

Guided Reading



There are many stories that have trolls in them. Trolls, like dragons, giants and unicorns, have been talked and written about for hundreds of years. One very well-known story, I am sure you will know, is about a very angry troll that tried to stop goats going over a bridge to feed on the rich, green grass.

But is this what all trolls are really like?

The information that follows has been written by Professor Folklore, an expert on Trolls from the University of Myth and Legend.

He provides some basic information on these strange, often misunderstood mythical creatures. You can decide what you think maybe true and what needs more research to establish the truth.

Professor Folklore needs other experts to write more about trolls so that the 'truth' can be shared across the world. He wondered whether you could also become an expert on trolls. Can you dream up some of your own interesting and amazing information to set the record straight and not let trolls just be known as nasty, mean creatures?

The Truth about Trolls

Many people believe trolls are angry, **mean** beasts that **terrify** goats and people. However, this is not true. Here is the truth about trolls.

What do trolls look like?

Like the **ogre**, trolls are huge. They look **fierce** and ugly but to another troll they are kind and beautiful. The adult troll has small, beady eyes, a **bulbous, warty** nose and sharp, yellow teeth. Most trolls have long, curly horns on their heads similar to a goat. Interestingly, a few trolls do not have any horns at all. No one knows why.



Where do trolls live?

Trolls are usually found in very cold countries like Iceland. They make their homes in caves near volcanoes which provide both warmth and **shelter**. They live **peacefully** in small family groups, hidden away from people. One troll, who was very grumpy, lived alone under a wooden bridge. Because he **bullied** the local goats, he gave all trolls a very bad name.



What do trolls eat?

Trolls enjoy eating all types of seafood. Trolls fish in total darkness so that they are not seen by anyone. They mostly eat their food **raw**. Sometimes, when the volcanoes have erupted, they cook their food on the hot rocks. In addition, they **gather** large mushrooms and dig up juicy roots that grow in the forest. Surprisingly, goats are not on the menu!

Did you know?

Amazingly, trolls like to have fun. They love singing and dancing. When they sing, it sounds like a rumble of thunder. When they dance, it feels like an earthquake. Sadly, because of the troll that upset the goats, all trolls now hide away from view.

They can still be seen, though, if you look really hard and believe. The rocks here are actually just sleeping trolls!



Professor Folklore
'Friend of the Troll'



Glossary

Here's some help with the tricky technical vocabulary:

earthquake: Sudden shaking of the ground when the Earth's surface moves. Can cause terrible destruction.

volcano: a hole in the Earth, usually a mountain, where very hot, molten rock (magma) and hot gas from the centre of the Earth erupts – can cause terrible destruction

erupt: the action that happens when a volcano spits out hot molten rock (magma) and gas – can cause terrible destruction

cave: Hole or space in rock big enough for a person to go into.



Activity one:

Understanding vocabulary

Fill in the table below, using the context to work out the meanings of the different words.

What do the words mean?

★ Read the information on trolls again. All of the words below are in bold. See if you can work out what they mean and jot down your ideas here.

★ If you are stuck, there is a list of similar words below to help you. If you are still stuck, you could ask someone else in your home to tell you, use a dictionary or the internet.

Target Word	Definition that fits with the information text
mean	
terrify	
ogre	
fierce	
bulbous	
warty	
shelter	
peacefully	
bullied	
raw	
gather	

Similar Words Help Box

scare uncooked collect quietly (not at war) nasty home

big and swollen lumpy angry giant frightened

Activity two:

Fact or fiction?

Decide whether the sentences below, taken from the text, are fact or fiction. Put a X in the box to show what you think.

Sentence	Fact	Fiction
There are many stories that have trolls in them.		
Many people believe that trolls are angry, mean beasts that terrify goats and people.		
Most trolls have long, curly horns on their heads similar to a goat.		
One troll, who was very grumpy, lived alone under a wooden bridge.		
When they dance, it feels like an earthquake.		

Are there any other facts that you can find in this piece of writing?

★ Why do you think that the writer has presented the information like this?

What effect does it have on the reader to see these 'facts' about trolls presented as true?

Activity three:

Information retrieval. Answer the questions below.

Challenge: Provide evidence for your answers using direct quotes from the text.

1. Where do trolls live?
2. List four physical features of trolls.
3. Do trolls eat goats?
4. How do trolls have fun?
5. What does it feel like when trolls dance?
6. What other creature does the author compare trolls to?
7. How do trolls cook their food?

Activity four:

Comprehension. Answer the questions below.

Challenge: Give evidence for your answers using direct quotes from the text.

1. Do trolls eat goats?
2. How does the author feel about trolls?
3. Are trolls mean?
4. How are trolls different from people's ideas of them? Give at least two differences.

Challenge: Write a short summary of what you know about trolls, including some things that we now know are NOT true about them.

Activity five:

Reading for pleasure.

Choose a book from home and spend some time reading either alone or to an adult. Perhaps you could keep a track of what has happened in the book or write a short review of what you have read so far.