Creatures by Culture
Posted by jackattack - 2011/08/09 05:53

Is there a convenient list of creatures (starting with but not limited to the various Monster Manuals) broken down by culture and/or region? I have a couple of reference books on mythological beasts that specify their origins, but these are often incomplete, redundant, or extremely specific (every giant in Norse mythology specified by three different spellings, for example).

I've tried to create such a list before, but I don't have the patience or time to finish it.

Also, where do you put creatures attributed by one culture as belonging to another? The Greeks placed the catoblepas in North Africa, but everyone who actually lived in North Africa knew a gnu when they saw one. So does it go in the North Africa section or the Ancient Greece section?

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Re:Creatures by Culture
Posted by Arcarius2001 - 2011/08/09 08:25

I think I saw a list like that in a very old issue of Dragon. I doubt it would be of much help though as 30 yeas ago there were not a lot of monster choices. But if you have access to all the issues.....or the Dragon compilation on CD, maybe you could find it. Paizo attributes a terrain type to each of their bestiary entries and lists that at the back of the book (page 319 in my copy).
As for your other question, I would attribute the creature to the culture that recognizes it. So, the catoblepas goes in ancient Greece as it was their "monster" not the folks who knew a gnu when they saw one.
I have most issues of Dragon. not making promises, but I will see what I can find.

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Re:Creatures by Culture
Posted by Ghenghis Ska - 2011/08/09 13:56

If this is for a game you are running... I have to say just choose for yourself and be done with it.

your world doesn't have to be 100% acurate, and really with mythical creatures it is kind of your choice.

If this is for something else... best of luck finding something, i'd say search through wikipedia and make your own list.

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Re:Creatures by Culture
Posted by DM-GHOST - 2011/08/09 16:59

Ask in the pazio foums because I'm fairly certain they have one or two smaller monster revised books out that showcase monsters and the historical context of them. I have one book called pathfinder chronicles classic horrors revisited. It only covers about 9 creatures but they each have a 4+ page write up including habitat ecology the myth origin and sample variations and rolls in game.Hope this helps

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Re:Creatures by Culture

Posted by Arcarius2001 - 2011/08/09 19:21

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Jackattack,

I have looked through some Dragon magazine indexes. There are articles, spotty at best, but none seem to be what you ar lookin for as a comprehensve list. Ost are algthe lines of monsters of a specific culture. I saw Aabia, China, Japan. Maybe this link will help:

http://www.mythbeasts.com/

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Re:Creatures by Culture

Posted by jackattack - 2011/08/09 19:51

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Arcarius, that is exactly what I've been looking for.

I have about three related game-world ideas that call for monsters to be chosen from corresponding cultures. I will be picking the ones I like, but I'd like to avoid mistakenly including something that isn't actually from the culture in question -- I know too many gamers who will stop a session dead in its tracks to protest a monster that doesn't belong.

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Re:Creatures by Culture

Posted by Arcarius2001 - 2011/08/09 23:30

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Well, that can happen when folks read monster manuals and campaign settings. Which is why I prefer a homebrew setting. Then the out of game knowledge may not work like expect. And sorry for the garbled text in the last post. I use an ipad and for some reason just don't keyboard well on it sometimes.
Glad you can use the link.

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