

Multicultural Literature: Folklore



Finding Folktales to Study

Folktales in Books



The best way to find folktales is to look for collections or anthologies. The library has a large number of these. They may be collections of tales from around the world, like *Best-loved Folktales of the World*, or from a single country, like *Irish Folktales* or *The Magic Egg and Other Tales from the Ukraine*.

To locate a collection, do a **SUBJECT** search in the **Online Catalog** on one or more of the following terms: **folklore; legends; tales; fables; fairy tales; mythology**. Unfortunately, these terms are used almost interchangeably, and so folktales may be found under any one of them. Look especially for country subdivisions.

Folklore
Folklore--Africa
Folklore--Africa, West
Folklore--Cameroon
Folklore--China
Folklore--China--Tibet

Legends
Legends--India
Legends--Ireland
Legends--Mexico
Legends--Thailand

Look here for collections of tales from many countries

Look here for collections of tales from specific countries or regions

Also search for **Tales; Fables;** and **Mythology**

Folktales on the Internet



Extensive collections of folktales are available on the Internet. The following sites are especially useful:



Tales of Wonder: Folk and Fairy Tales from Around the World
 (members.nbc.com/darsie/tales/index.html)

Legends
 (www.legends.dm.net)

Folklore and Mythology Electronic Texts
 (www.pitt.edu/~dash/folktexts.html)



Finding Sources About Folklore

Reference Books

The Library has a good collection of reference works that might help place your particular folktale in some kind of historical and cultural context. You may make photocopies of appropriate sections.

General

- Encyclopedia of Fable** (Ref PN980 .S66 1998)
- Encyclopedia of Folklore and Literature** (Ref PN41 .E48)
- Folk Groups and Folklore Genres** (Ref G66 .F65 1986)
- Folklore: an Encyclopedia of Beliefs, Customs, Tales, Music, and Art** (Ref GR35 .F63)
- Man, Myth & Magic: the Illustrated Encyclopedia of Mythology, Religion, and the Unknown** (Ref BF407 .M34 1995)
- Myths** [analysis of mythical themes from around the world] (Ref BL315 .M95)
- Myths and Legends of the World** (Ref BL311 .M97 2000)
- Nursery Rhymes and Tales: their Origin and History** (Ref GR 487 .B4 1968)
- Oxford Companion to Fairy Tales: the Western Fairy Tale Tradition from Medieval to Modern** (Ref PN3437 .O94 2000)

Special Topics

- A Celebration of Customs & Rituals of the World** (Ref GT85 .I54)
- The Folklore of World Holidays** (Ref GT3930 .F65)
- Legends of the Earth, Sea, and Sky: an Encyclopedia of Nature Myths** (Ref BL435 .A53)
- Nectar & Ambrosia: an Encyclopedia of Food in World Mythology** (Ref GR498 .A53 2000)
- Spirits, Fairies, Gnomes, and Goblins: an Encyclopedia of the Little People** (Ref GR549 .R65 1996)

Countries and Regions

- African Ceremonies** (Ref GN645 .B4 1999)
- Dictionary of African Mythology** (Ref BL2400 .S24 2000)
- Soul of Africa: Magical Rites and Traditions** (Ref BL2400 .M855 2000)
- Asian Mythologies** (Ref BL1005 .D5313 1993)
- Celtic Mythology** (Ref BL900 .G66 1997)
- Encyclopedia of Russian & Slavic Myth and Legend** (Ref BL930 .D58 1998)
- Greek and Roman Mythology A to Z** (Ref BL715 .D26 1992)
- Norse Mythology A to Z** (Ref BL850 .D34 1991)

Periodical Articles

In **Library Lynx**, click on the **Articles** button. From there select **Expanded Academic**. This database has a large number of scholarly articles dealing with folklore. For best results, do a **keyword** search (blue panel on the left). Enter search phrases like the following:

folklore and africa
folklore and nigeria
folklore and africa and nature
folklore and birds



Articles