Chimera: Lion, Goat, and Snake

The Chimera was, according to Greek mythology, a monstrous fire-breathing hybrid creature composed of the parts of more than one animal. Usually depicted as a lion, with the head of a goat arising from his back, and a tail that might end with a snake's head, the Chimera was one of the offspring of Typhon and Echidna and a sibling of such monsters as Cerberus and the Hydra (Sanchez 89). The term chimera has come to describe any “mythical or fictional animal with parts taken from various animals” (“Chimera” 124), or to describe anything composed of very disparate parts, or perceived as wildly imaginative, implausible, or dazzling. Homer's brief description in *The Iliad* is the earliest surviving literary reference: "a thing of immortal make, not human, lion-fronted and snake behind, a goat in the middle, and snorting out the breath of the terrible flame of bright fire" (greekmythology.com). Chimera is generally considered to have been female. Despite the mane adorning her head, the inclusion of a close mane often was depicted on lionesses, but the ears always were visible (Sanchez 90). Sighting the Chimera was an omen of storms, shipwrecks, and natural disasters (particularly volcanoes) (Sanchez 92). The Chimera mated with her brother and was the mother of the Sphinx and the Nemean lion. The Chimera finally was defeated by [Bellerophon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bellerophon" \o "Bellerophon), with the help of Pegasus. Since Pegasus could fly, Bellerophon shot the Chimera from the air, safe from her heads and breath.

1. There were originally two different versions of the Chimera, but they fought and one ate the other.
2. Lived to the age of 2,136
3. Stat 3
4. Stat 4
5. Stat 5