

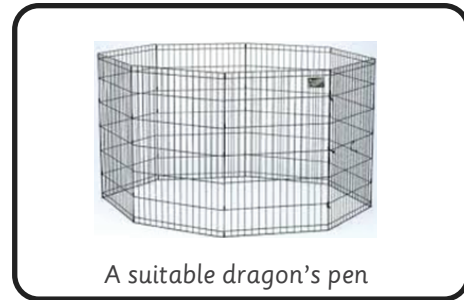
# How to train a dragon



Have you found yourself in charge of a dragon egg with no idea how to look after it once it has hatched? Dragons are notoriously tricky animals to control so you must follow these instructions carefully if you ever want to successfully rear one of these magnificent yet dangerous beasts! However, be warned, if the training does not start when the dragon is young, then it will be even more of a challenge to tame.

## You will need the following equipment:

- Small pen made from metal, wood or concrete
- A back scratching stick
- Fish heads
- A clear, confident voice.



## Method:

1. Firstly, and most importantly, it is vital that, when the dragon is very young, you handle the hatchling every day as soon as it is born so that it becomes used to human contact.
2. As soon as the young dragon is calm and trusting of you, place four or five handfuls of smelly fish heads, which must be either salmon or haddock's heads, on the ground near you so that the dragon will eventually associate the delicious food with you. This will result in them obediently following you when you want them to.
3. After this, you'll need to teach the dragon to fly. In order to do this, you will need to be able to pick the young reptile up from behind, making sure you position your legs either side of the animal. Use a clear, confident voice to state "Stay" repetitively so that the dragon understands that you are saying a command.
4. Once you are able to handle the dragon in a secure manner, you must now hold the beast up in the air and again say in your clear, confident voice, "Fly". It is important that you don't use a weak voice or the dragon will have no respect for you.
5. Next, ensure that you have built a strong and secure enclosure or pen for the dragon to sleep in during the day. As everyone knows, dragons are nocturnal so they need somewhere safe to sleep in during the day, preferably for between 10 and 12 hours.
6. Finally, it is essential that you have a back-scratching stick available at all times! Any sudden movements might startle these unpredictable animals! Use the stick to gently scratch the top of the dragon's head, using a horizontal motion but never a vertical one or your arm might not survive!

Remember that all of these steps must be completed while the dragon is young or they may not work! These instructions can be followed by one person because the dragon is small but as the dragon becomes older, you must have at least two people with you to keep you safe.



# Questions

1. Who might need to read these instructions? Why? (2 marks)

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2. Why does the author call them 'magnificent yet dangerous beasts'? (1 mark)

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3. List two materials that the pen can be made from? (2 marks)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which of these words is closest in meaning to the term 'vital'? Circle one. (1 mark)

|      |        |           |         |
|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| very | little | essential | careful |
|------|--------|-----------|---------|

5. What type of fish must be used? (1 mark)

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6. Answer true or false to these statements. (4 marks)

|  | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| You pick the dragon up from behind.                          |      |       |
| Dragons are not nocturnal.                                   |      |       |
| A back-scratching stick is only needed during the day.       |      |       |
| Only a vertical motion should be used to scratch the dragon. |      |       |

7. What might startle the dragon? Why? (2 marks)

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8. These instructions can be used for a dragon of any age. **True** or **False**? Why? (3 marks)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# Answers

1. Who might need to read these instructions? Why? (2 marks)

Someone who has a dragon egg or has a baby dragon because the instructions explain how to train one. Not everyone would know how to do this as they are not normal pets.

2. Why does the author call them 'magnificent yet dangerous beasts'? (1 mark)

To show that they think dragons are amazing but also that people should be careful around them as they can be aggressive.

3. List two materials that the pen can be made from? (2 marks)

1. CHOOSE TWO FROM: metal, wood or concrete

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which of these words is closest in meaning to the term 'vital'? Circle one. (1 mark)

|      |        |           |         |
|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| very | little | essential | careful |
|------|--------|-----------|---------|

5. What type of fish must be used? (1 mark)

salmon or haddock

6. Answer true or false to these statements. (4 marks)

|  | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| You pick the dragon up from behind.                          | ●    |       |
| Dragons are not nocturnal.                                   |      | ●     |
| A back-scratching stick is only needed during the day.       |      | ●     |
| Only a vertical motion should be used to scratch the dragon. |      | ●     |

7. What might startle the dragon? Why? (2 marks)

Sudden movements because the dragon is not expecting it and might think it is someone trying to attack/ harm it.

8. These instructions can be used for a dragon of any age. True or False? Why? (3 marks)

1. It says that the instructions are to be completed when the dragon is young.

2. It uses the term hatchling which means when the dragon first comes out of its shell.

3. When the dragon is older, it will be harder to control them and you won't be able to complete some of the steps e.g. picking them up.

