



Three Billy Goats Gruff

Fact Sheet for Adults



Story Origins

- 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' is a Norwegian traditional tale.
- It was collected and published by Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe in the 1840s, in their collection of Norwegian folk tales and legends called 'Norske Folkeeventyr'.
- Asbjørnsen and Moe were inspired to make a collection of traditional tales by the work of the German Grimm Brothers.
- The first edition was very popular, so later editions were also produced in the 1840s, 1850s and 1860s.
- These stories were translated into English in the late 1850s by Sir George Webbe Dasent. The collection of stories was published as 'Popular Tales from the Norse'.
- There are several different versions of the story but most remain true to the original, with a family of goats crossing over a bridge, one at a time. Each time, they are accosted by the mean troll or ogre who lives under the bridge. The first two goats persuade the troll to wait for the next bigger member of the goat family until finally the biggest billy goat pushes the troll in the water and the goat family are able to eat the green grass on the other side of the bridge without fearing the troll.
- There are different endings of the story – in some versions the biggest billy goat kills or injures the troll rather than just pushing him off the bridge and into the water.

Goats

- Goats are closely related to sheep.
- Goats are one of the animal breeds that have been domesticated the longest. They have been used for their milk, meat, hair and skin for thousands of years, and in many places around the world.
- Female goats are called does or nannies. Males are called bucks or billies. Baby goats are called kids.
- Goats are ruminants, which means they are able to get nutrients from plants. They have four chambers in their stomachs, which allows plant matter to be digested and fermented.
- Goats usually eat woody plants, green plants, shrubbery, bark and weeds. They often prefer to eat these rather than grass.
- Most breeds of goat, male and female, grow horns. The size and shape of their horns depend on the breed.
- Both male and female goats can also grow beards under their chins.

Trolls

- Trolls are mythical creatures that are often seen in traditional tales, especially those from Scandinavian folklore or Norse mythology.
- They are often portrayed as human-like creatures but usually with unpleasant characteristics.
- They are often described as living in caves, under bridges, on mountains or on isolated islands.





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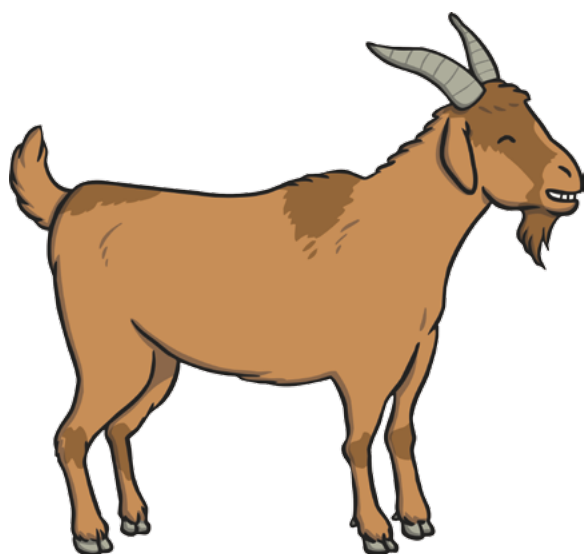


Grass

- There are many different types of grass including cereal grasses (such as oats, wheat and corn), bamboo and lawn turf.
- Different species of grass grow in many places around the world. There are thought to be more than 10,000 different species of grass growing around the world.
- Natural grassland areas are known by many different names such as prairies in North America, savannahs in Africa and range lands in Australia.
- The growing point of grasses are situated very near the soil. This means that when the grass is cut or eaten by animals, the grass can continue growing.

Goats

- Bridges are structures that carry a path over an obstacle such as a river. They sometimes carry transport such as cars or trains over the obstacle.
- There are many different types of bridges such as beam bridges, arch bridges and suspension bridges.
- Bridges vary in size, how they are built and the materials used. Today, materials such as concrete and iron are commonly used. In the past, rope, bricks and wood were often used.



Fun Facts

- There are over 200 different breeds of goat.
- Goats are often thought to eat anything, including non-edible materials such as tin cans. However, when they are thought to be eating materials like cardboard packaging or metal cans, they are usually just exploring the items, looking for food they would like to eat. They explore the materials using their mouths to determine if it would be good to eat.
- Goats have rectangular-shaped pupils. This gives them the ability to see about 320 degrees around them without having to move.
- Goats are very good at climbing. They are very good at balancing and their hooves help them to climb and balance on rocky mountain sides. They have also been known to climb trees in search of fruit to eat!
- There are different types of goat hair that can be used to make items such as clothing. Mohair is made from the hair of Angora goats. Cashmere mainly comes from cashmere goats.
- According to Greek mythology, Thor had a chariot pulled by goats.
- One of the longest bridges in the world is in China. The Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge measures 164,800m. One of the world's oldest bridges is also in China. The Zhaozhou Bridge has been standing for around 1400 years.
- 'London Bridge Is Falling Down' is a popular nursery rhyme, thought to be about Old London Bridge.

Take a look at our Three Billy Goats Gruff Fact Cards within this [The Three Billy Goats Gruff Discovery Sack](#) for some more fun facts.