

“The Peuchen”

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Peuchen

The peuchen is a shape-shifting creature in the Mapuche and Chilote mythology of southern Chile. It can assume the shape of any animal, but often appears as a huge flying snake with bat-like wings that paralyzes its victims through hypnosis so that it can drain the victim’s blood. The only person that can defeat the creature is a machi—a medicine woman. It has been linked to the Chupacabra.

Sources:

Bane, Theresa. *Encyclopedia of Beasts and Monsters in Myth, Legend and Folklore*. McFarland and Company, Inc., Jefferson, NC, 2016.

Hellman, Roxanne, and Derek Hall. *Vampire Legends and Myths*. The Rosen Publishing Group, New York, NY, 2012.