

# Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter January, 2024

## DRAGONS

They have been with us for millennia appearing independently in cultures throughout the ancient world from Europe to China, from the Americas to Australia, and to this day they remain the mightiest of mankind's universally recognizable icons. And yet, there is no physical evidence that suggests dragons have even really existed at all! So, where do, or did, they come from and why are images of them so recognizable whenever, and wherever, we see them?

Dinosaurs! Ancient people may have discovered the bones of these long extinct creatures and, with a little "artistic license", fashioned images of what they thought might represent the living creatures. As dinosaurs lived in all parts of the ancient world and left their bones to be discovered everywhere, this could explain the similarity in dragon images wherever they are, or have been, depicted.

Another hypothesis suggests that all of the various representations of dragons throughout the world originate from primitive mental images inherited from man's earliest ancestors and still exist in our "collective unconscious" to this day. As such, this theory suggests, dragon images are archetypal and easily recognizable wherever they appear. With thousands of years of representation in art and literature down through the ages, the dragon motif has only grown more potent. In recent times, we have had dragons featuring in many modern fantasies, in film, on TV, in computer games and in literature – think, "Game of Thrones", for example.



But although dragons are, more or less, universal in form, different cultures assign somewhat different characteristics to their dragons. In Europe, the dragon is the "bad guy". He represents the maiden-devouring, fire-breathing monster that has to be vanquished by the hero-knight. The most famous of these contests revolves around the Christian legend of St. George.

However, in pre-Christian Europe, dragons were not all bad. In Celtic myths they were the guardians of treasures. And in Asia, dragons are seen in a much more positive light than in Europe. In China, for example, they are seen as a symbol of good luck, prosperity, wisdom and power.

Here in Asia, as in much of the rest of the world, we are ushering in a New Year of the Dragon, as determined by the Chinese calendar, an event that occurs only once every 12 years. And with it come the hopes and wishes of many people for a better and brighter future. Will this Dragon Year bring prosperity and happiness? Let's believe so....

*Happy New Year, 2024*

*from*

**CROSSROADS**

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## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Here's a site on Dragon Symbolism you might find interesting:

<https://worldbirds.com/dragon-symbolism/>

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** The New Year is here once again. Every year, we hope for success in the various endeavors we start out to achieve. Sometimes we succeed, but sometimes not. The important thing is to keep planning for something new to work towards. So, with this in mind, I wish everyone all the very best of luck following your dreams this year. Happy New Year!

**Junko Says:** In the Eto calendar, this year is the year of the Dragon. Originally, the calendar did not use 12 animal symbols. The year, month and time were based on the sprouting and growing of various plants. What we now call the Year of the Dragon is considered to bring about a year of good fortune, and a time to start something new which will lead to success. The things we have been planning will now take shape. Good luck, everyone!



**Marek Says:** It's the middle of January and the winter hasn't really arrived yet, what with the temperatures of over 10°C and, as much as I enjoy not becoming a popsicle every time I go outside, I do miss a good old snowfall once a year. Just the other day I spotted a plum tree in near-full blossom, and it feels like the winter is hastily rushing out the door, making way for lady Spring.

**Mandcy dit:** Bonne année à tous !!! Je vous adresses tous mes vœux de bonheur pour 2024. Avez-vous pris des résolutions ? Moi, je vais devenir la prochaine présidente de la France !!! En le nouveau Premier Ministre est très jeune, il a seulement 34 ans. C'est magnifique !! Bon courage à lui.



## ACROSS

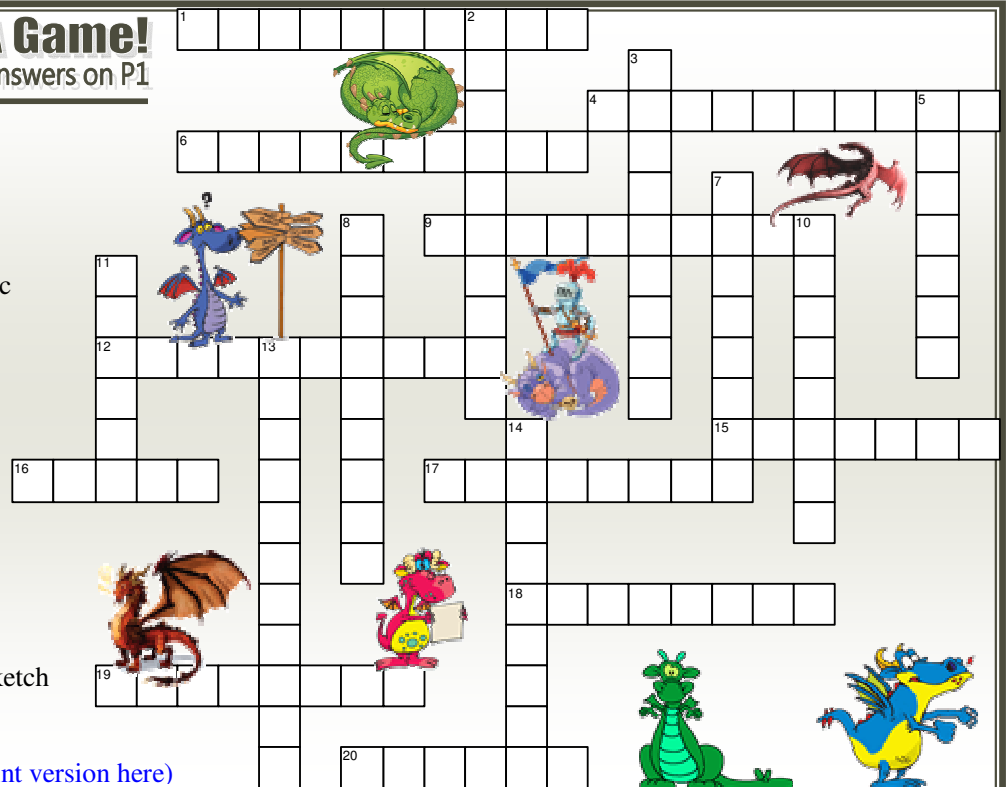
- 1 based mostly on theory
- 4 original or basic type
- 6 financial well-being
- 9 defeated
- 12 the whole extent, everywhere
- 15 no longer existing
- 16 recurring theme in art or music
- 17 at every time
- 18 leading into
- 19 goes around or centered on
- 20 give a specific task

## DOWN

- 2 having nearly the same characteristics
- 3 bring into being
- 5 belonging to times long past
- 7 in any place
- 8 made artistically
- 10 represented as a drawing or sketch
- 11 having great influence
- 13 in every case, common to all
- 14 consuming, eating

## Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1



[\(print version here\)](#)

Do you know the meanings of the following *Metaphors*? Select the correct meaning from the choices given below.

1. *It's all in the melting pot.*

- A) Everything is mixed up
- B) No decision has been made yet.



2. *It's like looking for a needle in a haystack.*

- A) It's almost impossible to do.
- B) It's very hard to see clearly ahead.



3. *It's an uphill struggle.*

- A) He has to fight to reach the top.
- B) It's very difficult to keep going.



4. *It's a storm in a teacup.*

- A) It's a lot of fuss and commotion about nothing.
- B) You should always be careful about what you drink.



5. *She's got hold of the wrong end of the stick.*

- A) He misunderstood..
- B) He doesn't know which way to go.



6. *He's over the moon.*

- A) He's gone too far and can't turn back.
- B) He's really happy and excited.



7. *He hasn't got a leg to stand on.*

- A) He had a bad accident and he still can't walk.
- B) He can't justify what he's done.



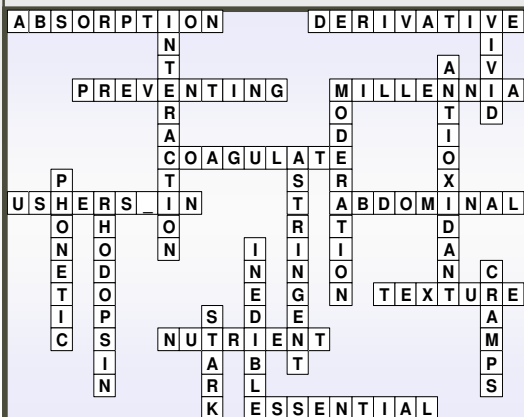
8. *He's got plenty on his plate.*

- A) He needs to go on a diet.
- B) He's got a lot to do.



9. *He gets under everyone's skin.*

- A) He really annoys everybody
- B) He understands what everyone is thinking.



## Last Month's puzzle Solution

### ACROSS

- 1 drawn or taken in
- 3 based on something
- 6 keep, stop from happening
- 7 1,000 years
- 8 transform from liquid to solid
- 11 preceding an event (2 words)
- 13 relating to the lower part of out body
- 16 the characteristics of the surface of something
- 18 found in food, provided nourishment
- 19 absolutely necessary

### DOWN

- 2 acting together
- 4 having a strong or striking color
- 5 slows down the rate of decay
- 7 with restraint or control
- 9 sour or bitter taste
- 10 relating to speech sounds
- 12 found in the eyes' retina
- 14 not suitable as food
- 15 painful muscle contraction
- 17 extreme, outstanding



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See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.