

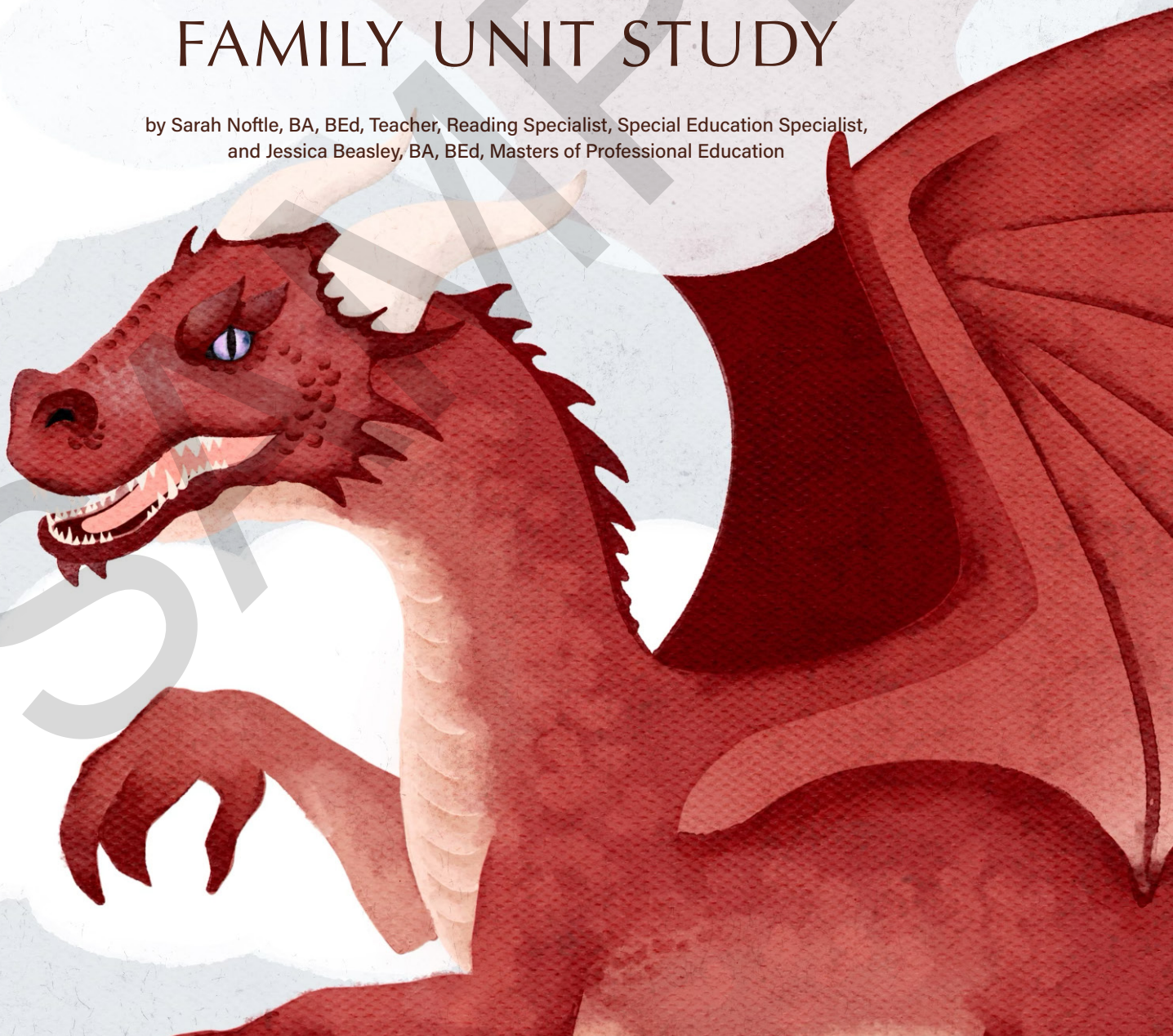


LEGENDS & LORE

Mythical Creatures

FAMILY UNIT STUDY

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Welcome!



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What to Expect

Thank you for choosing one of How Wee Learn's Family Unit Studies! If you are new to Family Unit Studies, I invite you to take a moment to review the "What to Expect" below, as well as the suggested schedule on the following page.

A unit study focuses on critical thinking and problem-solving, allowing children to dive deep into fascinating topics and engage in meaningful learning. When a child is engaged in what they are learning, that learning sticks. And when a child is engaged and fascinated by what they are learning, learning is amazingly fun for the whole family! Say goodbye to those power struggles.

Our unit studies are divided into ten topics with manageable, bite-sized amounts of information. Each topic includes:

- **Interesting Fact:** Did you know that elephants suck their trunks much like babies suck their thumbs? Or that a human has the same number of neck bones as a giraffe? Interesting facts are an excellent way to spark a child's interest and imagination!
- **Discussion Question:** Asking the right questions and having meaningful discussions is a wonderful way to meet your child at their level of understanding and help them grow. So much can be learned through one meaningful discussion!
- **Curated YouTube Video:** Dive into fun and easy learning with experts in the field, entertaining stories, and inspiring tales, all selected to highlight key learning concepts. Enjoy a snuggle on the couch, learning with popcorn and a movie!
- **Book Suggestion:** The book suggestions for each topic are just that—suggestions. Any books related to the topic are strongly encouraged. Immersing your child in a literacy-rich environment and offering plenty of time to explore is key for child-led learning.
- **Math Enrichment:** Each unit study includes five math enrichment questions with three levels so they are fitting

for ages 4 to 12. These questions cover the five strands of math: Number Sense, Algebra, Data, Spatial Sense, and Financial Literacy. This is not a full math curriculum, of course, but an enrichment opportunity and a chance to be exposed to real-world math. As you go through a question, consider how you might ask a follow-up question. Perhaps, "What would happen if there were 6 birds instead of 5?"

- **Literacy Enrichment:** There are so many opportunities to integrate literacy development throughout each unit study! Reading, researching, recording information, labeling, and note-taking all happen naturally. On top of this, each unit study includes five literacy enrichment activities with three levels so they are fitting for ages 4 to 12.
- **Hands-on Activity:** The hands-on activity brings the information shared and discussed to life! These activities allow children to engage in and solidify their learning.
- **What's Happening:** This ensures any information you need for the hands-on activity is right at your fingertips. This may include background information on the topic, the science behind an experiment you perform, etc.
- **Extension Activity:** Some activities might feel too young for your learner. If that's the case, this section is for you! The extension activity shares how to make the hands-on activity more challenging or enriching, ensuring every child is met with appropriate developmental activities.

I hope you and your family love this unit study!

If you have any questions at all, please email me at customercare@howweelearn.com.

xo Sarah



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Suggested Schedule

These unit studies are completely flexible—there is no right or wrong way to dive in. When learning is this exciting, you simply cannot go wrong! Below are two possible ways you might choose to use these unit studies.

10-Day Focused Unit Study

Your family might choose to focus on one unit study topic a day, completing the entire unit study over a 10-day period:

Day 1	Morning 30-60 mins	Complete core skill work with one page of How Wee Learn Literacy and one page of How Wee Learn Math for your child's specific grade. Next, introduce Topic 1 of this unit study with the interesting fact, discussion question, and YouTube video.
	Afternoon 30-60 mins	Complete Topic 1 by diving into the math or literacy enrichment question, the hands-on activity, and the optional extension activity!
Day 2	Morning 30-60 mins	Complete core skill work with one page of How Wee Learn Literacy and one page of How Wee Learn Math for your child's specific grade. Next, introduce Topic 2 of this unit study with the interesting fact, discussion question, and YouTube video.
	Afternoon 30-60 mins	Complete Topic 2 by diving into the math or literacy enrichment question, the hands-on activity, and the optional extension activity!

Etc., repeating until all 10 topics are covered.

One-Month Blended Unit Study

Alternatively, your family might choose to blend this unit study with your core skills and family adventures, completing it at a more leisurely pace. For example, 2-3 afternoons per week:

Day 1	Morning 30-60 mins	Complete core skill work with one page of How Wee Learn Literacy and one page of How Wee Learn Math for your child's specific grade.
	Afternoon 60 mins	Complete Topic 1 of this unit study by chatting about the interesting fact and discussion question, watching the YouTube video, doing the math or literacy enrichment question, and diving into the hands-on activity!
Day 2	Morning 30-60 mins	Complete core skill work with one page of How Wee Learn Literacy and one page of How Wee Learn Math for your child's specific grade.
	Afternoon 60 mins	Head outside for a nature walk, go to the park, or play board games!
Day 3	Morning 30-60 mins	Complete core skill work with one page of How Wee Learn Literacy and one page of How Wee Learn Math for your child's specific grade.
	Afternoon 60 mins	Complete Topic 2 of this unit study by chatting about the interesting fact and discussion question, watching the YouTube video, doing the math or literacy enrichment question, and diving into the hands-on activity!

Etc., repeating until all 10 topics are covered.



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Scope & Sequence

Family Unit Studies allow your child to explore one big topic through multiple subjects: reading, writing, math, science, history, geography, social studies, health, music, art, and life skills. This has been shown to make learning more meaningful and memorable—it makes learning stick! We use “cross-curricular connections” to help children see how ideas are linked in the real world, keeping them engaged and deepening their understanding.

As a parent, it’s important to feel confident in the rich learning you’re guiding your child through. That’s why we’ve included this Scope and Sequence—not as an exhaustive list, but as a helpful starting point to show how key learning standards are met (and often exceeded!) through deep, connected experiences.

We hope this Scope and Sequence encourages you to look creatively at each Family Unit Study and see how the hands-on learning and fun are a part of an intentional, impactful, learning-filled journey.

Math	Topics
Algebra	Create and translate patterns 2
Number sense	Solve addition, subtraction & multiplication problems 4
Coding	Use coordinates, timing & loops in Scratch 5
Financial literacy	Solve spending, budgeting & saving problems 6
Spatial sense	Identify and use 2D shapes & 3D objects 8
Data	Sort, tally & compare data in a two-way table 10

Literacy	Topics
Listening & speaking	Daily “Spark Curiosity” discussion and video debriefs. All
Reading comprehension	Through book suggestions and read-alouds in each topic. All
Vocabulary	Identify and label dragon anatomy 1
Handwriting	Trace, print, write sentences & practice cursive 1, 3, 5
Creative writing & poetry	Write poems, stories, journal entries & origin stories 3, 4, 7, 10
Making connections	Connect imaginative prompts to stories & writing 7
Informational writing & research	Research and record habitat & animal information 2, 3
Word study & word play	Build words starting with the letters in MYTHOLOGY 9

Science	Topics
Ecosystems & food chains	Build a food chain within a chosen habitat 2
Habitats & adaptations	Research habitats and animal adaptations 2
Sound & vibrations	Compare sound traveling through air & water 3
Animal communication	Explore how ocean animals use sound 3
Classification & evidence	Sort real wolf traits from mythical features 4
Computational thinking	Code, test & debug a Scratch animation 5

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Engineering & structures	Design and strengthen a multi-level fairy home	8
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History	Topics
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Mythology & folklore over time	Explore myths passed down through generations	All
Ancient civilizations & mythology	Examine myths from several ancient cultures	1, 6, 9, 10
Medieval traditions & storytelling	Explore unicorn and griffin traditions	2, 5
Continuity & change	Compare older legends with modern portrayals	4

Geography	Topics
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World map skills & regional identification	Locate and label Central America, East Asia, and Europe on a world map	1
Cultural geography	Connect myths to local environments & traditions	1, 3, 6, 7, 10
Physical geography & habitats	Research features of different habitats	2
Map-making & conventions	Create a map with legend, compass rose & scale	7

Social Studies	Topics
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Culture, beliefs & traditions	Explore mythical creatures across cultures	All
Folklore & cultural explanations	Explore myths used to explain nature & fears	1, 4, 5, 7
Cultural comparison	Compare similar myths across cultures	1, 6, 7, 8, 10
Fact, fiction & evidence	Distinguish real evidence from mythical claims	3, 4
Symbols, values & meaning	Explore symbolism in mythical creatures	1, 2, 6, 10

Relationships & community	Create rules for kindness, safety, and respect in a mythical forest community	7
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Health	Topics
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Social-emotional learning	Explore themes of hope, strength & new beginnings	6
Personal safety	Practice safe use of tools	3, 8

Music	Topics
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Pitch & sound	Compare pitch from straws of different lengths	9
Instruments	Build and play a pan flute	9
Composition & musical expression	Compose a playful satyr-inspired song	9

Art	Topics
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Drawing & illustration	Design and illustrate mythical creatures	1, 6, 10
Mixed-media art & collage	Combine drawing, cutting & collage	2, 10
Watercolor & resist techniques	Explore resist, blending, texture & gradients	6
3D construction & environmental art	Build a fairy home from natural materials	8

Life Skills	Topics
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Research & information gathering	Research habitats & animal communication	2, 3
Planning & organization	Plan designs, materials & construction steps	8
Collaboration & communication	Discuss, brainstorm & complete activities together	6

SAMPLE

FAMILY UNIT STUDY

Mythical Creatures



TOPIC ONE

Dragons

Dragons appear in stories from many parts of the world, from ancient China and Japan to Europe and the Middle East. Some were wise and powerful guardians of water and rain, while others were fierce creatures said to live in caves or guard hidden treasure. People told dragon stories to explain storms, mountains, and the mysteries of nature. What did different cultures believe about dragons, and why have these mighty creatures appeared in so many legends around the world? Let's explore...

Spark Curiosity



Did You Know? In many Asian stories, dragons are kind and wise creatures that control rain, rivers, and clouds.



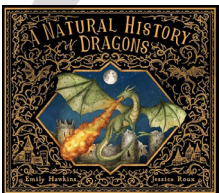
I Wonder... Why do so many cultures imagine giant flying reptiles?

Resource Suggestions



Did Dragons Ever Exist? | Story Of The Dragon | The Dr Binocs Show | Peekaboo Kidz by Peekaboo Kidz

The video explores dragon legends from around the world.



A Natural History of Dragons by Emily Hawkins

Within these pages you will meet mysterious and majestic dragons from around the globe, read about ancient lore and superstitions, learn about their life cycle, anatomy, habits and habitats, and discover the secrets behind dragon flight.

Enrichment Question

Subject Focus: *Literacy (Vocabulary)*



Parts of a Dragon



L1 Cut and paste each label in the correct location. Tell your grown-up your favorite thing you've learned about dragons.



L2 Trace then cut and paste each label in the correct location. Write a sentence describing your favorite thing you've learned about dragons.



L3 Look at the labels, then write each body part in your best handwriting in the correct location. Write a paragraph describing your favorite things you've learned about dragons.

Hands-On Activity

Subject Focus: *Geography, Social Studies, Art*



Dragons Around the World

See the next page for your hands-on activity instructions!



HANDS-ON ACTIVITY: GEOGRAPHY, SOCIAL STUDIES, ART

Dragons Around the World

Materials

Crayons, markers, or colored pencils



Dragons Around the World

Directions

1. Look at your world map. You will see three areas highlighted on your world map. With your grown-up's help, identify and label each region as one of the following:
 - Central America
 - East Asia
 - Europe
2. As you read the What's Happening section, color in the three dragons that represent a Central American dragon, an East Asian dragon, and a European dragon.

Extension Activity

Dragon myths were often influenced by local environments, beliefs, and traditions. Think about your own local environment, beliefs, and traditions, and design your own dragon. Consider body shape, powers, and special features adapted from animals in your region. What would your dragon look like? Draw or describe it.

What's Happening?

Dragon myths appear all over the world, with each region imagining dragons differently based on its environment, beliefs, and traditions.

Below are three types of dragons you will color and label on your map:



Central America: A feathered serpent called Quetzalcoatl combines the features of a bird and a snake. It is linked to wind, life, and learning. It is often seen as a creator and helper of humanity.



East Asia: Dragons are often viewed as powerful, but also wise and kind. They are long and snake-like, usually without wings, and are closely connected to water, rivers, rain, and good fortune.



Europe: Dragons are often seen as dangerous. They have large wings, sharp claws, and breathe fire. They live in caves, mountains, or near castles and were sometimes said to guard treasure. They often symbolize chaos or danger.

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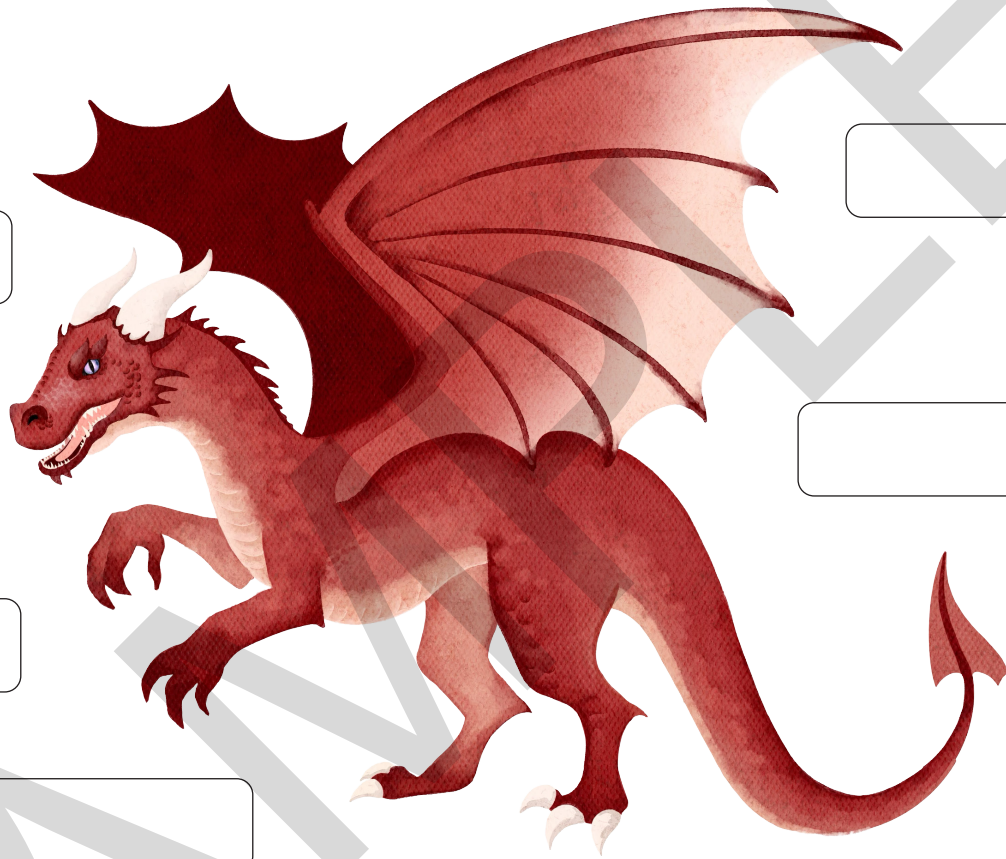
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Printables



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Parts of a Dragon



Wing Web

Horns

Tail

Belly

Talons

Hind Feet

Front Feet

Wing Web

Horns

Tail

Belly

Talons

Hind Feet

Front Feet



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Dragons Around the World

