



## A DRAGON'S WORLD

The dragon is a legendary animal, similar to a huge lizard or snake, that appears in stories and art from all over the world. Dragons typically are portrayed as having scaly skin, a powerful jaw with sharp teeth, four legs with long claws, and a long tail. Horns, spikes, and bat-like wings also may sprout from their body.

Now it is up to you to save the precious dragons. Unearth the secrets of the Dragons!

### HOW TO DIG:

1. Find a clear, flat workspace such as a tabletop. Then cover it with newspaper so you don't make a mess.
2. Use the digging tool to scrape the dragon egg.
3. As the block breaks apart, use the brush to sweep away the small pieces and dust.
4. Once you've uncovered all the dragons, use the following guide and learning cards to discover more.
5. Clean up your tools, work area, and hands.



### ANATOMY - SIZING UP THE DRAGON

Dragons are different sizes, of course. They start out as eggs, from 1-4 feet in length, and about half that in diameter. As adults, some dragons can be as long as 85 feet, with a wingspan of 170 feet.

#### EYES

A dragon's eye has a large iris and a vertical pupil, like a cat. This allows the pupil to open extremely wide.

#### SKIN

A dragon's thick, scaly skin is so strong and tough, it serves as the dragon's own natural armor!

#### TAIL

A dragon's tail is stronger than its arms! Sometimes the end of its tail is shaped like an arrowhead, with sharp spikes on it.

#### CLAWS

Not only are their claws so sharp that they can cut through diamonds, but also some dragons have poisonous claws!

### MYTHICAL DRAGONS

In most Western myths, such as those of Europe, dragons are symbols of evil. They are usually fire-breathing beasts that terrorize people. In many tales, a hero makes it his mission to slay a dragon. Saint George is one of the most legendary dragon slayers. Stories from the Middle Ages tell how he rescued a princess from a dragon and then killed the beast. Dragons are also known for greedily guarding stolen treasure.

In most Eastern legends, such as those of China and Japan, dragons are good creatures. They lack wings but can fly, and they live in water. They are thought to control rivers and the rain and wind. In Chinese culture, dragons are symbols of power and luck. In the past, the dragon was the symbol of the emperor of China.

