

The River Unicorn (*Fluvis unicornis*)

The River Unicorn is a shy, solitary creature that has been seen only three times in the wild.

It has a sandy-brown coat, a mane like sea foam, and a transparent horn that seems to ripple and flow when the light catches it.
The River Unicorn is the same size as a Shetland pony.

Unsurprisingly, most River Unicorns live along the **banks** of rivers. But you might be surprised to learn that these animals are **reluctant** swimmers. **Occasionally**, they have been spotted sleeping in dens under the roots of ancient willow trees. It is thought that the power of the water and the willow **flows** through the River Unicorn and enhances its magic.

Much has been written about the River Unicorn's magic. Typically, the River Unicorn's power lies in its horn. When ground into powder and mixed with the correct ingredients, the horn can heal almost all human ailments. In addition to this, legends tell us that one drop of the unicorn's blood can make a human immortal.

Another interesting feature of the River Unicorn is its ability to disappear instantly. Just like water, it can slip through your fingers and seem to be everywhere, and nowhere, at the same time. Therefore, it is often viewed as the most extraordinary of all the unicorn species.

Glossary:

solitary: alone, being the only one

transparent: something is transparent if it lets light through. You can see through transparent objects like windows and cling film.

enhances: to improve (make better) the quality, amount, or strength of something

ailments: illness or injury

immortal: to live forever

Tasks:

1. Read 'The River Unicorn' and answer the questions below.

Challenge Can you think of some of your own questions?

2. Write a story about The River Unicorn or your own mythical beast from yesterday. Make sure it has a beginning, middle and end.

1. The River Unicorn has only been spotted _____ times in the wild.

2. Most River Unicorns live _____

3. River Unicorns do not like swimming: TRUE or FALSE?

4. The River Unicorn's horn is see-through: TRUE or FALSE?

5. Which is the most powerful part of the unicorn's body? _____

6. Why would a unicorn hunter think that the River Unicorn was special?

Give three reasons:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____