

BASILISK (also known as the King of Serpents)

M.O.M. Classification: XXXXX

The first recorded Basilisk was bred by Herpo the Foul, a Greek Dark wizard and Parselmouth, who discovered after much experimentation that a chicken egg hatched beneath a toad would produce a gigantic serpent possessed of extraordinarily dangerous powers.

The Basilisk is a brilliant green serpent that may reach up to fifty feet in length. The male has a scarlet plume upon its head. It has exceptionally venomous fangs but its most dangerous means of attack is the gaze of its large yellow eyes. Anyone looking directly into these will suffer instant death.

If the food source is sufficient (the Basilisk will eat all mammals and birds and most reptiles), the serpent may attain a very great age. Herpo the Foul's Basilisk is believed to have lived for close on nine hundred years.

The creation of Basilisks has been illegal since medieval times, although the practice is easily concealed by simply removing the chicken egg from beneath the toad when the Department for the Regulation and Control of Magical Creatures comes to call. However, since Basilisks are uncontrollable except by Parselmouths, they are as dangerous to most Dark wizards as to anybody else, and there have been no recorded sightings of Basilisks in Britain for at least four hundred years.

that's what you think



Fantastic Beasts



CENTAUR

M.O.M. Classification: XXXX⁵

The centaur has a human head, torso, and arms joined to a horse's body which may be any of several colours. Being intelligent and capable of speech, it should not strictly speaking be termed a beast, but by its own request it has been classified as such by the Ministry of Magic (see the Introduction to this book).

The centaur is forest-dwelling. Centaurs are believed to have originated in Greece, though there are now centaur communities in many parts of Europe. Wizarding authorities in each of the countries where centaurs are found have allocated areas where the centaurs will not be troubled by Muggles; however, centaurs stand in little need of wizard protection, having their own means of hiding from humans.

The ways of the centaur are shrouded in mystery. They are generally speaking as mistrustful of wizards as they are of Muggles and indeed seem to make little differentiation between us. They live in herds ranging in size from ten to fifty members. They are reputed to be well-versed in magical healing, divination, archery, and astronomy.

DOXY

(sometimes known as Biting Fairy)

M.O.M. Classification: XXX

The Doxy is often mistaken for a fairy (see page 16) though it is a quite separate species. Like the fairy, it has a minute human form, though in the Doxy's case this is covered in thick black hair and has an extra pair of arms and legs. The Doxy's wings are thick, curved, and shiny, much like a beetle's. Doxies are found throughout northern Europe and America, preferring cold climates. They lay up to five hundred eggs at a time and bury them. The eggs hatch in two to three weeks.

Doxies have double rows of sharp, venomous teeth. An antidote should be taken if bitten.



Fantastic Beasts

Please answer the following questions carefully in your books.

1. A Basilisk may reach up to how long? (1 mark)
a) 50 feet b) 15 feet c) 55 feet
2. If you look into a Basilisk's eye what happens? (1 mark)
3. What does 'extraordinarily dangerous powers' mean? (1 mark)
4. Which word in the text has the closest meaning to achieve? (1 mark)
5. Explain what 'easily concealed' means. (1 mark)
6. Where do Centaurs live? (1 mark)
7. What are a Centaurs strengths? How would these benefit them? (3 marks)
8. Why is a Doxie similar to a beetle? (2 marks)
9. What should you do if bitten by a Doxie? (1 mark)
10. How should a muggle act if they meet a Basilisk? (3 marks)
11. Why is a Centaur classes as a 'beast' ? (2 marks)
12. What does 'originated' mean? (1mark)

Check the marks for each question. Have you answered from the text?