam? (10 mins)

Hey there, Dragon Explorer! We know dragons are amazing mythical creatures found in stories all over the world. But *where* exactly do these stories place them? Do fire-breathing dragons live near icy glaciers? Do sea serpents live in dry deserts? Probably not! Today, we're going on an adventure to explore the geography of dragon myths. We'll be like cartographers of fantasy, figuring out how the real world's mountains, rivers, and caves might have inspired the lairs of legendary dragons.

## Activity 1: Mapping Global Dragons (25 mins)

Let's investigate some famous dragons! We'll look at three types:

1. **The Welsh Dragon (Y Ddraig Goch):** Research the geography of Wales. What is the terrain like there? (Lots of mountains, coasts, caves). Find Wales on the map. Why might hilly, misty terrain be a good setting for dragon stories?
2. **The Chinese Dragon (Lóng):** These dragons are often associated with water – rivers, lakes, and oceans. Find China on the map. Look at its major rivers like the Yangtze and Yellow River. How does this water-based geography differ from Wales? How might this affect the type of dragon people imagine? (e.g., benevolent water bringers vs. fierce mountain dwellers).
3. **The Norse Serpent (Jörmungandr):** This immense sea serpent is from Norse mythology. Locate Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, Denmark) on the map. Notice its extensive coastline and connection to the North Atlantic Ocean. Why is the sea a fitting environment for a giant serpent myth in this region?

As we discuss each one, mark the locations on your world map. Talk about the climate and landforms of each region.

## Activity 2: Design Your Dragon's Biome (20 mins)

Now it's your turn to be the myth-maker! Imagine your own unique dragon. What does it look like? What are its habits? Most importantly, *where* in the real world would it live?

1. Choose a location on the world map for your dragon's home. It could be a volcanic island, a dense rainforest, a vast desert, or icy arctic tundra.
2. Describe the geographical features of this location (climate, terrain, vegetation, water sources).
3. Explain *why* this specific environment is the perfect habitat for *your* dragon. (e.g., "My Frost Dragon lives in the Siberian tundra because its thick scales protect it from the cold, and it hunts arctic animals.")
4. Draw a picture of your dragon in its chosen habitat, highlighting the geographical features.

## Activity 3: Geography Shapes Legends (10 mins)

Let's discuss. How did the physical geography (mountains, oceans, rivers, climate) of places like Wales,

China, and Scandinavia seem to influence the types of dragons in their stories? Do you think if these cultures lived in different environments, their dragon myths might be different? How?

### **Conclusion: Maps and Myths (5 mins)**

Great work, Dragon Geographer! Today we saw how the real world's geography – its landscapes and features – can inspire even the most fantastical stories. We used map skills to locate places and learned how different environments around the globe are connected to different kinds of dragon legends. Geography isn't just about maps; it's about understanding how places shape cultures and their imaginations!