



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

National Symbols

National Symbols 民族象征

The Dragon Debate 龙之辩

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习。

When many people in the west think of China, the animal that they think of is the **dragon**. For them, the dragon is an **aggressive monster** that breathes fire. Many popular legends tell of how dragons killed brave **knights** and ate beautiful maidens.

For Chinese people however, the dragon is not an evil monster. It's a cultural and **spiritual symbol** for **prosperity** and good luck. The dragon's main task is to create **harmony** and bring rain. Dragons are celebrated in art and **architecture**, and of course the dragon dance is a very popular **ritual**. Millions of Chinese have the word 'long', meaning dragon, as part of their name.

China isn't the only country to have the dragon as its symbol. Wales, one of the four countries in the UK, has a red dragon **proudly displayed** on its **flag**. The only other country in the world with a dragon on its flag is Bhutan, the tiny country between China and India.

Almost all countries in the world have an animal symbol to represent their country, and it is particularly obvious during sports. The English see lions as **brave, proud animals** and the England football team have three lions on the front of their football shirts.

Australia is famous for **kangaroos**, of course. The national **rugby team** is more commonly known as the Wallabies, a kind of small kangaroo. Similarly, the South African team are known as the Springboks, a type of African **antelope**, and the New Zealanders, whether playing sports or not, are commonly known as Kiwis. A kiwi is a **native New Zealand bird** that can't fly.

All countries are proud of their symbols, which they feel reflect national **characteristics** or the beauty and variety of their natural environments. Recently, a Shanghai professor claimed that using the dragon as a national symbol could make western countries have a negative view of China. But in an internet survey 90% of Chinese people wanted to keep the dragon, and as we are all familiar with that Chinese symbol, people in the west would no doubt want China to keep the dragon too.

Glossary 词汇表

dragon – 龙	aggressive monster – 狰狞的猛兽
legends – 传说	knights – 骑士
maidens - (未婚) 女子	evil – 邪恶; 罪恶
spiritual – 精神(上)的	prosperity – 繁荣
harmony – 和谐; 和睦	architecture – 建筑(学)
ritual – 礼仪; 民俗	proudly – 自豪的
flag – 旗子	brave – 勇敢的
kangaroos – 袋鼠	rugby – 橄榄球
antelope – 羚羊	native – 本土; 当地的
characteristics – 特点; 特征	survey – 统计; 调查

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假?请圈出正确答案。

1. People in the west have the same ideas about dragons as people in China. True / False
2. In China, dragons bring bad luck. True / False
3. Only two countries have a dragon on their flag. True / False
4. An England football shirt has three lions on it. True / False
5. Not many people want the dragon symbol in China. True / False

2. Reading Quiz 2 阅读测验 2

Answer the following questions about the text. You should write a short answer (1 to 6 words).

用1-6个词简单回答以下问题.

1. Who did dragons eat in popular western legends?

2. In China, what is the dragon a symbol for?

3. Where is Bhutan?

4. Which animals do the English think are brave and proud?

5. What do 90% of people in China want to keep?

3. Summary Completion 完成短文

Complete the summary with words from the box.

从下列词表中选词填空.

antelopes	lions	cultural	dragon	flag
harmony	kangaroos	monsters	prosperity	symbol

In the west, dragons are seen as aggressive 1. _____ that kill and eat people. In China, however, dragons are important 2. _____ symbols for 3. _____ and good luck. They create 4. _____ and bring rain. Many Chinese people have the word 'long' as part of their name.

Only two countries have a 5. _____ on their 6. _____. One is Wales, the other is Bhutan.

Many countries have animals as symbols. The English football team has three 7. _____ on their shirts. The Australian rugby team are known as the Wallabies. Wallabies are small 8. _____.

The South African team are known as the Springboks, which are African 9. _____, and New Zealanders are known as Kiwis, which are birds.

In a recent internet survey, 90% of Chinese people want to keep the dragon as

China's national 10. _____.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with NATIONAL SYMBOLS in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与民族象征有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

l	k	j	h	r	f	m	d	e	t	y	a
m	k	r	s	u	z	o	m	r	a	l	n
n	a	t	d	g	a	n	d	a	s	k	t
b	n	y	f	b	x	s	j	t	d	j	e
h	g	u	g	y	c	t	u	y	f	h	l
v	a	j	k	l	p	e	y	u	g	g	o
f	r	r	v	l	b	r	h	i	d	f	p
t	o	a	m	i	f	t	n	o	r	d	e
d	o	d	r	o	d	g	b	p	a	s	l
s	t	g	b	n	n	l	i	u	g	a	u
f	l	a	g	j	s	y	m	b	o	l	c
a	s	d	f	g	t	y	u	i	n	k	k

dragon	monster	rugby	lion	flag
kangaroo	antelope	symbol	harmony	luck

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. People in the west have the same ideas about dragons as people in China. **False**
2. In China, dragons bring bad luck. **False**
3. Only two countries have a dragon on their flag. **True**
4. An England football shirt has three lions on it. **True**
5. Not many people want the dragon symbol in China. **False**

3. Summary Completion 完成短文

Complete the summary with words from the box.

从下列词表中选词填空。

In the west, dragons are seen as aggressive 1. **monsters** that kill and eat people. In China, however, dragons are important 2. **cultural** symbols for 3. **prosperity** and good luck. They create 4. **harmony** and bring rain. Many Chinese people have the word 'long' as part of their name. Only two countries have a 5. **dragon** on their 6. **flag**. One is Wales, the other is Bhutan. Many countries have animals as symbols. The English football team has three 7. **lions** on their shirts. The Australian rugby team are known as the Wallabies. Wallabies are small 8. **kangaroos**. The South African team are known as the Springboks, which are African 9. **antelopes**, and New Zealanders are known as Kiwis, which are birds. In a recent internet survey, 90% of Chinese people want to keep the dragon as China's national 10. **symbol**.

2. Reading Quiz 2 阅读测验 2

Answer the following questions about the text. You should write a short answer (1 to 6 words).

用1-6个词简单回答以下问题。

1. Who did dragons eat in popular western legends?
Beautiful maidens.
2. In China, what is the dragon a symbol for?
Prosperity and good luck.
3. Where is Bhutan?
Between India and China.
4. Which animals do the English think are brave and proud?
Lions.
5. What do 90% of people in China want to keep?
The dragon OR The dragon as their national symbol.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

				r		m					a
	k			u		o					n
	a			g		n					t
	n			b		s					e
h	g			y		t					l
	a					e					o
	r	r		l		r			d		p
	o		m	i				r			e
	o			o				a			l
				n	n			g			u
f	l	a	g		s	y	m	b	o	l	c
								n			k