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Chi·me·ra also **Chi·mae·ra**  (kī-mîr ə, kî-)

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n.

1. *Greek Mythology* A fire-breathing female monster usually represented as a composite of a lion, goat, and serpent.
2. An imaginary monster made up of grotesquely disparate parts.



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Chimera

4th-century bc silver

Greek coin

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chi·me·ra also **chi·mae·ra**  (kī-mîr ə, kî-)

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n.

1.

- a. An organism, organ, or part consisting of two or more tissues of different genetic composition, produced as a result of organ transplant, grafting, or genetic engineering.
- b. A gene or protein consisting of parts from two different genes or proteins that are normally distinct, sometimes derived from two different species.
2. An individual who has received a transplant of genetically and immunologically different tissue.
3. A fanciful mental illusion or fabrication.

[Middle English *chimere*, Chimera, from Old French, from Latin *chimaera*, from Greek *khimaira*, female goat, Chimera; see **ghei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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[Semitic Roots](#)

The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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