## Select Dragon Origin Hypotheses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Hypothesis</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aristotle</td>
<td>Large serpents are the lore catalyst</td>
<td>~200 BCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pliny the Elder</td>
<td>Large serpents and other reptiles are lore catalysts</td>
<td>~70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Topsell</td>
<td>A dragon results from a serpent eating another serpent and growing larger, with bones of “unusual greatnesse” found on Chios</td>
<td>1658</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Gould</td>
<td>Large serpents of ancient times (possibly Iguanodon) diminished in size as environmental resources waned</td>
<td>1886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grafton E. Smith</td>
<td>Diffuse representation of Egyptian and/or Babylonian mother goddesses developed into Christian representation of the Devil</td>
<td>1919</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elsdon Best</td>
<td>Dragon-like creatures from Maori lore, “water dwelling creatures of saurian form,” were possibly crocodiles</td>
<td>1924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ernest Ingersoll</td>
<td>A metaphorical creature “engendered between inward fear and outward peril” was perpetuated by “ignorance and superstition” and grounded in the fight between good and evil</td>
<td>1927</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hilda E. Davidson</td>
<td>Tied to the burial mounds of the ancients and to connecting environmental factors and phenomena</td>
<td>1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>T.H. White</td>
<td>In medieval bestiaries, many reptiles were called <em>dragon</em> rather than “‘huge serpent or snake . . . python’”</td>
<td>1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Fontenrose</td>
<td>The dragon is a metaphor for a spring or river</td>
<td>1959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Barnard</td>
<td>Dragons are forth in the act of naming the ritualistic dance</td>
<td>1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carl Sagan</td>
<td>The dragon myth is tied to human fears of actual animals as a representation of intrinsic evil</td>
<td>1977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simon Best</td>
<td>Dragons may have factual antecedent in crocodiles; quotes Captain James Cook (1777) on a lizard “‘of an enormous size’”</td>
<td>1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Statement</td>
<td>Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Blust</td>
<td>Dragons derive from rainbows (the rainbow serpent): a metaphorical symbol of the human convergent thinking process</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adrienne Mayor</td>
<td>Animal fossil finds from as early as 600 BCE are the basis for a variety of folklore, including dragons</td>
<td>2011</td>
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