



Name _____

Date _____

A Brief History of Monsters

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions on page 96.

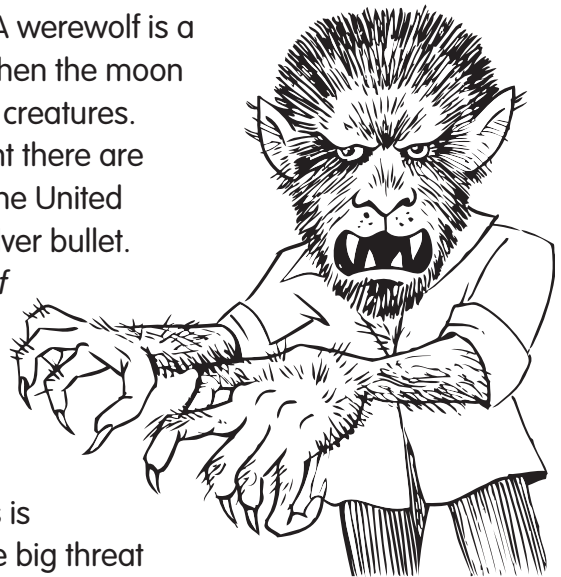
Halloween is the time of ghosts, goblins, and monsters of every kind. Here is a brief biography of some old-school, classic monsters. These creatures have been scaring people for centuries.

Frankenstein: The novel *Frankenstein* was written by the English author Mary Shelly. It was first published in 1818. The book tells the story of a mad scientist, Dr. Victor Frankenstein. He creates a monster out of the body parts of dead people. This is why the creature has bolts in the sides of his neck. The bolts are what is holding his head on top of his shoulders! Dr. Frankenstein does not set out to create a monster, but his experiment to make a man goes terribly wrong. The monster Frankenstein created has appeared in at least 65 movies, including *The Bride of Frankenstein* and *I Was a Teenage Frankenstein*.

Dracula: Dracula is another character that first appeared in a novel. Dracula was written by Irish author Bram Stoker and was first published in 1897. Count Dracula is a vampire. Vampires are monsters who are also called the “undead.” This is because they are neither alive nor dead. They are something in-between. Vampires are immortal. They can live forever. They survive by biting people’s necks and drinking their blood. They can only come out at night. The only way to vanquish a vampire is to drive a stake through its heart. Dracula has a starring role in at least 80 movies, including *Batman Fights Dracula*, *Taste the Blood of Dracula*, and *The Brides of Dracula*.

Werewolves: Ah Hooo! That’s the howl of the werewolf! A werewolf is a mythological creature that is a man by day, but by night, when the moon is full, he is transformed into a wolf. Werewolves are fierce creatures. Throughout the folklore of werewolves, people have thought there are various ways to get rid of one. In the werewolf folklore of the United States, the only way to kill a werewolf is to shoot it with a silver bullet. Some famous werewolf movies include *Teen Wolf*, *The Wolf Man*, and *American Werewolf in London*.

Zombies: Zombies, like werewolves, are creatures from mythology. Your basic zombie is a person who has died and, for reasons unknown, becomes reanimated. In other words, they can walk around and do a lot of damage. This is probably why they are often called “the walking dead.” The big threat with zombies is that they like to eat people. You can’t really kill a zombie because they are already dead. The only way to get rid of them is to clobber them in the head! Some well-known zombie movies include *Night of the Living Dead*, *Revenge of the Zombies*, and *White Zombie*.





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A Brief History of Monsters *(cont.)*

Directions: Read the passage on page 95. Then answer the questions.

1. Explain what Frankenstein and Dracula have in common.

2. What does *immortal* mean?

- a. something that is dead
- b. something that can live forever
- c. something that drinks blood to survive

3. Which monster is associated with the moon?

- a. werewolf
- b. Dracula
- c. zombie

Answer Key

New Year's Day Parades (page 7)

1. Designers can't decorate the floats too far in advance because flowers are perishable. Flowers can't live for very long once the blooms are cut away from the stems.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (pages 12–13)

1. b
2. b
3. c

The Underappreciated Groundhog (pages 16–17)

1. Answers will vary.
2. a
3. Opossum: "With that long, skinny snout and those beady eyes, he'll scare the entire town right out of their pants!"

Everybody Loves Chocolate! (pages 22–23)

1. b
2. It takes a lot of people and many hours to harvest the pods and produce the chocolate.
3. c

Zoo Times Exclusive (pages 26–27)

1. a
2. c
3. Of course, the hyenas are banned from voting because of their refusal to refrain from hurling insults at candidates and voters.

Lucky Charms (page 33)

1. b
2. Answers will vary.
3. c

Irish Soda Bread (pages 38–39)

1. One of the things that makes this bread so unique is that, traditionally, it is not cooked in an oven but on a griddle or in a large cast-iron pan. Instead of yeast, baking soda is used as a leavening agent in Irish soda bread.
2. c
3. Yes, they added a cross mark to the bread to ward off evil spirits and to protect their houses.

The Visitors from Colden 4 (pages 42–43)

1. a
2. c
3. c

Mariachi Music, Olé! (page 50)

1. c
2. b
3. a

Best Animal Moms (pages 55–56)

1. The average calf weighs about 250 pounds at birth, and this is after a 22-month gestation—the longest pregnancy in the animal kingdom.
2. Answers will vary.
3. c

Freedom Is Silent (pages 59–60)

1. Answers will vary.
2. c
3. Answers will vary.

Father's Day Facts (page 66)

1. Here are some facts and figures about fathers and things related to Father's Day.
2. b
3. Opinion; explanations will vary.

Islam (page 71)

1. c
2. b
3. c

Fort McHenry (pages 77–78)

1. Another issue was that American merchant seamen were being captured by the British on the high seas and forced to fight in the British Navy.
2. b
3. Answers will vary.

Labor in the United States (page 84)

1. b
2. There was a time when there were no laws that prohibited children from working for pay. Now, there are very strict laws regarding the employment of people less than 18 years of age.
3. Answers will vary.

Columbus's Cats (pages 87–88)

1. They were really tired.
2. b
3. They were good at sneaking around and not being noticed.

A Brief History of Monsters (pages 95–96)

1. They both originated in books.
2. b
3. a

A Song from War (pages 99–100)

1. Somber and serious; answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary; having to go to war and fight
3. b

The Great Turkey Round-up (pages 104–105)

1. That's when people don't have enough to eat.
2. There is a large supply of free turkeys. They are donated to a food bank.
3. Drawings will vary.

How to Roast a Thanksgiving Turkey (pages 106–107)

8, 7, 14, 15, 9, 13, 12, 3, 10, 1, 4, 5, 2, 6, 11

Hanukkah Traditions (page 112)

1. b
2. a
3. Hanukkah is the celebration of a miracle in which a small supply of oil kept lamps burning in the temple.

Christmas Cookies (page 118)

1. mouthwatering, delicious, scrumptious, flavorful, delectable
2. c
3. b

Nguzo Saba: The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa (pages 122–123)

1. Answers will vary.
2. b
3. c