

What are trolls?

Trolls are ugly human-like creatures and come in many shapes and sizes. Many are large, stupid and live alone. Classic fairy tale style trolls often guard bridges. Scandinavian Trolls are human-sized and ugly; they live in forests and mines and sometimes kidnap human children to raise them as workers. Meanwhile, Icelandic trolls are savage giants who roam snowy areas and eat children! However, they can be **petrified** either by sunlight or by the ringing of church bells.

Musicians inspired by trolls.

Edvard Grieg composed the music for the play Peer Gynt at his home called Troldhaugen ("Troll's Hill"), in Norway. The most famous section of this music is called 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' and it is the part of the story where the audience meets the trolls.

Read this excerpt from James Mayhew's book *Once Upon A Tune* 'In the Hall of the Mountain King'.

Just then, in the gloom, Peer Gynt saw a young girl dressed in green. It was a strange girl with flashing eyes and wild hair.

"I'll dance with you," she said. "And more...I'll marry you if you like?" She laughed and ran off.

Peer Gynt followed her- bewitched.

"Who are you?" he called.

"Oh I'm just the daughter of a king- the Mountain King. Have you heard of him? If you marry me there will be treasure for you, a dowry of gold. Come meet my father and you can make the arrangements."

Peer Gynt followed her into a cave.

Deeper and darker they went, until at last the cave opened up into a vast underground cavern. It was filled with glittering eyes and muffled voices. Soon Peter saw the cave was filled with ... TROLLS!



a. Complete this sentence. Trolls often guard _____.

b. Petrify means to turn into stone. Find **petrified** in the text.

How can you petrify a troll?

c. Name two other stories where characters are **petrified**.

d. Explain why you think Peer Gynt followed the girl dressed in green into the cave.

e. Why is the King's daughter a human girl and not a troll?

f. Name the composer who was inspired to write the music for the play 'Peer Gynt'.

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petrify



To change
into stone

bewitch



Enchant or
cast a spell

