

# 美人鱼 Mermaids

Hello. This is 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English. I'm Neil.

大家好。这里是 BBC 学习英语栏目的六分钟英语。我是内尔。

And I'm Georgina.

我是乔治娜。

Do you believe in ghosts, Georgina?

你相信鬼魂的存在吗，乔治娜？

Well, I've never actually seen one - not even at Halloween.

嗯，我从未真正见过 —— 即使是在万圣节也没有。

How about dragons then?

那龙呢？

Or fairies and elves?

或者仙女和精灵？

Have you been reading fantasy books, Neil?

你最近在看奇幻故事书吗，内尔？

Lord of the Rings?

《指环王》？

I have been reading a book, Georgina, but not Lord of the Rings.

我一直在看一本书，乔治娜，但是不是《指环王》。

My book is about an amphibious creature - a creature that lives both on land and in water.

我看到书讲的是一种两栖动物 —— 既生活在陆地上也生活在水里的动物。

Some kind of Frog-Man?

某种蛙人吗？

You've almost got the idea, Georgina, but think - woman, not man; and fish, not frog.

你差不多明白了，乔治娜，但是想一下 —— 是女性，不是男性；而且是鱼，不是青蛙。

Half-woman, half-fish?

一半是女性，一半是鱼类？

I've got it - a mermaid!

我知道了 —— 美人鱼！

That's right!

没错！

Mermaids are magical creatures, half-woman, half-fish, that feature in the myths and legends of many cultures around the world.

## 添加的词汇

### commonly

英:/'kɒmənlɪ/ 美:/'kɑmənlɪ/

adv. 一般地；通常地；普通地



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美人鱼是神奇的生物，一半是女性，一半是鱼，那是全世界文化中很多神话传奇中的典型形象。

Like the Sirens, whose seductive singing shipwrecked Odysseus and his sailors in ancient Greek mythology.

就像塞壬，在古希腊神话中，她们魅惑的歌声让奥德修斯和他的船员们遭遇了海难。

The Sirens are perhaps the most famous, but certainly not the only, mermaids we'll be hearing about.

塞壬可能是最有名的人鱼，但是肯定不是我们要听到的唯一的人鱼。

But before we dive into the programme, it's time for my quiz question.

在我们进入节目之前，是时候公布我的问题了。

The book I've been reading was, of course, The Little Mermaid.

当然，我一直在读的书是《小美人鱼》。

Yes, I've seen the Disney movie.

是的，我看过迪士尼的电影。

The mermaid is called Ariel.

那只美人鱼叫做爱丽儿。

Right, but the movie was based on a fairy tale written by Hans Christian Andersen.

是的，但是这部电影是根据汉斯·克里斯丁·安徒生的童话故事改编的。

It became so famous that a statue of the Little Mermaid was built in the harbour of Andersen's birthplace, but where?

它变得如此出名，以至于在安徒生的出生地的海港上建了一座小美人鱼像，但是是哪里呢？

Was it a) Amsterdam, b) Copenhagen, or c) Oslo?

是 A. 阿姆斯特丹，B. 哥本哈根，还是 C. 奥斯陆？

I'm going to say b) Copenhagen.

我要选 B. 哥本哈根。

OK, Georgina, I'll tell you the answer later.

好的，乔治娜，我稍后会告诉你答案。

Disney's defenceless mermaid, Ariel, seems the total opposite to the seductive, dangerous Sirens in the Odyssey.

迪士尼电影中柔弱的美人鱼爱丽儿似乎跟《奥德修斯》中魅惑危险的塞壬完全相反。

In fact, descriptions and stories of mermaids have always changed from place to place.

事实上，人鱼的描述和故事每个地方都不一样。

One mermaid-like character found across Africa and the Americas is named, Mami Wata.

一个在非洲和美洲都家喻户晓的人鱼状角色被叫做 Mami Wata。

Here's British writer, Marcelle Mateki, talking about the origins of this legend to BBC World Service programme, The Forum.

下面是英国作家 Marcelle Mateki 对 BBC 世界服务节目《论坛》讲述这个传奇的起源。

Even the name, Mami Wata, which is pidgin English for 'Mother Water'.

甚至这个名字，Mami Wata，它是“水母亲”的洋泾浜英语。

So it's loosely translated from pidgin English as 'the mother of water' and the characteristics that are **commonly** shared when speaking about Mami Wata across the West African coast is that this deity is the protector of the water kingdom.

所以它被翻译为“水之母”，而在西非沿海谈论 Mami Wata 时，它们共有的一个特征就是水之王国的保护神。

The name 'Mami Wata' comes from Nigerian pidgin English - a language which has developed from a mixture of two languages and is used as a way of communicating by people who do not speak each other's languages.

“Mami Wata”这个名字来自于尼日利亚的洋泾浜英语 —— 发展自两种语言的混合并且语言互不相同的人用作交流方式的一种语言。

Marcelle says that 'Mami Wata' means 'the mother of water' when loosely translated - translated in a way that carries over the basic ideas but using words which may not be so accurate.

Marcelle 说当它被粗略地翻译——以一种包含了基本意义但是用词可能不太准确的方式翻译——时，“Mami Wata”的意思是“水之母”。

Mami Wata is also described as the protector of the water kingdom and a deity - a god, goddess or other divine being.

Mami Wata 还被描述为水之王国的保护神，一个女神 —— 神，女神，或其它神灵。

Another version of a mermaid-like creatures, called Selkies, are found in the remote Orkney Islands, north of the Scottish mainland.

另一种人鱼状的生物叫做 Selkies，它被发现于遥远的苏格兰主岛北部的奥克尼群岛。

The Selkies can take human form and marry men but every now and then they return to their watery kingdom under the sea.

这些 Selkies 可以变成人形，然后跟男性结婚，但是它们偶尔要回到海底的水王国。

Cristina Bacchilega is co-editor of The Penguin Book of Mermaids.

Cristina Bacchilega 是《The Penguin Book of Mermaids》的联合编辑。

According to her, these different versions of mermaids share something in common - they force us to question our relationship to water and other beings in the natural world - and even to question how we see ourselves.

根据她的说法，这些不同版本的美人鱼有一些共同点 —— 它们迫使我们质疑我们与水以及自然界其他生物之间的关系 —— 甚至质疑我们如何看待自己。

Here's Cristina explaining more in the BBC World Service's, The Forum.

下面是 Cristina 在 BBC 世界服务节目《论坛》中进一步解释。

The beings, not just mermaids but Selkies and water deities and other water spirits are often shape-shifters, they have a certain kind of fluidity of being...

生灵，不仅仅是美人鱼，还有 Selkies 和水神以及其他水灵通常都是变形者，它们可以变换形态.....

So do we approach this world with humility, or do we really uphold a kind of anthropocentric view, human-centred view of life?

所以我们是谦逊地对待这个世界，还是真正地支持一种以人为中心的对待生命的看法呢？

Mythical creatures are often shape-shifters - they have the power to change into a different shape or form.

神秘物种常常是变形者 —— 它们能够变成不同的形态。

Moving between the sea and the Earth, mermaids link two natural worlds.

在大海和大地之间穿梭，美人鱼将两个自然世界联系了起来。

Cristina thinks that, as humans, we should approach them with humility.

Cristina认为，作为人类，我们应该有谦逊地对待他们。

Someone who has humility is not proud and doesn't think they are better than others.

谦逊的人不会骄傲，也不会认为他们优于别人。

Well, Neil, I don't think I'm better than a ghost, a water spirit or a mermaid - it's just that I've never seen one.

嗯，内尔，我不认为我优于鬼魂，水灵或人鱼 —— 只是我一个都没见过。

But then again, I've never seen electricity - and I believe in that!

但是同样地，我从没有看见过电 —— 而我相信它！

Maybe it would help if you saw a statue of a mermaid, if not the real thing?

如果你看到美人鱼像，而不是真的人鱼也许会有所帮助呢？

Maybe - but where would I find one?

也许吧 —— 但是我会在哪里发现呢？

In my quiz question I asked you where you'd see the statue of Hans Christian Andersen's Little Mermaid.

在问题中，我问你在哪里能够看到汉斯·克里斯蒂安·安徒生的小美人鱼像？

What did you say, Georgina?

你说的是什么，乔治娜？

I guessed b) Copenhagen.

我猜的是 B. 哥本哈根。

Which was the correct answer!

回答正确！

The Little Mermaid statue is found in Andersen's birthplace of Copenhagen.

小美人鱼像位于安徒生的出生地哥本哈根。

And it really is little - only 1.25m high!

它真的很小 —— 只有 1.25 米高！

In this programme, we've been talking about mermaids - mythical half-woman, half-fish creatures which are amphibious - live both on land and in water.

在本期节目中，我们一直在谈论美人鱼 —— 传说中一般是女性，一半是鱼的生物，它们是两栖的 —— 可以在陆地和水中生活。

In some cultures, mermaids are deities - or goddesses.

在某些文化中，美人鱼是女神。

They can also be shape-shifters - imaginary creatures with the power to change into different shapes.

它们也可能是变形者 —— 能变成不同形态的假象生物。

One African mermaid is called, Mami Wata, in pidgin English - a mixture of English and local languages which enables people who do not share a common language to communicate.

有一种非洲的美人鱼，在洋泾浜英语 —— 英语和本地语言的混合，这让语言不互通的人能够交流 —— 中被称作 Mami Wata。

Mami Wata means 'Mother Water' - but this is a loose translation - a translation which carries over the basic idea but using words which may not be so accurate.

Mami Wata 的意思是“水之母” —— 但这是一个粗略的翻译 —— 包含有基本意义但用词也许不太准确的翻译。

That's all for this programme, but the next time you're near the sea, keep an eye out for a splash in the waves - you never know what you might see!

今天的节目就到这里，但是下一次当你去海边的时候，请注意海浪来袭 —— 你永远不知道你会看到什么！

Join us again soon for more discussion and vocabulary here at 6 Minute English.

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Bye for now!

再见！

Bye!

再见！