Wikipedia:Wikipe-tan

"WP:TAN" redirects here. For the Tanzanian WikiProject, see Wikipedia:WikiProject Tanzania.

> ℹ️ **This is not an encyclopedia article, but a page in the Wikipedia namespace.**

> ℹ️ **This is an information page.**
> It is not an encyclopedic article, nor one of Wikipedia's policies or guidelines; rather, its purpose is to explain certain aspects of **Wikipedia:Mascot**. It may reflect differing levels of consensus and vetting.

Wikipe-tan (Japanese: ウィキぺたん) is a personification of Wikipedia created in January 2006 by Japanese editor Kasuga.[a] She is an unofficial mascot of Wikipedia and is used at several WikiProjects. The *-tan* in "Wikipe-tan" is an affectionate suffix, in the form of a Japanese honorific. Like the OS-tans, she is a product of *moe anthropomorphism*.

Wikipe-tan is the mascot character for WikiProject Anime and manga and WikiProject Holidays' Christmas task force; she was also the mascot for Admin coaching, the Counter-Vandalism Unit, and a contender for an official Wikipedia mascot. In addition, Wikimedia Hong Kong uses Wikipe-tan images and her cosplay during functions and promotions. Wikipe-tan has occasionally been treated as a mascot for Wikipedia or its community in news reports.

Appearance

Wikipe-tan is a short, fair-skinned girl. Her light blue hair is in twintails with two puzzle pieces acting as a hook. Her most common outfit is a dark blue maid dress, with a collar and a white apron tied at the waist. Just like in her hair, she wears a puzzle piece on her collar with the symbol "ワィ", which is a misspelling of the katakana "ウィ" that was present in the previous

Wikipe-tan	
First appearance	Futaba Channel (January 8, 2006)
Created by	Kasuga[a]
Based on	*Moe* anthropomorphism of Wikipedia
In-universe information	
Species	Human
Gender	Female
Family	Commons-tan (sister) Wikiquote-tan (sister)

logo from Wikipedia. She also wears tights the same color as her dress. Sometimes she wears dark brown slip-on shoes.

Background

The general idea for a "Wikipe-tan" mascot was posted on January 5, 2006, by the anonymous Taiwanese IP address 192.192.170.2, who suggested a mascot "just like OS-tan" on the Wikipedia mascot vote.[1] Japanese Wikipedia user Kasuga drew at least two images of a "Wikipe-tan" character and posted them on the Futaba Channel on January 8; the thread was linked from the mascot discussion on January 13,[2] and two of the images were uploaded to Commons and added directly to the discussion on January 18.[3]

Kasuga has stated that when designing Wikipe-tan and, later, her sisters, he kept two things in mind: Fujiko F Fujio's advice that a good character design should have a distinctive silhouette, and an observation by Scott McCloud in his *Understanding Comics* that golden age comic book artists gave each character symbolic color charts.[4]

The puzzle pieces worn by the character are from an earlier version of the Wikipedia puzzle globe logo. ワィ is a misspelling of ウィ ("wi"), the first syllable of the Japanese katakana transliteration of "Wikipedia", while 祖 is a kanji character apparently changed from the logo's 祖, the latter being a Chinese character not used in Japanese. The most up-to-date picture by Kasuga shows her wearing the characters 維 (being the first character of Wikipedia's Chinese name) and the correct Japanese katakana ウィ from the current Wikipedia logo.

On March 29, 2007, Wikipe-tan was joined by the *moe* anthropomorphisms for Wikipedia's sister projects, Commons-tan and Quote-tan. Kasuga has stated "...new Wiki-sisters will be designed in the future". However, Kasuga also stated that "there was no page that needed other sisters' images up to now. I might draw their images if there are pages which need them."

Although Wikipede received more support in the mascot vote, new Wikipe-tan images were made and saw continued use. Jimbo Wales described Wikipe-tan as a community mascot in 2007,[5] though he has since noted that he personally dislikes the character.[6]

Use and mentions

Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects

- June 2006 — Wikipe-tan was made the mascot for the Anime and manga WikiProject after the previous mascot, a fan-art image of the title character from *Midori Days*, was removed from Commons due to copyright problems. Since her first appearance, many users across the entire Wikimedia project have placed images of her on their userpages (see Commons usage for each image).
- August 9, 2006 — an image of Wikipe-tan was promoted as a featured picture, and it appeared on the main page as the October 2 Picture of the day.

    October 9, 2007 — the image was delisted and is no longer a featured picture.

- September 2006[7] — Wikipe-tan also acted as the mascot of the Counter-Vandalism Unit since their previous logo had been removed[8] in February 2006 due to trademark and copyright-related complications.

  August 2008 — a new image replaced[9] Wikipe-tan, though the old logo with Wikipe-tan was still used on the Project template until[10] March 2011.

The three current Wikimedia sisters (from left to right): Commons-tan, Wikipe-tan, and Quote-tan.

- February 21, 2007 — WikiProject Military history began using a Wikipe-tan image, requested to be created with her in a navy uniform for featured articles, to decorate one of their userboxes.
- July 2007 — a suggestive image of Wikipe-tan (not drawn by Kasuga) was proposed for use in the article on lolicon. The image was removed[11] from Commons by Jimbo Wales, who called Wikipe-tan a "community mascot" who should not be subject to such "pedophilic sexualization".[11] Kasuga later drew a new image for the article which did not use Wikipe-tan.
- December 21, 2007 — an image of Wikipe-tan wearing baro't saya was added to Wikipedia:Tambayan Philippines. That same image is currently used on the front page of the Chavacano-language Wikipedia at cbk-zam: and has been since June 27, 2008 (and was then made bigger on July 22, 2009).

Outside of Wikipedia and Wikimedia

- May 31, 2006 — a userChrome.css, written by Kylu, is available for Firefox users to add Wikipe-tan in their browsers.
- June 2006 — issue 48 of *games™*, a United Kingdom gaming magazine, used an image of Wikipe-tan on page 30 as an illustration of maid cafés.[12]
- August 2006 — Two Wikipe-tan cosplayers have been spotted in a cosplay activity at the University of Hong Kong. One of them was later interviewed by the Hong Kong magazine *Easy Finder*, which erroneously reported that she had been invited by Kasuga and Norwegian "administrator" GunnarRene to become the real-life personification of Wikipe-tan.[13][14]

  December 18, 2006 — The Hong Kong newspaper *Apple Daily* compounded that error, reporting that she had become a representative for Wikipedia.[15]

- October 12, 2006 — Hong Kong's *Apple Daily* ran a short article discussing Wikipe-tan, and how the GFDL helped her spread across Wikimedia.
- March 2007 — the Swedish foreign ministry published a promemoria[16] about Japanese anime and manga, using text and Kasuga's Wikipe-tan image from the Swedish Wikipedia without acknowledgement as required by the GFDL. The Swedish media reported this violation in April,[17] and the Chancellor of Justice ruled that the act was a copyright infringement in November.[18]
- June 15, 2007 — the German newspaper *Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten* (circulation ca. 31,000) used Wikipe-tan on the front page as well as next to an article on the variety of manga.

- June 1, 2008 — British newspaper *The Observer* featured on page 35 in the 'World' section a picture of the cropped sailor fuku version of Wikipe-tan in the article "Girl geeks find manga haven", byline Justin McCurry. The article makes no mention of Wikipedia, Wikipe-tan, or the GFDL.
- May 2012 — The proportions of Wikipe-tan inspired those of a 3D-modelled character designed for a thesis.[19]
- 2014 — A modified version of the adult Wikipe-tan picture without her signature puzzle pieces hair accessories is used on the cover of the book *Anime and the Visual Novel: Narrative Structure, Design and Play at the Crossroads of Animation and Computer Games* (https://google.com/books/edition/Anime_and_the_Visual_Novel/GmlACkJzvRwC?kptab=ov erview&gbpv=1) by Dani Cavallaro. Kasuga is credited for the cover art in the colophon.
- 2015 — Pixel art of Wikipe-tan is used as an example in a paper about pixel art.[20]
- September 15, 2015 — Wikipe-tan was mentioned alongside various other mascot characters in a *Hopes and Fears* article.[21]
- 2017 — Wikipe-tan is used as an example of a character with a super-deformed version in a textbook.[22]
- April 1, 2021 — Adult Wikipe-tan was added as an opponent in the free browser-based strip poker game SPNATI (*Strip Poker Night at the Inventory*) as part of their yearly April Fools' Day event. After the event ended, she was removed before being added again due to several requests from the player base.[23]
- April 18, 2022 — Futurism.com reuse[24]

Kasuga's art

Wikipe-tan

Original drawing
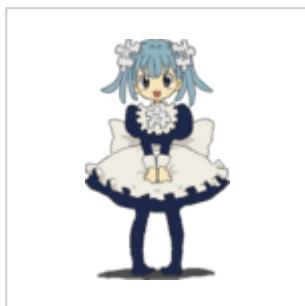
(colored)
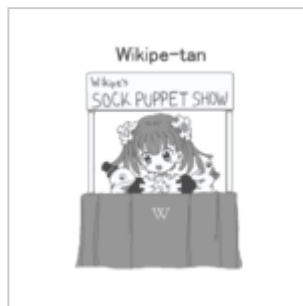
Her sock puppet show

She needs your help!

Donations needed

(colored)
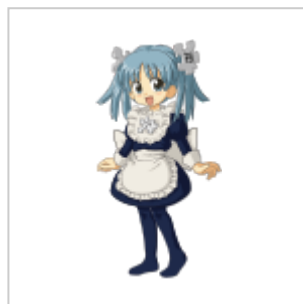
Color version
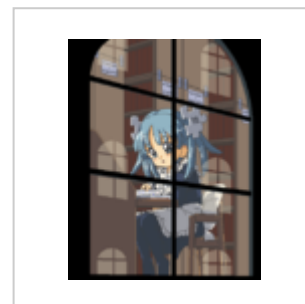
The Library of Babel

Sock puppeting

TrollBoat-tan

It's summer! The sea! Wikipe-tan!
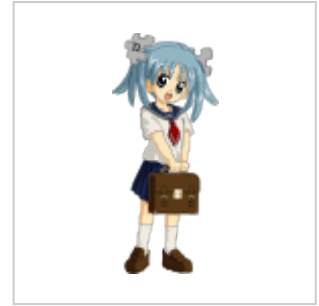
Wearing sailor fuku

Front view

Cleaning up
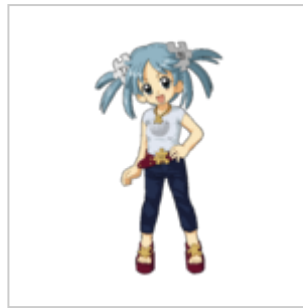
Wearing casual clothes

Pixel art

Don't abbreviate as Wiki!

Past, present, and future
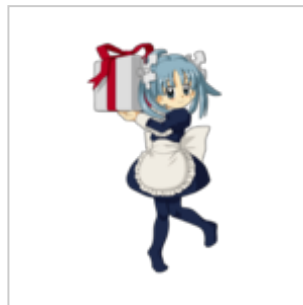
A birthday present

Wearing goth lolita fashion
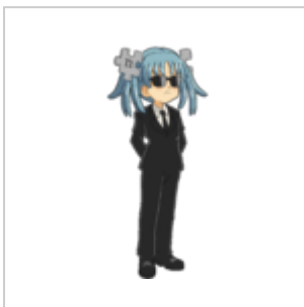
I've been expecting you, Mr. Anderson
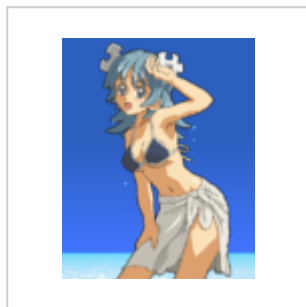
Adult Wikipe-tan in a bikini
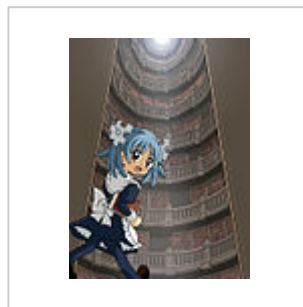
At the library

She needs your help! (color version)

Pondering the mysteries of Wikipedia. Aum.

Nekomimi-mode
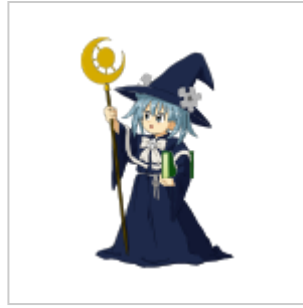
Magical girl

Holding up a blank sign, for various uses

As a *miko*

Simple-tan
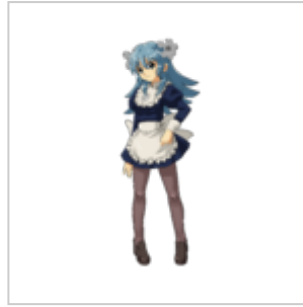
Adult Wikipe-tan

Wearing a navy uniform, with a featured star

Wearing a Santa suit

Wearing an *Ao dai*

Wrong season? That's a Northern Hemisphere POV!
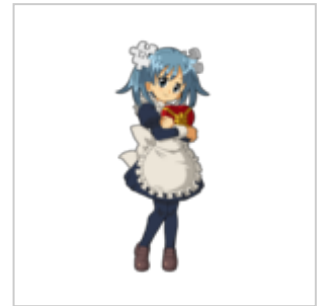
On Valentine's Day
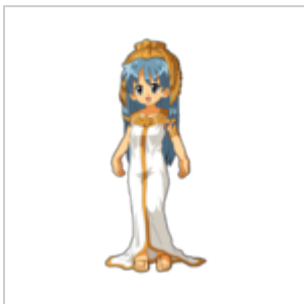
cosplaying Cleopatra
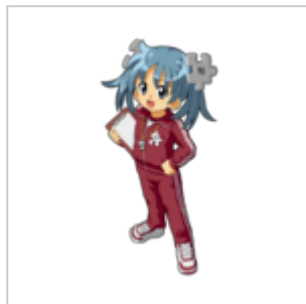
Coaching users
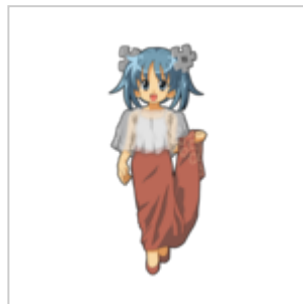
Wearing a baro't saya
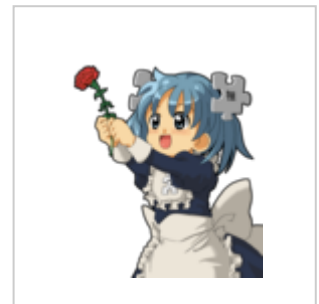
Presenting a carnation

A new badge
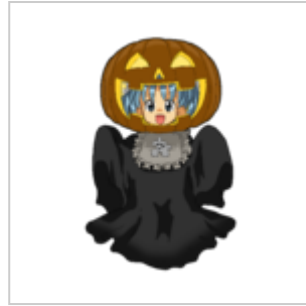
Wearing a costume for Halloween

As an RPG sorceress

Wikipe-tan manga (1/4)

Wikipe-tan manga (2/4)

Wikipe-tan manga (3/4)

Wikipe-tan manga (4/4)
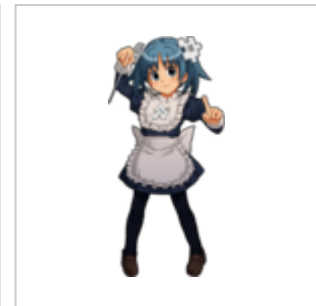
With a conductor's baton (2014)

As an amabie (2020)

Celebrating a Grand Prize (2024)

Sisters (Commons & Quote)

- **Commons-tan**

  She is the sister of Wikipe-tan and Wikiquote-tan. She is a short girl with fair skin, her hair is red with a blue arrow beret, she wears a dark blue maid dress with white sections and also wears socks the same color as her dress, she also wears orange slip-on shoes.

Commons-tan
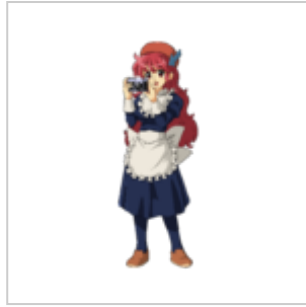
Adult Commons-tan
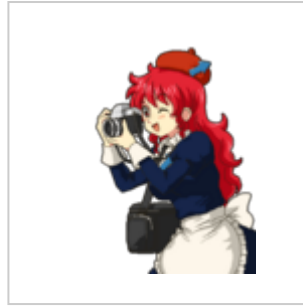
Taking a picture

- **Wikiquote-tan**

  She is the sister of Wikipe-tan and Commons-tan, she is a short girl with light skin, her hair is dark blue with a hook of the " symbol in blue, she wears a dark blue maid dress with white sections, she wears socks of the same color as her dress, she also wears blue shoes.

Quote-tan

Adult Quote-tan

Cropped versions

Cropped versions
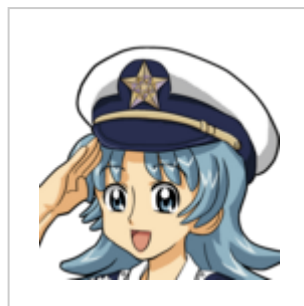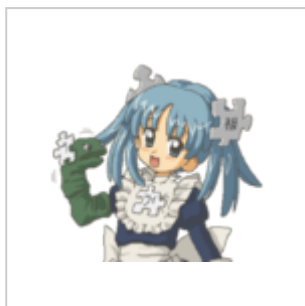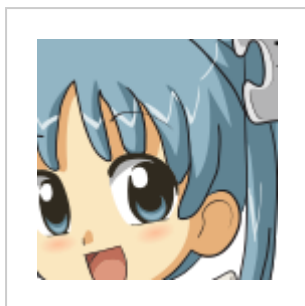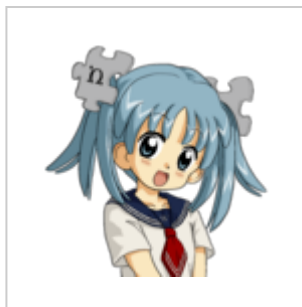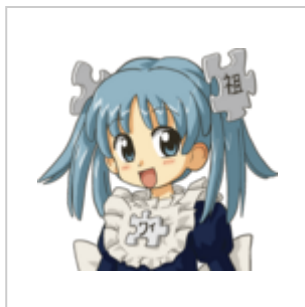
As an avatar

FA-tan

Derived from Kasuga's art

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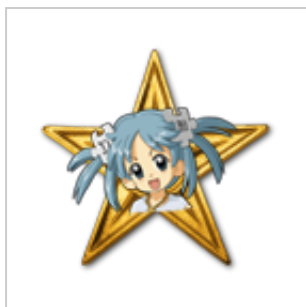
Barnstars

Barnstar for WikiProject Anime and manga

WikiProject Anime and manga Barnstar 2.0

Proposed nekomimi Barnstar

Proposed cleanup Barnstar
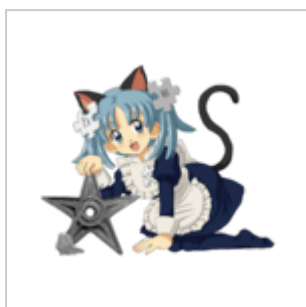
Proposed nekomimi cleanup Barnstar
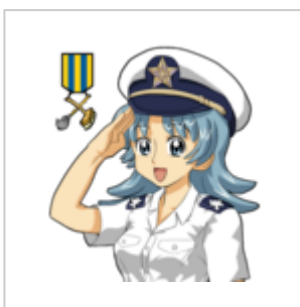
Proposed Barnstar

Proposed Barnstar

Italian Wikipedia Barnstar

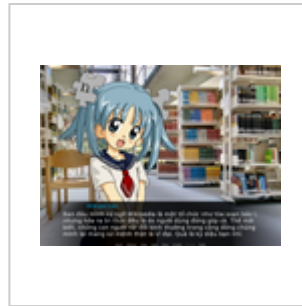Early version of the Barnstar 2.0

Miscellaneous

The following are images which have been used on the English and International Wiki. These include displays on Wikipedia articles, displays on Wikipedia project pages, and displays on Humorous and/or user pages.
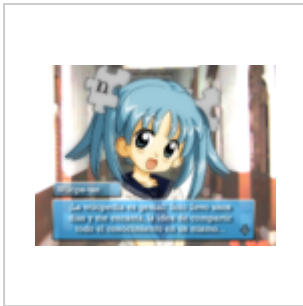
Visual novel scene
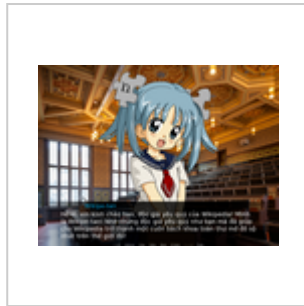
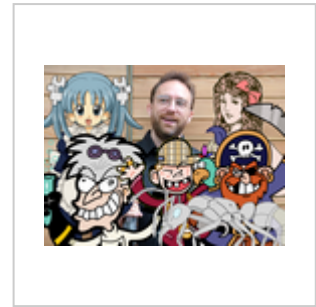*idem*

idem
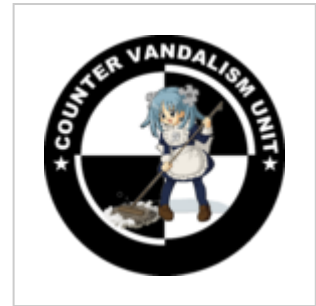
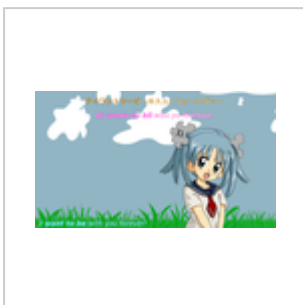Counter-Vandalism Unit (CVU)

With CVU riot gear
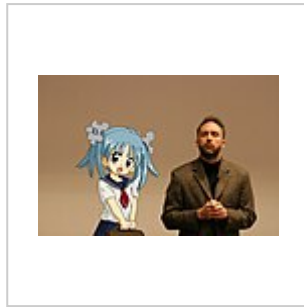
With Jimbo Wales

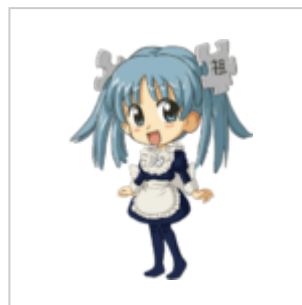Starring in her own comic
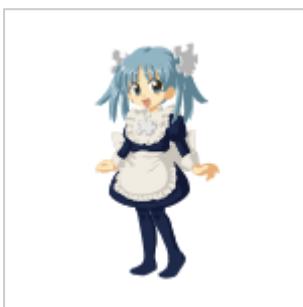

The Wikipedia super-team

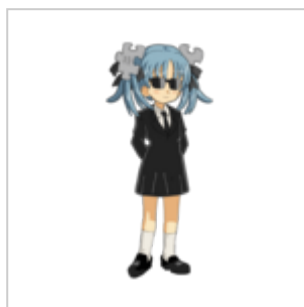Anime opening (with Engrish)

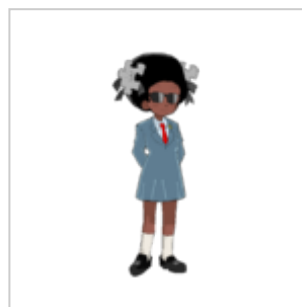In front of a portal

Super-chibi version
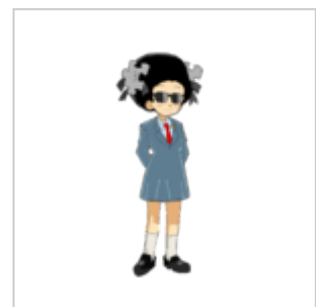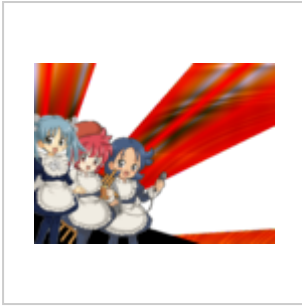

Outline only

Color only

(Wo)man in Black, by Perfectblue97
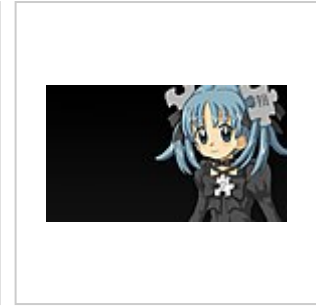

With an afro

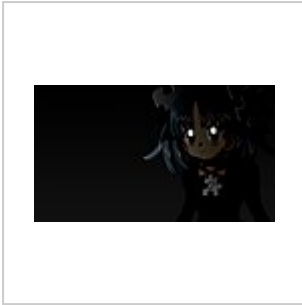Alternate afro

Desktop wallpaper

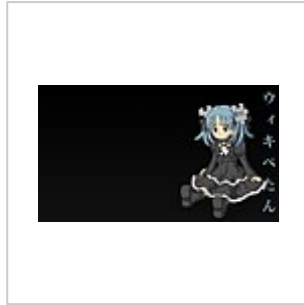With a dialogue bubble

Banner ad for Wikipedia:Fundraising redesign

Gothic Wikipe-tan 1

Gothic Wikipe-tan 2

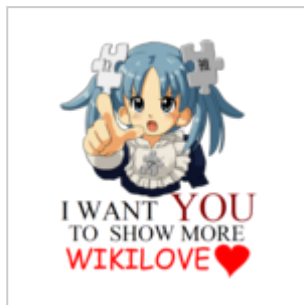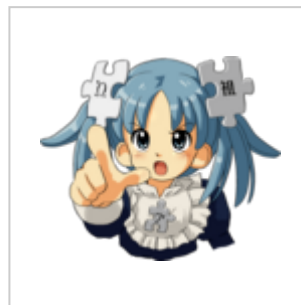Gothic Wikipe-tan 3

Attacked by a Wikitroll

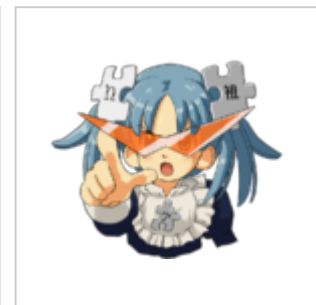Hello mah honey, hello mah baby, hello mah ragtime-tan...

Don't abbreviate as Wiki! (English)

Recruiting WikiLovers

Angry and without caption, for various uses

Kamina Wikipe-tan
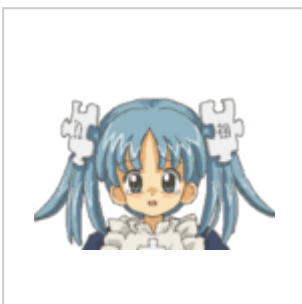
Aww, look at her, the rotten vandals made her cry.
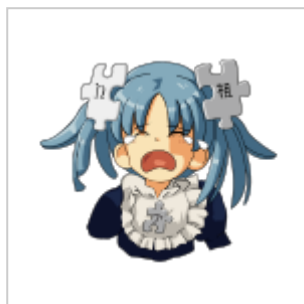
Crying loudly

Celebrating 100 years of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides
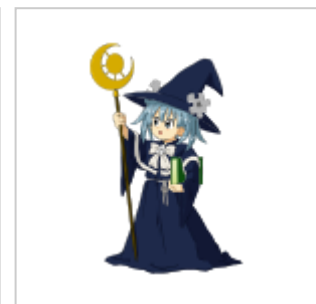
RPG sorceress colored, by Erimaxbau
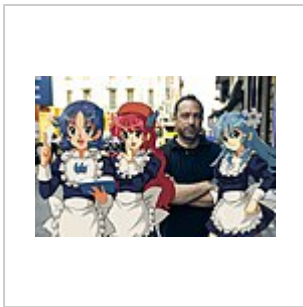
Jimbo's Angels

Looking for a needle in a haystack
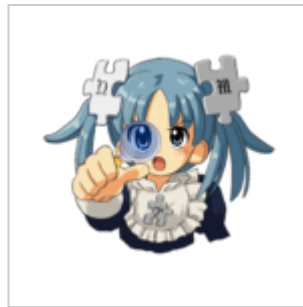
With a magnifying glass
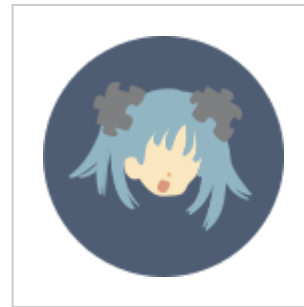
Flat icon

Angel costume

Angel costume 2
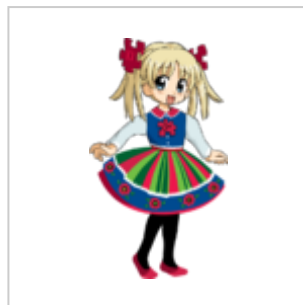
Polish folk costume
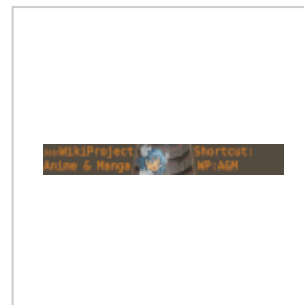
Banner ad for WikiProject Anime and manga
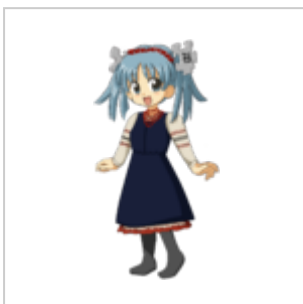
Ukrainian folk costume 1
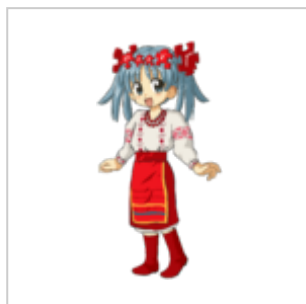
Ukrainian folk costume 2
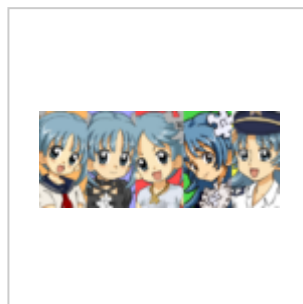
Five faces

She is speechless

Joker-tan

Moyai emoji (🗿)
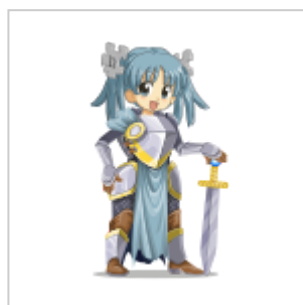
As a knight
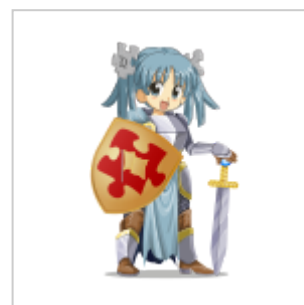
With the coat of arms of WikiProject H&V

In LGBT pride clothing

Wikipe-tan and friends during Wikipride
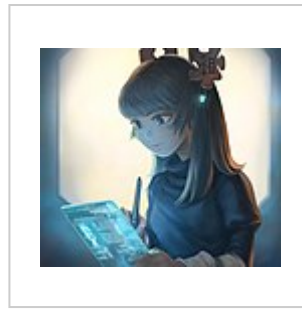
A remake by David Revoy in 2022
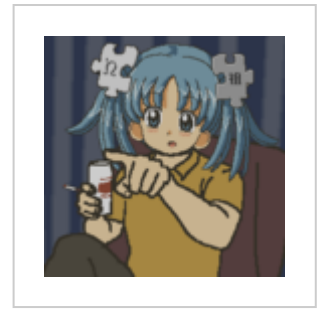
Look, I'm on TV!

Wikipe-tan shown in 9 anime styles from their respective media.

Stubs

Anime and Manga related stub
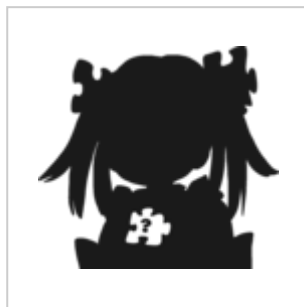
Anime industry related stub

Visual novel related stub

Userboxes

Code

{{User:Running/wikipe-tan}}

Result

This user loves **Wikipe-tan**, the cutest personification of Wikipedia.

Usage (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:WhatLinksHere/User:Running/wikipe-tan&hidelinks=1&hideredirs=1)
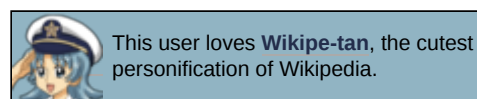
Supports several images

{{User:Σ/UBX/AntiWikipetan}}	This user believes Wikipe-tan established a cult of personality and is now destroying Wikipedia.	Usage (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:WhatLinksHere/User:%CE%A3/UBX/AntiWikipetan&hidelinks=1&hideredirs=1)
{{User:Cloud668/UBX/Waifu|Wikipe-tan}}	This user's waifu is Wikipe-tan.	Usage (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:WhatLinksHere/User:Cloud668/UBX/Waifu&hidelinks=1&hideredirs=1)

See also

- Wikipedia:Requests for adminship/Wikipe-tan - A successful Request for Adminship from Wikipe-tan on April 1, 2017.
- User:Dronebogus/True facts about Wikipe-tan

Footnotes

a. In the aftermath of the unified login finalization, the user now going by Kasuga on Commons and on English Wikipedia is a different person. The accounts of the creator of Wikipe-tan were renamed Kasuga~enwiki, Kasuga~jawiki and Kasuga~commonswiki.

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External links

- Media related to Wikipe-tan at Wikimedia Commons

- Kasuga's deviantART page (http://kasuga39.deviantart.com)
- Kasuga's Pixiv (https://pixiv.net/en/users/8686)

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Wikipedia:Wikipe-tan&oldid=1258773802"