

Sea Serpents

2 Ea (Babylonian)

- 10 The head is the head of a serpent,
15 From his nostrils mucus trickles,
21 His mouth is beslavered with water;
29 The ears are like those of a basilisk,
36 His horns are twisted into three curls,
43 He wears a veil in his headband,
51 The body is a fish full of stars,
58 The base of his feet are claws,
66 The sole of his foot has no heel,
70 His name is Sassu-wunnu,
77 A sea monster, a form of Ea.

80 Jormungand (Old Norse)

- 82 Pronounced 'Your-mu-gand',
85 Meaning 'earth necklace'.
88 The great beast,
91 An ocean-living dragon
98 With the smooth body of a snake;
104 A mouth lined with venom-dripping teeth,
111 Large enough to swallow a god whole.
113 So enormous
121 His body forms a circle around the world!



Questions



1. Describe Ea's horns.



2. Explain why **earth necklace** is a good name for Jormungand.



3. If these two sea serpents were in a battle, which do you think would win? Why?



4. Describe **one** way that Ea and Jormungand are similar and **one** way that they are different.

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Answers



1. Describe Ea's horns.
They are twisted into three curls.



2. Explain why **earth necklace** is a good name for Jormungand.
Pupils' own responses, such as: Jormungand is so enormous that it forms a circle (like a necklace) around the whole world.



3. If these two sea serpents were in a battle, which do you think would win? Why?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Jormungand would win because it has venom-dripping teeth that it could use to bite the Ea and therefore win the battle.



4. Describe **one** way that Ea and Jormungand are similar and **one** way that they are different.
Pupils' own responses, such as: Both creatures have similarities to snakes or serpents but Ea has feet whereas Jormungand doesn't.