

Create your own fantastic beast and write three facts about it!

Fact 1: _____

Fact 2: _____

Fact 3: _____

Words to Know:

Icon – an image of a holy person or event painted on wood or other materials

Iconographer – a person who paints or “writes” icons

Symbol – an image that represents or stands for something else, usually an idea or concept

MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ICONS

FANTASTIC
BEASTS
IN ICONOGRAPHY

Many icons feature wild and fantastic beasts – some familiar to us, and some not. Use this explorer’s guide to document the various creatures you encounter. Let the Front Desk know what you found and collect a prize!



Use a magnifying glass to look closely at an icon of your choosing. What is the first animal you see? What is the animal doing? Why do you think that?

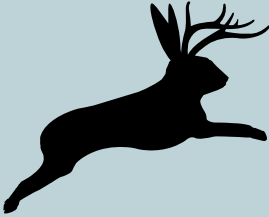



Iconographers choose to paint specific symbols into the icons to help tell a story. Many icons we see in the exhibit include images of horses. What do you think the iconographer trying to tell us by including horses?

Locate two birds in the icons and observe their differences. What color is each of the birds? What might those colors symbolize?

Dragons can be classified as being either Eastern (Asian) or Western (European). The Eastern dragon has a snake-like appearance, whereas the Western dragon looks more like a lizard. Find one example of each and draw them below:

What differences or similarities do you see in the two dragons?

Guess the mythical creature!

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