In The Hands of A Child

Grades 4 and Up

Project Pack

Mythological Creatures

Around the World

A Ready-to-Assemble

Hands-On Unit

Including Reproducibles
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Mythical Creatures Around the World
HOCPP 1160
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Bringing Laughter and Learning Together
In the Hands of a Child

From the day we first began using and creating Project Packs we fell in love with them. We knew that this type of hands-on learning experience was just the thing that was needed to make boring unit studies not only educational but fun and exciting too!

To help you get started with your Project Pack, we have included some of the most frequently asked questions we receive about our Project Packs.

What is a Project Pack?
A Project Pack contains both the activities and the lesson plans or research guide needed to complete the activities. Imagine your child not only learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, but also creating a cocoon of his or her own. Students don’t just read the story, *Blueberry Sal* by Robert McCloskey- they enjoy a “blue day” complete with a recipe for blueberry pancakes, making a “blue” collage, and don’t forget painting a “blue” picture!

Why is this a better way to learn? How does this help me?
Student learning improves when lessons incorporate hands-on projects or crafts. Children learn by doing. Project Packs put learning into their hands! The possibilities are endless when your student begins a lapbook with a Project Pack from In the Hands of a Child. There are no age or skill limits and any topic or subject can be worked into a Project Pack.

When you purchase a Project Pack from In the Hands of a Child, all the work is done for you-the parent/teacher, but not for the student. In addition, Project Packs are easy to store, are an instant review tool, scrapbook, and a ready-made portfolio of all your student’s studies.

How do I make a Project Pack?
A Project Pack is simply a file folder refolded into a shutter-style book. Open a file folder flat, fold each side into the middle and crease the fold neatly. There you have it!

What supplies do I need?
You need file folders, paper in different colors and weights*, your student’s favorite coloring tools, tape, glue, scissors, and a stapler.

*For a more colorful and appealing Project Pack, it is suggested you print some of the reproducible graphics on colorful, multi-purpose paper. We recommend 24# weight or cardstock.
Adapting a Project Pack to Fit the Needs of Your Student

Adapting a Project or Research Pack is key to ensuring that you provide the best lesson for your student. At first glance, some might just skip over an activity because they feel it is too easy or too difficult for their student. We want you to use all the activities we provide…they are easily adaptable!

For example, if you have a PK-3 student the vocabulary activities might be difficult for him or her to complete. Here are some tips to help you adapt the activities that require your student to write:

1. Have your student dictate vocabulary words and their meanings as you write them.
2. Have your child draw a picture instead of writing.
3. You write the word or sentence first so your student can see how it is written (many of our Project Packs also include activities with dotted lines for easy copy work).
4. Practice. Practice. Practice. In the car, on a walk, in the shopping cart! Practice saying the vocabulary words and what they mean. Before you know it your preschooler will be telling others what those words mean!
5. Contact us. We would be happy to give you ideas for adapting specific units to a grade level.

On the other hand, some of the activities may seem too easy for your student. Does your 5th grade level student want to learn about butterflies, but the Project Pack seems too easy? Try it anyway; just change things up a bit to suit your student’s grade level and skill. Here are some tips to help you adapt the activities to make them a little more difficult:

1. In addition to writing down vocabulary words and their meanings, ask your student to use the word in a sentence; either verbally or written.
2. Give your student one hour (or reasonable time frame) to research the topic on his or her own either online or at the library. Give your student a set of questions and see what he or she can find without your guidance.
3. Encourage your student to expand on the topic or choose a related subject to learn about.
4. Take a look at some of our preschool units…there is a lot of clipart related to each topic included. Have an older student cut these out and write a story or play about the pictures.
5. Contact us. We would be happy to give you ideas for adapting specific units to a grade level.

These are just few ways you can adapt a Project Pack to meet the needs of your student. Let your student be the judge if something is too easy or too difficult…you just might be surprised!
The Website links we have included in our guides are references we found that contain relevant information. However, the sites are not owned or maintained by In the Hands of a Child. The content may have changed or become a “dead” link. If you find the site contains inappropriate material or is no longer a relevant site, please let us know. Thank you.

Educator Notes:______________________________________________

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______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Guide</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Reading</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Instructions</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder Instructions</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Picture</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Guide</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is a Mythical Creature</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia &amp; New Zealand</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Creatures</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproducibles</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answer Key</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Vocabulary Words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>Temple Medieval Serpent Gryphon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>Mortal Folklore Prosperity Taboo Totem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>Mythical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td>Europe – United Kingdom, Germany, Scandinavia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 6</td>
<td>Australia and New Zealand Middle East – Babylon, Mesopotamia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 7</td>
<td>Centaur Cyclops Faun Minotaur Sphinx Unicorn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have student complete vocabulary words slotted for each day from activity 1, then read the sections of the guide slotted for the day and any extra books you have on the topic. Finish up each day by having them complete the activities scheduled for that day.

**NOTE:** Items marked with a * are in text-boxed areas in the guide.
### Day 8
**Cryptozoology**
Poisonous

*Is the Giraffe a Mythical Creature?*
Middle East – Turkey
*Cryptozoology*
17 – Turkish Dragons
18 – A Giraffe by Any Other Name...
19 - Mistaken Identity

1 – Vocabulary

### Day 9
**Kraken**
Mermaid
Siren
Tentacles

**Ocean Creatures**
Europe – Scandinavia
*Kraken
*Siren
*Mermaid*

20 – Mythological Creatures of the Ocean
23 – The Kraken
25 – Sirens and Mermaids

1 – Vocabulary

### Day 10
**Phoenix**

*Phoenix*

24 – Phoenix
9 – My Myth

1 – Vocabulary

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*Have student complete vocabulary words slotted for each day from activity 1, then read the sections of the guide slotted for the day and any extra books you have on the topic. Finish up each day by having them complete the activities scheduled for that day.*

*NOTE: Items marked with a * are in text-boxed areas in the guide.*
Related Books and Links
From In the Hands of a Child
Ancient Rome HOCPP 1020
Ancient Greece HOCPP 1037
Ancient Mesopotamia HOCPP 1035
Ancient Egypt HOCPP 1030
Vikings HOCPP 1082
Gods and Heroes of Ancient Sumer HOCPP 1111
Ancient China HOCPP 1113
Ancient India HOCPP 1114
Narnia HOCPP 1053

A Field Guide to Irish Fairies by Bob Curran
Alexander and the Dragon by Katharine Holabird
Bigfoot by Heather Mills
Cyrus the Unsinkable Sea Serpent by Bill Peet
Dragons Dragons and Other Creatures That Never Were by Eric Carle
How to Speak Dragonese by Cressida Cowell
Kickle Snifters and Other Fearsome Critters by Alvin Schwartz
Leprechauns Never Lie by Lorna Balian
Let’s Go, Pegasus! A Greek Myth retold by Jean Marzollo
Masters at Loch Ness by Sally Berke
Mythical Birds and Beasts from Many Lands by Margaret Mayo
No Such Things by Bill Peet
Saint George and the Dragon retold by Margaret Hodges
Sea Monsters by Aaron Sautter

Bibliography

http://www.himmapan.com/
http://elt.britcoun.org.pl/elt/m_azcreat.htm
http://www.eaudrey.com/myth/
http://www.rambles.net/folklore.html
Creating a Lapbook Base

**Basic Lapbook Base**
- Open a file folder and lay it flat.
- Fold both right and left edges toward the center so they meet and close like a pair of shutters.
- Crease firmly.

**Base with Single or Double Extensions**
- Complete the basic lapbook base.
- Open base and lay flat.
- Cut another folder in half or use a sheet of cardstock for the extension.
- Lay the extension in the center of folder at either the top or bottom. (You may add two extensions if need be; one at the top and one at the bottom).
- Attach to base with clear packing tape.

**Double Folder Base**
- Make two base folders.
- Open them and lay them side by side with outer flaps pointing straight up, not flat.
- Where the two flaps meet glue them together.
- Fold center flap to one side, fold both shutters in and close folders like a book.
Mythological Creatures of the World

In the movie *Shrek*, Shrek and Donkey must rescue Princess Fiona from the fire-breathing dragon. Tales of sea-faring sailors crossing the Mediterranean Sea describe mermaids and sirens that lured the sailors with a beautiful song. In medieval times, a king would spend his entire life trying to capture a unicorn. For thousands of years, people have told folktales, myths, and stories about legendary creatures. Some, like the dragon and the gryphon, originated in ancient mythology. Others, like the unicorn, may have been based on real creatures whose descriptions changed through years of storytelling. Still others, such as the giant squid, have even been proven to be real animals! Whether these creatures were real or make-believe, no fairy tale, Greek or Roman myth, medieval legend, or Chinese folk tale would be complete without them!

What is a Mythical Creature?

Close your eyes and picture the head of a zebra on the body of a fish. Or try to picture a horse with a single horn growing out of its forehead and magical wings enabling it to fly. You have just imagined a mythical creature! A mythical creature is an imaginary one. The dragon and the unicorn began in traditional myths. Ancient people actually believed these creatures to be real at one time. Other creatures were based on actual animals whose descriptions changed as the stories were told over the years. Across all of the regions of the world, you will find a variety of mythical creatures!

Asia

India

- The Indian Gryphon is from the Middle East and the mountainous regions of Northeastern India. The Gryphon is said to have the characteristics of both the lion and the eagle. The eagle-half is in the front and the lion-half is in the back. It is a fierce looking creature that stands about 2 feet higher than a large horse. It has strong wings on its back, long ears, sharp eyes, and a hooked beak. Gryphons have heavy rear paws and are strong hunters.

Some mythical creatures are a combination of two or more animals. Examples include the

Centaur (combination of man and horse)

and the

Minotaur (combination of man and bull).
Activity 2

Mythical Creatures: What they Are, How they Began