

Unit 2

Mythical Creatures



ZOOM IN... MY LEARNING JOURNEY:

Subject: Art Year: 7 Unit: 2

AIMS

- To introduce students to another style of art.
- To introduce 3D design and making.
- To discover how to produce an artist research.
- Creating a unique design and final outcome.
- To explore composition under a new theme.

DEVELOPING COURAGE

- C Confidence to work independently
- O
- U Working together to help each other
- R
- A
- G
- E Enjoying the process

PREVIOUS LEARNING

- Formal elements in art: tone, mark making, colour theory, print making and composition.
- Composition design.
- How to create final outcome.
- Observational drawing.

WHAT WE KNOW/REMEMBER

- Formal art elements
- Experimentation with media and techniques.
- How to clean up Art equipment.

UP NEXT

- Develop skills in KS3 art club.
- Advancing skills in sculpture.
- Continue to develop artist research skills.
- To explore other artists and cultures.

CAREERS

- See our career board outside Art 3!

PERSONAL OBJECTIVES

- To experiment with new equipment
- To enjoy 'happy art accidents' and learn from them.
- To transfer 2D to 3D design.
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RECOMMENDED READING

- The Creature Graden By Harry and Zanna Goldhawk
- Imagine a Forest By Dinana Mintalipova



A good read...

The Creature Garden

Harry & Zanna Goldhawk

IMAGINE A FOREST

Dinana Mintalipova

NEWT SCAMANDER FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

JK Rowling, illustrated by Olivia Lomenech Gill

Homework's:

- Mythical creature research
- Habitat research
- Bring in a glass jar

Humans have been writing stories about mythical creatures for thousand of years. Although some of our most well-known mythology originates from ancient Greece, every country has its own set of myths and legends – with some unique to specific regions. The beauty of drawing mythical creatures is that because they are (probably) not real, you're the one who chooses their shapes, colours, and patterns – and this is where the story telling component of illustration begins to emerge...

Key words:

Mythical - occurring in or characteristic of myths or folk tales.

Supernatural - unnaturally or extraordinarily great.

Magical - beautiful or delightful in a way that seems removed from everyday life

Fantasy - the faculty or activity of

imagining impossible or improbable things

Hybrid - a thing made by combining two different elements.

Habitats

- Jungle
- The sea
- Coral reef
- Forest
- Dessert
- Snow
- Mountains
- Pond
- Lakes
- Swamp
- Waterfall
- Caves
- Rainforest
- Outer Space



What are Mythical Creatures?

A legendary, mythical, and mythological creature, also called a fabulous beast and fabulous creature, is a supernatural animal, often a hybrid, sometimes part human, whose existence has not or cannot be proved and that is described in folklore but also in historical accounts before history became a science.

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An Introduction to Mythical Creatures

TROLLS

If contemporary popular culture is to be believed, trolls are small, happy-go-lucky creatures with colourful hair who break into song and dance sporadically. Trolls' roots in Scandinavian folklore, however, tell a different story. In traditional mythology, these monstrous, somewhat humanoid beings were not so cheerful, and actually quite hostile. In these stories, they occupied castles, emerging only at night because exposure to sunlight meant either a horrifying death or a life forever suspended in stone. Certain landmarks in Norway are even said to have formed from a troll that got caught out in the sun.

In other tales, these brutish creatures dwelled in the mountains and boasted overstated facial features that mirrored that of a stereotypical Neanderthal. Still, in different regional stories were trolls who made their homes deep in underground caves. These were described as being even uglier, with stubby limbs, fat bellies and slime-covered skin from all the time spent below the Earth's surface. There's some disagreement as to whether the trolls of lore were all bad. But they have been described as being perfect thieves, entering homes under a cloak of invisibility to steal food and cause other mischief.

If there's one in particular that strikes fear in the hearts of children, however, it's Grýla, the Icelandic troll woman said to terrorize families during the jolliest time of year – Christmas. Stories are told of Grýla descending from her frigid mountain lair every December to snatch up naughty boys and girls and devour them in a stew. Meanwhile, her mischievous sons, the 13 Yule Lads, started out with backstories of torment as well, but now enjoy a more pleasant reputation ... at least in comparison.

Today, trolls have pushed well beyond Norse mythology and Scandinavian folklore, and have become recurring characters in fantasy films, literature, role-playing games and yes, on toy store shelves. But as varied as their origin and evolution may be, the mythos we have created around trolls often touches on the same theme – a fear of those unlike ourselves.



Fairies

Even before the term “fairy” (alternatively spelled “faerie” or “faery”) entered the lexicon during the Middle Ages in Europe, different versions of the creature already existed in tales being passed down in regions around the world in both literature and oral traditions. Greek mythology had its nymphs. Irish folklore told of the leprechaun, an often grumpy, mischief-prone subtype of fairy. Look to the Samoans and indigenous people of the Americas, and you’ll find folk characters that bear resemblance to what was, or is, considered a fairy. Many times, fairies – also known as the fae, wee folk, good folk or people of peace – were defined as any mystical creature taking a humanoid appearance.

But what do you think of when you imagine a fairy? The first image that likely springs to mind is of a diminutive, gossamer-winged sprite – often taking the form of a beautiful woman – who uses her magical pixie dust to perform benevolent deeds for humans. While this wholesome representation of fairies commonly populates children’s storybooks in modern times, they actually have a darker and more sinister folkloric past. Some traditional stories from England, Ireland and Scotland, for example, depict these soulless, supernatural beings as wicked, temperamental entities that weren’t above murder or kidnapping if you landed on their bad side. They’re not always tiny, either. Depending on the region, fairies can be the size of a human, or even bigger.

As some of the fairy legends of western Europe go, if you come across a fairy ring – distinguished by a circle of mushrooms in a field or forest – do not dare step inside. The ring is said to be created by dancing fairies, and entering it can lead to a number of dire consequences. For example, some myths warned that you’d die young. Other stories alleged you’d be forced to dance around the ring until you died of exhaustion or went mad. Fairy rings were also believed to be instant portals to the fairy realm, where if you ate or drank anything you’d be trapped for eternity. And although humans and fairies were allowed to marry, they could only do so only under certain conditions. If those conditions were not met, the marriage ended – and sometimes, the life of the human would, too.

Task 2



Centaurs

Centaurs are a race of creatures from Greek mythology that are part man and part horse, and were said to inhabit the mountains and forests of Thessaly and Arcadia. In the ancient tales, they were notorious for lawless barbarism, with a tendency to overindulge in drink and amorous pursuits – they represented the untamed, unchecked side of mankind. The exception to this was the famed centaur Chiron, tutor to the warrior Achilles, who was wise, civilized and kind. Chiron triumphed in burying his animalistic instincts and thus was able to attain a higher level of enlightenment. His story became a symbol of the possibility of living for the sake of others rather than for one's own self-interests.

The origin of these mythical beings may be based on the very real tradition in Thessaly of hunting bulls on horseback. In fact, some sources assert that the word “centaur” comes from the meaning “bull-killer”. Thessaly also plays host to what might be the most popular tale involving centaurs: the creatures drink so much wine at the king of Lapithae's wedding that they attempt to ride off with his bride. A fierce battle ensues with the Lapiths, and the centaurs are handily defeated and driven away.

These battles between centaurs and gods or heroes – known as centauromachy – appear regularly in ancient Greek art, adorning pottery and temples. It's thought that the centaurs in these works served as a symbol of the struggle between savagery and civilization – in the Parthenon, centaurs appear among enemies of the Greek state, giants and Trojans included. In more modern literature, however, centaurs are often depicted as supporting forces of good. Although they can still be dangerous and mysterious, they also step up as allies.

Centaurs, though perhaps the most recognizable, are not the only part-human hybrid creature of ancient Greek origin. There's the harpy, a part-woman, part-bird associated with wind, the notoriously hedonistic part-goat satyr and the Minotaur, a ruthless monster with the head of a bull, just to name a few.



Mythical Creature fairy tale

Task 4

- Find a picture of mythical creature that you like, either draw it or print it.
- Write your own folk tale about that mythical creature.

What to include:

- Write a folk story about how your chosen creature became a 'Mythical Creature'.
- Try to use your imagination.
- You can type or write your homework.
- Spelling and grammar is important.
- Think... Beginning, middle and end.
- Length: 100-200 words.

Extra Bonus points:

- For anyone who decorates their page to look like an old folk story page.

Complete the work on a piece of paper to stick in your sketchbook.



Task 5

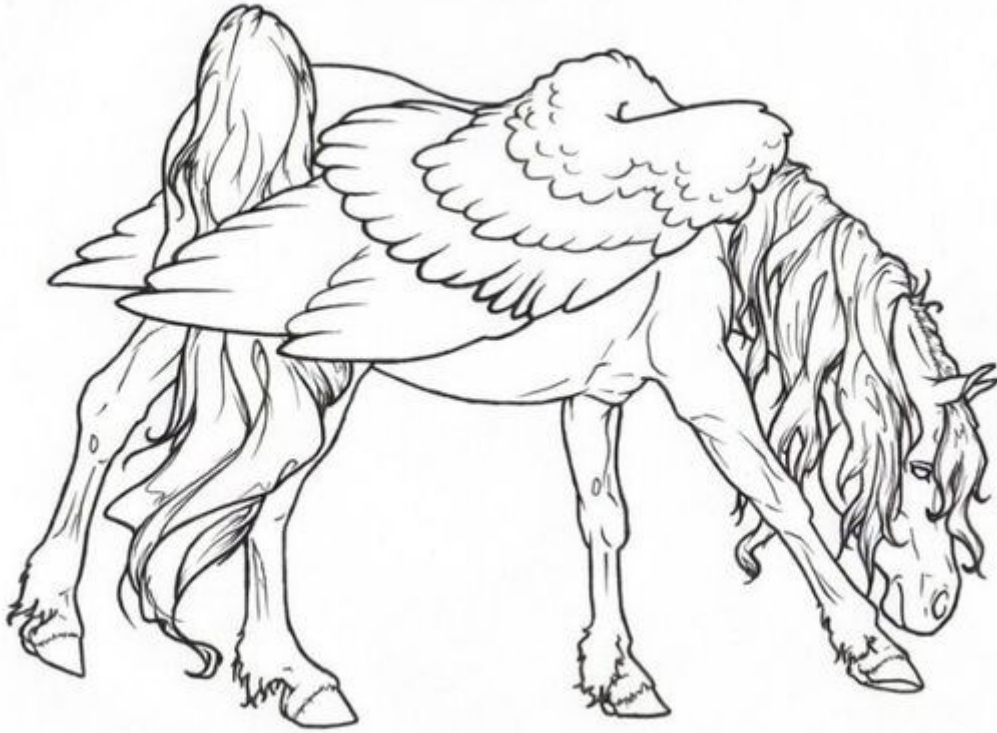
Complete the paint splodges creating your own miniature mythical creatures



Task 6

Mythical creatures are often hybrid—composed of parts of two or more animals. Colour in the mythical creatures and label all the different animal parts that you can see.

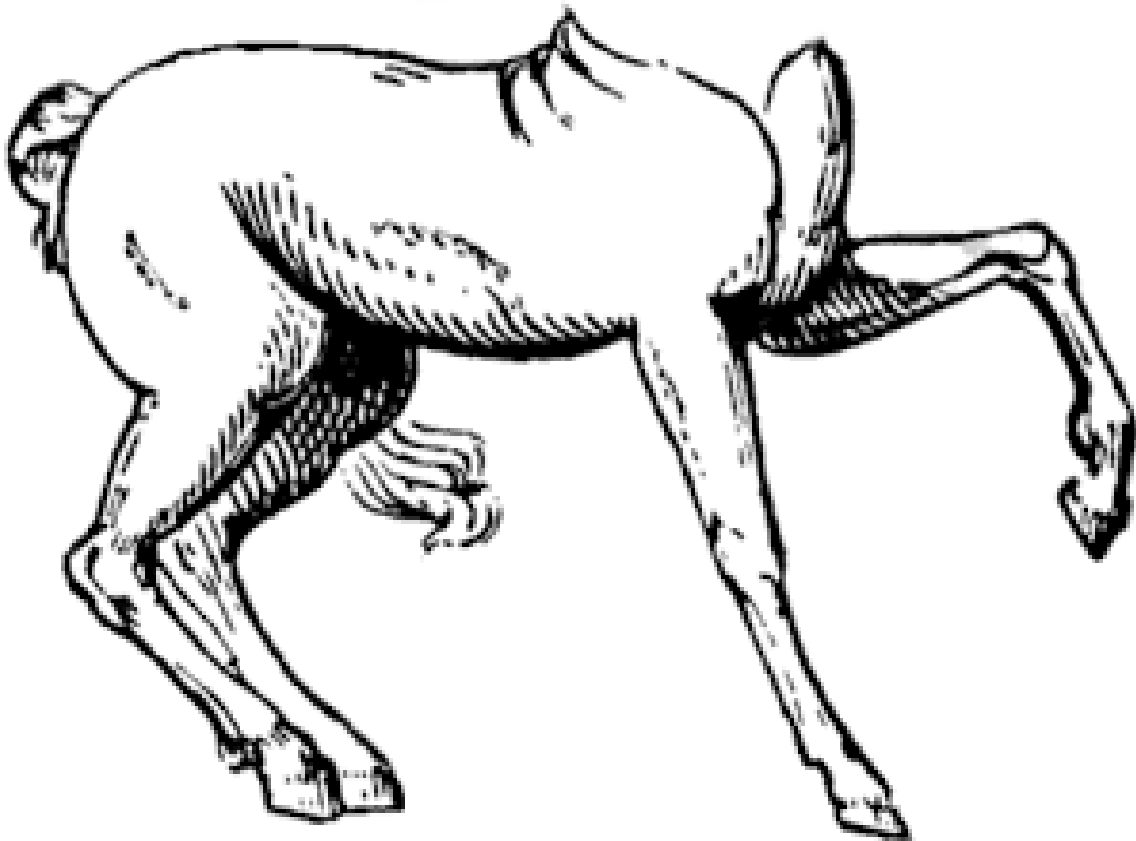






Task 7

Complete the drawings with your own mythical creature designs. Once you have drawn a light outline in pencil, colour them in. Be sure to include as much texture and detail as possible.



Artist Research—Maurice Sendak

Maurice Sendak was born on June 10, 1928 in New York City. The now-renowned children's author studied at the Art Students League and illustrated more than 80 books by other writers before authoring one himself. His most critically acclaimed work includes the dark and beloved story *Where the Wild Things Are*. Later in his career Sendak collaborated with Carole King on the musical *Really Rosie* and has done other work for the stage.

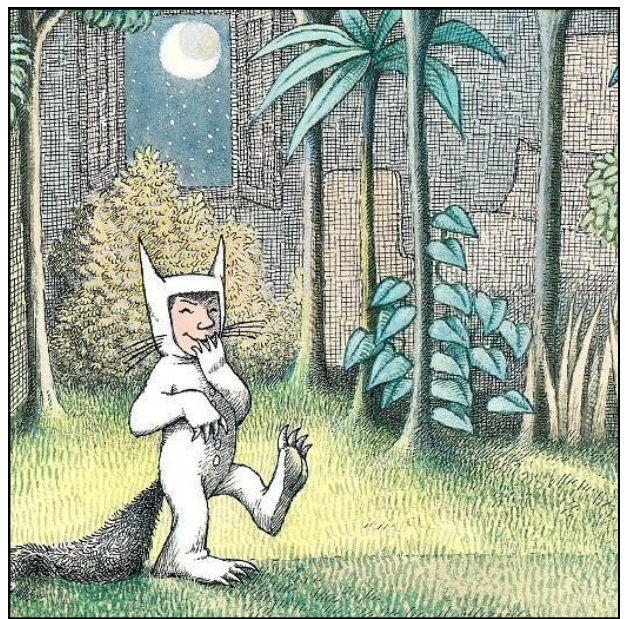
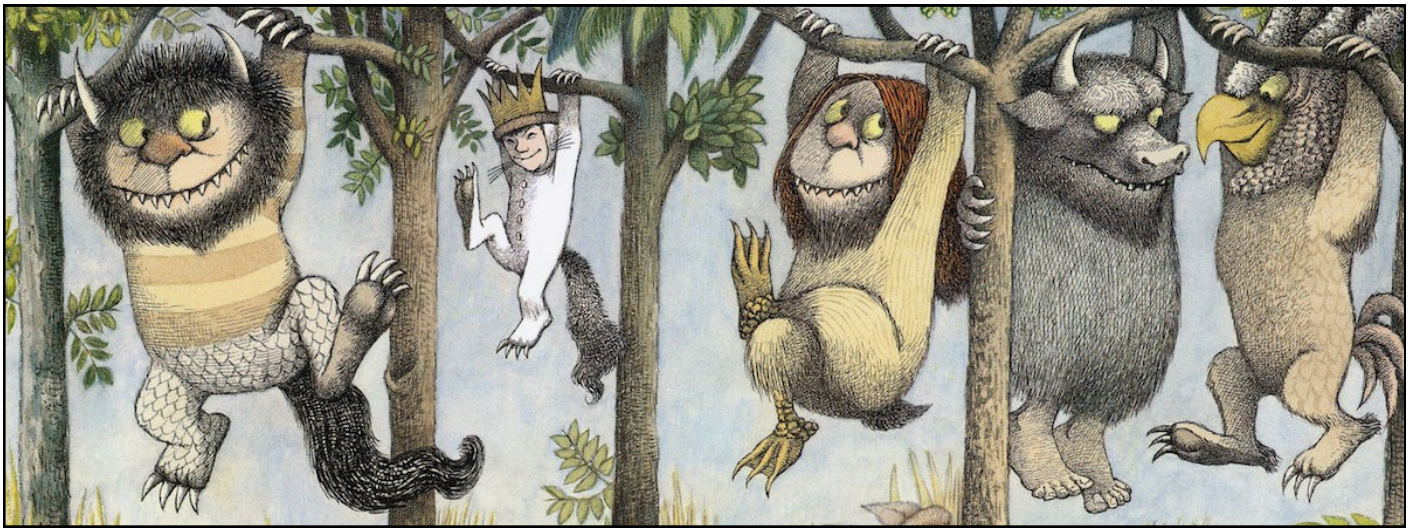
Beloved children's book author and illustrator Maurice Sendak grew up in Brooklyn, New York. The son of a dressmaker, he was a sickly child who started drawing to pass the time. Sendak excelled at art, landing a part-time job at All-American Comics while in high school.

While working on window displays for New York's famed toy store F.A.O. Schwarz in the late 1940s, Sendak met legendary children's book editor Ursula Nordstrom. She helped Sendak land his first job illustrating children's books. During the 1950s, he worked on books by such authors as Ruth Krauss and Else Holmelund Minarik.

In 1956, Sendak published *Kenny's Window*, the first children's book he both wrote and illustrated himself. Before long, he turned the children's book world upside down with his 1963 masterpiece *Where the Wild Things Are*. Sendak captured the public's imagination with this tale of a boy's journey into a strange land inhabited by grotesque yet appealing monsters.

Sendak's dark, moody illustrations were a shocking contrast to the usually light and happy fare found in a typical children's book of the time. The main character Max, like many of Sendak's protagonists, acted like a real child, not some idealized version of youth.

Sendak died on May 8, 2012, at a hospital in Danbury, Connecticut. The 83-year-old had suffered a stroke a few days earlier. Sendak will long be remembered for his outstanding contributions to children's literature. His stories and images have left a lasting impression in the minds and hearts of generations of reader—both young and old.





Task 9

Copy one of the two drawings by Maurice Sendak. Draw a light outline in pencil first concentrating on shape and proportions. Once you have achieved the outlines start adding details with coloured pencil.

Habitat research: You are now going to research the

habitat that your own creature is going to live in. Pick a habitat and create a fact file page on your chosen habitat.

This will assist you with the next design step.

My habitat is the.....

Facts about my habitat:

♦

♦

♦

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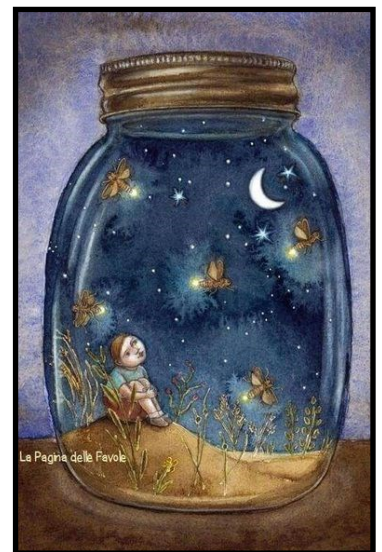
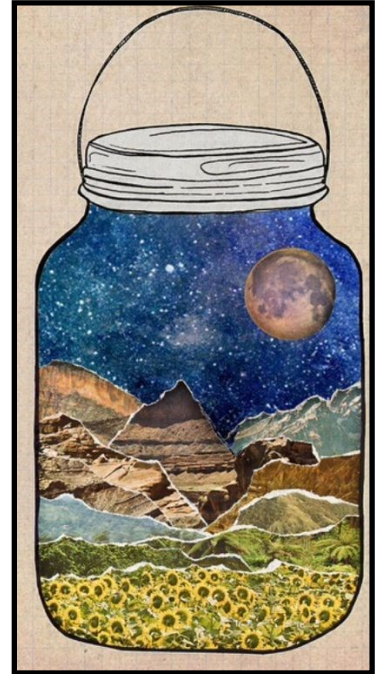
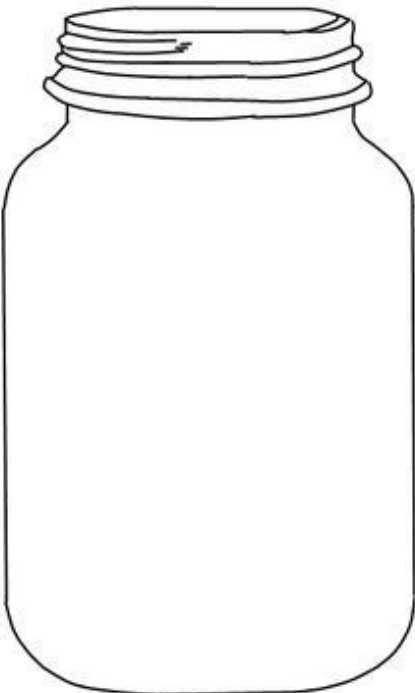
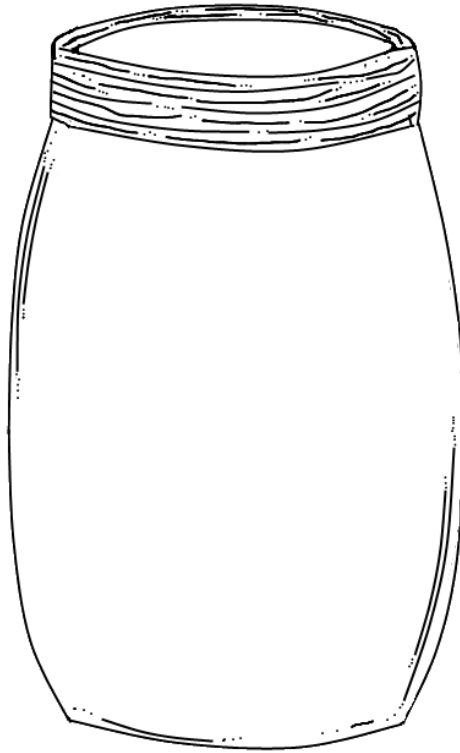
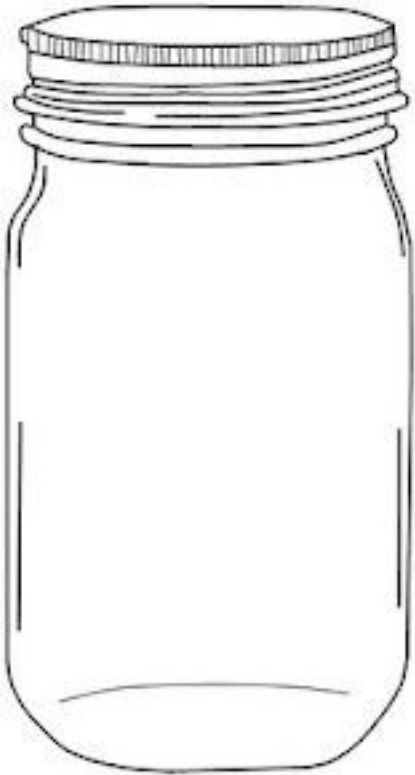
Drawing of chosen habitat.....

Task 10

- Jungle
- The sea
- Coral reef
- Forest
- Dessert
- Snow
- Mountains
- Pond
- Lakes
- Swamp
- Waterfall
- Caves
- Rainforest
- Outer Space

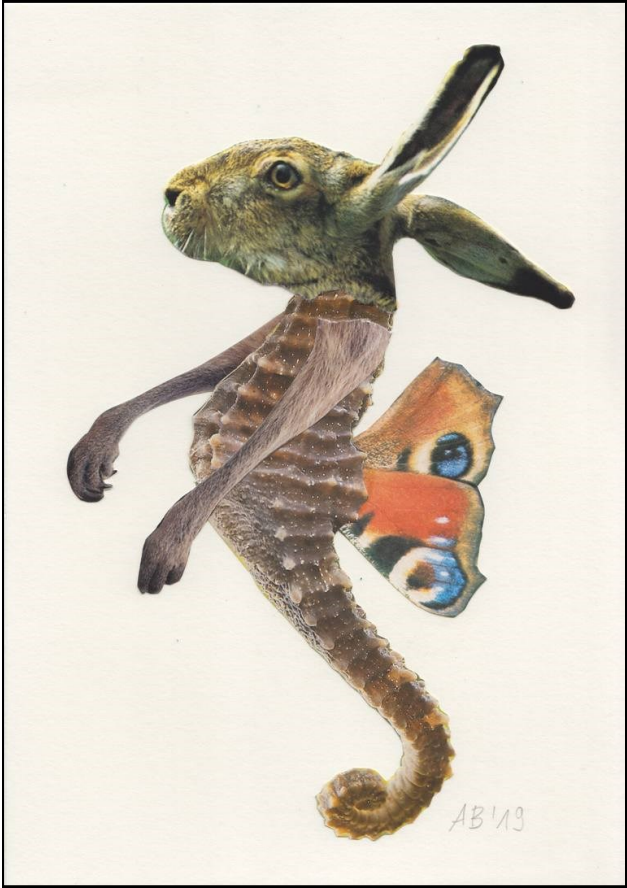
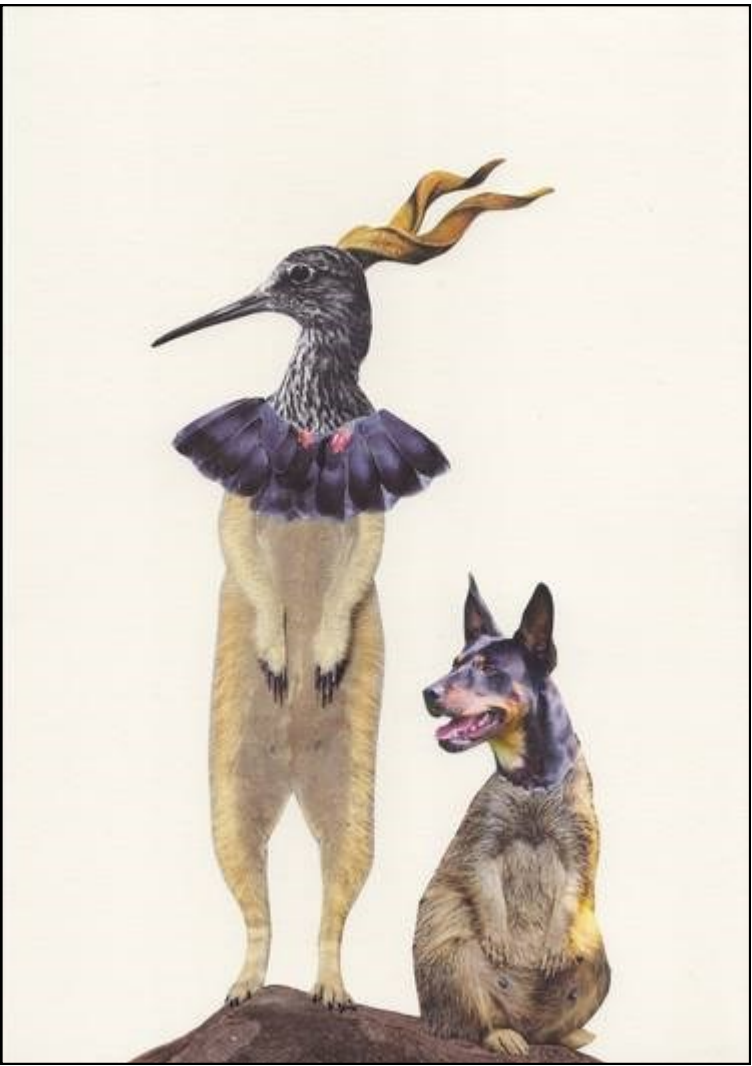
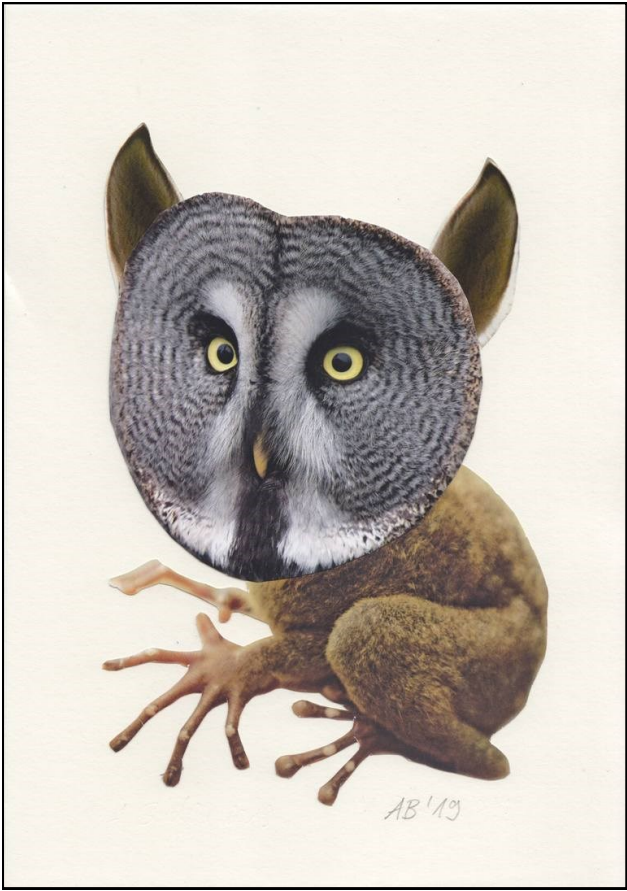
Drawing of chosen habitat....

Habitat designs: Create your own habitat terrarium (a mini world in a jar, see image examples). Explore a variety of ideas. Colour it in with colouring pencils.



Artist Research

Anka Buchler



Artist Research—Anka Buchler

ABOUT ANKA BÜCHLER

Anka Büchler is an illustrator and graphic designer living and working in Berlin. She is fascinated by the world of animals and fables. Particularly impressed she is by the phenomenon of the Wolpertinger and their origin. This shy mythical creature consist of body parts of different native animals. It flits through the Bavarian Forest by night and only very rarely someone gets a glimpse of him. The birth of these unusual creatures should be about 200 years ago and have started with the great “love” between a rabbit and a buck. Based on this love story Anka Büchler creates first colored paper collages, then black and white drawings and later silk screen prints and riso prints.

Task 12

Create your own collage in the style of Anka Buchler. Use materials from papers and magazines. Cut them out and create your own fantastic creature. Stick them down on a piece of paper so we can stick this in your sketchbook.

