

Little Trolls

(Target Audience: Preschool)

Background

A troll is a member of a mythical race from Scandinavia, mostly Norway. Their role ranges from fiendish giants – similar to the ogres of England – to devious, more human-like folk of the wilderness, living underground in hills, caves or mounds.

Nordic literature, art and music from the romantic era and onwards featured trolls in various forms – often as an aboriginal race, endowed with oversized ears and noses. From here, as well as from Scandinavian fairy tales such as *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, trolls have achieved international recognition. Trolls are found in modern fantasy literature and role-playing games.

There is some speculation that the famous story *Rumpelstiltskin* also originated from a troll folk tale which bears many similarities.

Program

Have all the little trolls sing the *Troll* song (*I'm a little teapot* tune)

I'm a little troll
Short and sweet
I've got big ears
And long dangly feet!

When I get all steamed up
You better watch out
I 'm very fierce
And I can SHOUT!

GRRRRRRRRR.....

Stories

Read the *Three Billy Goats Gruff* and *Rumpelstiltskin* by Brothers Grimm. These are classic stories that have been translated into many languages. Both stories can be found in book form or on the Internet.

Three Billy Goats Gruff can be read or you can use puppets, stick figures or felt pieces to tell the story. Also, the story can be told interactively with the children playing various parts.

Song

If you're a troll and you know it--clap your hands
If you're a troll and you know it--clap your hands.
If you're a troll and you know it, you'll really want to show it.
If you're a troll and you know it--clap your hands.

Continue with:

...stomp your feet
...show your claws
...gnash your teeth
...growl out loud

Craft Ideas

Children can create troll masks from paper plates, troll finger puppets or paper-bag/stick puppets or they can make trolls from colouring sheets.

End the program with some yummy treats!

Troll Snacks

1. Bread, honey and fruit (reputed to be a Viking favourite)
2. Heart-shaped waffles (traditional snacks from Scandinavia)