

# 独角兽 Unicorns

Hello, and welcome to 6 Minute English.

大家好，欢迎收听六分钟英语。

I'm Neil.

我是内尔。

And hello, I'm Rob.

你好，我是罗伯。

Now, then, Rob, what do you know about unicorns?

那么罗伯，你对独角兽有什么了解吗？

Ah, well, the unicorn is a fantasy creature from history.

嗯，独角兽是历史中幻想的生物。

In our tradition it looks like a white horse with a single spiral horn coming out of its head.

在我们的传统中，独角兽看起来像一匹白马，还有一个单独的螺旋状的角从头上冒出来。

Why do you ask?

你问这个干嘛？

Well, funnily enough, unicorns are the topic of this programme.

嗯，有趣的是，独角兽是本期节目的话题。

Before we learn more though, a question.

不过在我们了解更多内容之前，有一个问题。

What do we call the study of legendary creatures like the Loch Ness Monster, Big Foot and unicorns?

我们把对传说生物，例如尼斯湖水怪、大脚兽和独角兽，的研究叫做什么？

Is it: a) Cryptozoology, b) Protozoology, or c) Paleozoology?

是 A. 传说动物学，B. 原生动物学，还是 C. 古动物学？

Have you got any idea about that, Rob?

你有头绪吗，罗伯？

Ah, well, I know this because it was the topic of a 6 Minute English programme a while back, in 2008, to be exact.

啊，嗯，我知道这个，因为这是之前六分钟英语节目的话题，确切的说是在2008年。

So I think I'll keep the answer to myself.

所以我先不说答案。

OK, well for everyone else, we'll have the answer later in the programme.

好的，那么其他观众，我们会在稍后的节目中揭晓答案。

## 添加的词汇

### commonly

英:/'kɒmənlɪ/ 美:/'kɑmənlɪ/

adv. 一般地；通常地；普通地



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Over the last few years unicorns have been popping up all over the place-on T-shirts, in movies, as toys and even in political conversations.

在过去的几年里，独角兽突然出现在各个地方——在T恤上，电影里，变成玩具，甚至出现在政治对话里。

Why is this?

这是为什么呢？

Natalie Lawrence is a natural historian.

娜塔莉·劳伦斯是一位自然历史学家。

She appeared on the BBC's Woman's Hour programme to discuss the topic.

她出演了BBC的《女性时间》节目中并讨论了这个话题。

Listen out for the answer to this question: Why does she say people used to drink out of unicorn horns?

请听出这个问题的答案：她为什么说人们过去用独角兽的角喝水？

Those original stories were developed in a time when magic actually existed in the world.

那些原始的故事是在魔法确实存在于这个世界的时候被创作出来的。

The world was still very enchanted...the idea that the unicorn is a very strong animal and also that could achieve magical feats, so unicorn horn used to be seen as a panacea for all sorts of ills and a guard against poison.

世界仍然充满了魔法.....独角兽是一种非常强壮的动物以及可以做出神奇的壮举的想法，所以独角兽的角曾被看做是治疗所有疾病的万灵药以及抗毒的防护装置。

So people used to drink out of unicorn horn cups to prevent themselves getting poisoned, and I think that idea of it being magical and having magical powers has still come through today.

所以人们曾经用独角兽的角当杯子喝水来防止自己中毒，而且我认为那种认为它很神奇并且有魔力的想法在今天仍然存在。

Why did they drink from unicorn horn cups?

他们为什么要从独角兽的角做的杯子里喝水。

Well, they were supposed to have magical powers so people drank from them so they wouldn't get poisoned.

嗯，它们应该有魔力，所以认为用它们来喝水，这样他们就不会中毒了。

Yes, she said they could perform magical feats.

是的，她说它们可以作出神奇的壮举。

A feat is something that is difficult to do or achieve-like recording this programme without making a mistake, that's a real feat!

壮举指的是很难做到的事情——例如不犯错误地录制本节目，这真的是壮举！

Well, we usually do it.

嗯，我们经常做到。

It must just be unicorn magic.

这肯定是独角兽的魔法。

No, just the magic of editing, Rob!

不，只是剪辑的魔法而已，罗伯！

Now, she also said that unicorn horn was seen as a panacea.

她还说独角兽的角被看做是万灵药。

What does that mean?

那是什么意思？

A panacea is another word for a cure-something that can protect you from illness or help you recover if you are sick.

万灵药是治疗方法的另一种表达方式——可以保护你不受疾病伤害，或如果生病就可以恢复的东西。

But is all this true, about the unicorn horn?

但是独角兽角都是真的吗？

Well, seeing as how unicorns don't and never have existed, it's unlikely to be true.

嗯，鉴于独角兽不存在并且从未存在过，这很可能是假的。

She says these stories come from a time when the world was enchanted.

她说这些故事出现于一个世界充满了魔法的时代。

This means it was a time when people believed in magic and the possibility of mysterious creatures from mysterious parts of the world.

意思是这时人们都相信魔法，并且相信神秘的动物可能会从世界的神秘角落出现的时候。

It seems as if these days people are looking for a bit of magic, a bit of enchantment in their lives.

似乎如今人们想从他们的生活中找寻一点魔法，一点魔力。

The unicorn has also come to be a term ***commonly*** used in politics to refer to unrealistic ideas and plans.

独角兽也成为了一个经常被用在政治中的名词，用来指代那些不现实的想法和计划。

Why is this?

这是为什么呢？

Here's Natalie Lawrence again.

以下还是娜塔莉·劳伦斯的话。

Because it's such a potent cultural symbol at the moment, it's being deployed in one of the most pressing issues of our time, as well, so...and the idea of the UK trying to be its own special unicorn potentially...

因为它现在是一个强有力的文化象征，它被用在我们的年代最紧迫的一个问题中，所以.....还有英国努力想成为有自己特色的独角兽.....

So Rob, what is she talking about here?

所以罗伯，她在谈论什么？

Well, we are in a very complicated time politically in the UK at the moment.

嗯，英国目前处在一个政治局面非常复杂的时期。

She says they are pressing times.

她说如今时间紧迫。

A term which means something important but difficult has to be done in a very short time.

这个说法指的是重要的但是在短期内很难实现的事情。

A pressing matter is an important one that has to be dealt with urgently.

紧迫的事情指的是必须要快速处理的重要的事情。

Now, at the time of recording our parliament can't agree on the current pressing matter of Brexit and each side says the other has unicorns.

现在我们的议会对于脱欧这一紧迫的问题无法达成一致，并且每一方都说对方有不切实际的计划。

There's nothing special or magical about these unicorns-it's a negative comment-a unicorn is a fantasy idea-a plan that has no chance of working.

这些独角兽并没有特殊或神奇的地方——这是一个负面评价——独角兽是一个幻想——一个不可能奏效的计划。

She says unicorns are a potent symbol-which means they are a very strong and recognisable symbol.

她说独角兽是一个强有力的象征——意思是它们是一种非常强烈且能够识别的象征。

And this symbol is being used, or as she said being deployed.

而这个象征被使用，或者像她说的被有效的利用。

This is the same word that would be used when you send a military force somewhere.

这个词还可以表示你向某地输送了军事力量。

You deploy the army in a military conflict, and in the current political conflict they are deploying the word 'unicorn'!

你在一次军事冲突中部署了，而在当前的政治斗争中他们使用了“独角兽”这个词。

Here's Natalie Lawrence again.

把娜塔莉·劳伦斯的话再听一遍。

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因为它现在是一个强有力的文化象征，它被用在我们的年代最紧迫的一个问题中，所以.....还有英国努力想成为有自己特色的独角兽.....

Right, our pressing matter now is the vocabulary review.

好的，我们现在紧迫的事情是单词复习。

Before that though, the answer to this week's question: What do we call the study of legendary creatures like the Loch Ness Monster, Big Foot and unicorns.

不过在那之前，要揭晓本周问题的答案：我们把针对像尼斯湖水怪，大脚兽和独角兽这样的传说中的生物的研究叫做什么？

Is it: a) Cryptozoology, b) Protozoology, or c) Paleozoology?

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Rob, you knew the answer to this, didn't you? - I did, yes.

罗伯，你知道这题的答案，不是吗？- 是的，我知道。

If you look back at our archive to September 2008 you will find an episode all about a) Cryptozoology.

如果你查看我们2008年9月的历史记录，你就会找到一期关于A.传说动物学的节目。

Well done, if you got that right, particularly if you remember that programme!

干得漂亮，如果你答对了，尤其是你还记得那期节目的话。

Now, vocabulary from this programme.

现在回顾本期节目的词汇。

There was enchanted to talk about a time when magic was believed to be real.

首先是充满魔法的，描述的是魔法被认为真实存在的时期。

A feat is something that is very difficult to achieve and a panacea is a cure.

壮举指的是很难达成的事情，万灵药指的是治愈的方法。

Something that's potent is strong and powerful and if you deploy something, you use it, you put it into operation.

强有力的东西指的是强大的东西，如果你部署某事，那么你会使用它，你把它付诸实践。

And something pressing is urgent, it needs to be done soon.

紧迫的事情指的是很紧急的事情，它需要快速地被完成。

Right, that's it from us for now.

好的，这就是本期节目的所有内容。

Hope you can join us again soon.

希望你能收听我们的下期节目。

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如果你等不及了，你可以在社交平台上，在网上，还有我们自己的应用上找到 bbclearningenglish。

Bye for now.

再见啦。

Bye bye!

再见！

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