

= Mew ( Pokémon ) =

Mew ( ??? , My? ) is one of the fictional species of creatures from Nintendo 's and Game Freak 's Pokémon media franchise created by Satoshi Tajiri . Mew is a small , pink , Psychic @-@ type Mythical Pokémon . It was added to Pokémon Red and Green by its creator , Game Freak programmer Shigeki Morimoto , as a secret character . As such , its presence has been surrounded by rumors and myths , which contributed to make the Pokémon franchise a success . For years , Mew could not be legitimately obtained in the games except from Pokémon distribution events .

Mew 's first film appearance was in Pokémon : The First Movie as a main character alongside Mewtwo . The movie revealed that a fossilized Mew hair , found in the Guyana jungle by a team of scientists , was used to create Mewtwo , a genetically enhanced Mew clone . Mew later appeared in Pokémon : Lucario and the Mystery of Mew as a main character alongside Lucario ; the backstory of the film revolves around Mew 's mysterious history and how it came to be so powerful . Pokémon : The Mastermind of Mirage Pokémon had a mirage Mew appear as a main character in the movie who helped Ash and friends try to defeat the Mirage Master .

= = Concept and creation = =

Unlike other characters in the Pokémon franchise , Mew 's development was not overseen by Ken Sugimori , but by Game Freak programmer Shigeki Morimoto . Morimoto programmed Mew into the game secretly , as a prank amongst the staff just prior to its release in Japan , intending it to be a Pokémon only Game Freak staff members would know about and be able to obtain . Mew was added at the very end of the development of Pokémon Red and Blue after the removal of debug features , freeing up just enough space to add the character despite being told not to alter the game any further at this point . Though not intended by the developers to be obtainable , due to a glitch , players were able to encounter it .

In the spring of 1996 , Game Freak 's president Satoshi Tajiri used the Japanese manga journal CoroCoro Comic as an experimental exhibition of Mew and distributed the first cards of it for the card game as free giveaways , which surprised many at Game Freak , including Morimoto . Due to the success of the experiment on April 15 , 1996 , Game Freak announced a contest to publicly release Mew to 151 winners . Tajiri described using Mew to create hype around an " invisible character " within the game and to keep interest alive in the title and create rumors and myths about the game passed around by word of mouth , which resulted in increased sales for the game .

= = Design and characteristics = =

Like Mewtwo , Mew is a Psychic @-@ type Pokémon with high stats . Morimoto designed it as a pale pink , with large eyes and a long , thin tail that broadens at the end , though blue specimens have been seen in the games . Its skin is covered with a layer of short , fine hair which may only be viewed under a microscope . Its DNA combines the genetic composition of all existing Pokémon species ; the game states that scientists within the game view it as being the single ancestor of all other Pokémon . It is shy and rarely seen by humans . It is a legendary Pokémon from the first generation , along with Articuno , Zapdos , Moltres , and Mewtwo . Mew 's number in the National Pokédex is 151 , the last of the first @-@ generation Pokémon , with 150 being Mewtwo and 152 being Chikorita . In the first generation games and their remakes , the player can find journal entries in the Pokémon Mansion on Cinnabar Island stating that Mew was discovered deep in the jungles of Guyana , South America , on July 5 ( the year is not specified ) , and named on July 10 , and that it " gave birth " to Mewtwo on February 6 . The name Mew is based on the onomatopoeia of a cat 's cry , meow .

In the video games , it is possible for Mew to learn any move that can be taught . Other than Ditto and Smeargle ( through the Sketch technique ) , it is the only Pokémon that can transform into other Pokémon using the " Transform " technique . In the anime , it is capable of flight , teleportation , shapeshifting , summoning giant pink bubbles of psychic energy ( which serve various purposes

such as closing itself in for protection , acting as a cushion , or simply for Mew 's amusement of bouncing on ) , and rendering itself invisible .

= = Appearances = =

= = = In the video games = = =

For a time , Mew could only be legitimately obtained in the Pokémon video games via Nintendo promotional event distributions . Mew was first revealed and made available to the public in the April 1996 issue of CoroCoro Comics . This issue offered a promotion called the " Legendary Pokémon Offer " , where 20 randomly selected entrants could send their cartridges in for Nintendo to add Mew to their games . At Nintendo promotional events soon after the release of Pokémon Red and Blue , players could have it downloaded to their games . This period ended with the release of My Pokémon Ranch , where Mew was accessible legitimately without an event distribution . Mew also appears as one of the Pokémon that can be released from the Poké Ball item in the Super Smash Bros. series . When sent out , it flies away from the stage , usually dropping rare items as it does so .

The creature has also long been accessible by the use of glitches or cheating devices . One of the glitches discovered in Pokémon Red , Blue , and Yellow involves exploiting programmed events . Walking into the view of a Trainer , then using a Pokémon 's " Fly " or " Teleport " move ( or " Dig " or the item " Escape Rope " in caves ) to escape the area right before the Trainer notices the player , then battling a Pokémon with the correct Special stat in a different area and immediately returning to the original location starts a battle with a wild Mew .

= = = In the anime = = =

Mew 's first major appearance in the Pokémon anime was in Pokémon : The First Movie , where it served as one of the main characters . It was believed to be long @-@ extinct and " the legendary and rare ' most powerful Pokémon ever ' " . After years of research , scientists use a recombination of Mew 's DNA to create Mewtwo , a genetically enhanced clone of Mew who becomes the film 's main antagonist . The backstory of Pokémon : Lucario and the Mystery of Mew revolves around Mew 's mysterious history and how it came to be so powerful . In the movie , a Pokémon " family tree " is shown ; the first Pokémon on it is Mew , and the last is Ho @-@ Oh .

= = = In the manga = = =

Mew appears in the Pokémon Adventures series of Pokémon manga . Mew , also known as the " Phantom Pokémon " in the manga , appears in the first chapter when the criminal organization Team Rocket tries to capture it . Pokémon Trainer Red also tries to capture it , but he is easily defeated by Mew . In following chapters , it is revealed that Team Rocket wants to have Mew 's DNA to finish the creation of Mewtwo , and Red and Trainer Green join forces to avoid it being captured .

= = Cultural impact = =

= = = Promotion and merchandising = = =

A promotion in the April 1996 issue of CoroCoro Comics called the " Legendary Pokémon Offer " offered the 20 winners the opportunity to send their cartridges in for Nintendo to add Mew to their games . To promote the Pokémon franchise , Mew is one of the Pokémon featured in the 1998 painting on the All Nippon Airways Boeing 747 @-@ 400 .

In September 2006 , in celebration of the release of Lucario and the Mystery of Mew and Pokémon

Mystery Dungeon : Blue Rescue Team and Red Rescue Team , players with a copy of Ruby , Sapphire , Emerald , FireRed , or LeafGreen could go to a Toys " R " Us store to download the creature for free . Included in the DVD of Lucario and the Mystery of Mew was a promotional Mew trading card .

== Critical reception ==

The revealing and distribution of Mew through organized events has been noted as a major reason for the series ' success in Japan , with the Japanese " Legendary Pokémon Offer " receiving over 78 @, @ 000 entries , exceeding their initial expectation of 3000 . Nintendo CEO Satoru Iwata attributed the success of the games to the " Legendary Pokémon Offer " ; since then , the weekly sales of Red and Green began to match its previous monthly sales , and then becoming three to four times larger . However , Computer and Video Games magazine criticized the exclusivity of Mew to Nintendo events as one of the worst aspects of Pokémon , noting that through the use of cheat devices such as the Pro Action Replay to access Mew , they were rendered obsolete . Many fans of the game bought cheat devices only to obtain it . UGO.com listed Mew sixth on their list of " The 25 Awesomest Hidden Characters " . Authors Tracey West and Katherine Noll called Mew the best Legendary Pokémon and the fifth best Pokémon overall .

Due to its balanced statistics and ability to learn any move that comes from a Technical or Hidden Machine , Mew is regarded as one of the best Pokémon in Red , Blue , and Yellow . Studies on the impact of fictional characters on children , such as those in Pikachu 's Global Adventure : The Rise and Fall of Pokémon , have noted Mew as popular with younger female children who tend to be drawn to " cute " characters ; Mewtwo in comparison was described as a polar opposite , popular with older male children who tend to be drawn to " tough or scary " characters . The book Media and the Make @-@ believe Worlds of Children noted a similar comparison , describing Mew as " child @-@ like and gentle , combining characteristics of power and cuteness " and emphasizing the importance of the contrast for children between it and Mewtwo , and its role as a source of appeal for the character . IGN listed Mew as one of the best Psychic types , alongside Mewtwo , Alakazam , and Starmie . They called it a good contender to Mewtwo , as well as an unpredictable Pokémon due to its ability to use any TM or HMs , items that teach Pokémon attacks .

= Þorgerðr Hölgabrúðr and Irpa =

In Norse mythology , Þorgerðr Hölgabrúðr and Irpa are divine figures . Þorgerðr and Irpa appear together in Jónsvíkinga saga , Njáls saga and Þorleifs þátrr jarlsskálds . Irpa does not appear outside of these four attestations , but Þorgerðr also appears in the Prose Edda book Skáldskaparmál , Færeyinga saga , and Harðar saga ok Hólmverja and is mentioned in Ketils saga h?ngs . Þorgerðr Hölgabrúðr is particularly associated with Haakon Sigurdsson ( d . 995 ) , and , in Jónsvíkinga saga and Þorleifs þátrr jarlsskálds , she and Irpa are described as sisters . The roles of the Þorgerðr Hölgabrúðr and Irpa in these sources , and the implications of their names , has resulted in an amount of scholarly discourse and theory .

== Etymology ==

The name Þorgerðr Hölgabrúðr is Old Norse and literally means " Þorgerðr , H?lgi 's bride . " According to Skáldskaparmál chapter 42 , H?lgi ( a traditional eponym of the northernmost Norwegian province Hålogaland ) is also Þorgerðr 's father . The first name Þorgerðr is a compound of two names , the god name Þor ( Thor ) , and gerðr ? the latter name meaning " fenced in . "

The figure 's second name sometimes appears in sources featuring -brúðr replaced with -troll , and , in place of H?lg- , the prefixes H?rða- , H?rga- , and H?lda- also appear . It has been suggested that name Þorgerðr derives from the name of the j?tunn Gerðr , as Þorgerðr is also described at times as a troll or giantess . Alternatively , Gerðr may simply be an abbreviated version of the name

Þorgerðr . Þorgerðr is referred to as Gerðr in Tindr Hallkelsson 's 10th @-@ century drápa on Haakon , quoted in chapter 43 of Óláfs saga Tryggvasonar , found in the Heimskringla .

John McKinnell states that the name of Þorgerðr 's father is probably a later addition used to explain the origins of the name of Hålogaland , and that " H?lgabruðr " probably means " bride of the ( rulers of ) Hålogaland " and that H?rðabruðr , similarly , may mean " bride of the ( rulers of ) Hörðaland . " H?rðabruðr as " bride of the heathen shrines , " and h?ldabruðr as either " bride of the people of Holde " or " bride of noblemen . " McKinnell says that the variety of stories and names suggest that the tradition of Þorgerðr H?lgabruðr was wide spread , and that she was venerated in more than one area .

The name Irpa may derive from the Old Norse term jarpr " dark brown " , which has led to a number of theories about the goddess . Jarpr is thought to derive from the earlier Proto @-@ Germanic word \* erpa- .

= = Attestations = =

Þorgerðr and / or Irpa are attested in the following works :

= = = Jómsvíkinga saga = = =

Irpa appears in chapter 21 of the Jómsvíkinga saga , which focuses on the late 10th century Battle of Hjörungavágr between the fleet of the Jomsvikings under Sigvaldi Strut @-@ Haraldsson and the fleet of Haakon Sigurdsson and Sweyn Haakonsson . Haakon calls a meeting during a lull in the fighting , and says that he feels that the tide of the battle is going against his allies and him . Haakon then goes to an island called Primsiged , north of Hjörung Bay . On the island , Haakon falls to his knees , and , while looking northward , prays to what is described as his patron goddess , Þorgerðr H?lgabruðr . According to the saga , Þorgerðr repeatedly refuses his offers , but finally accepts the blót of his 7 @-@ year @-@ old son . Haakon 's slave , Skopti , slaughters the boy . Haakon returns to his fleet and presses his men to engage in an attack , and commends his men to ( " Þorgerðr " is here anglicized as " Thorgerd " ) :

Press the attack all the more vigorously , because I have invoked for victory both the sisters , Thorgerd and Irpa .

Haakon enters his ship , the fleet rows forward for the attack , and battle ensues . The weather becomes thick in the north , the clouds cover the sky , daylight becomes sparse , thunder and lightning ring out , and it begins to rain . The Jomvikings fleet fights facing the storm and cold , and they have trouble standing due to the heavy wind . The Jomsvikings throw weapons , missiles , and stones at Haakon 's fleet but the winds turn their projectiles back at them .

Hávard the Hewing , in the fleet of Haakon , first spots Þorgerðr there and then many others see her . The wind wanes and the men witness arrows flying from the fingertips of Þorgerðr , each arrow killing a man of the Jomsviking fleet . The Jomsvikings tell Sigvaldi that although they are no longer fighting men alone , they will still do their best . The storm lessens again and once again Haakon invokes Þorgerðr . The saga describes this attack :

And then it grew dark again with a squall , this time even stronger and worse than before . And right at the beginning of the squall Hávard the Hewing saw that two women were standing on the earl 's ship , and both were doing the same thing that Thorgerd had done before .

Sigvaldi tells his men to retreat , and reasons that this is not what he vowed to fight , especially since there are now two women , whom he refers to as " ogresses " and " trolls . " After the Jomvikings fleet has been defeated , Haakon 's men weigh the hailstones that had fallen during the storm , to detect " what power " Þorgerðr and Irpa had , and they find that the hailstones weigh an ounce each .

= = = Njáls saga = = =

Þorgerðr and Irpa are again mentioned together in chapter 88 of Njáls saga , set in the 10th and

11th centuries . Here , Hrapp breaks into the temple owned by Haakon and Gudbrand while Haakon is at a feast at Gudbrand 's home . Hrapp plunders a seated depiction of Þorgerðr ; he takes a large gold ring from her plus the linen hood she is wearing . Next , Hrapp spots a depiction of Thor and Thor 's wain . He takes a gold ring from the depiction of Thor too , and , thirdly , he takes a ring from a depiction of Irpa there . Hrapp takes all of the images from the temple , strips them of their items , and then burns the temple until leaving at dawn .

= = = Skáldskaparmál = = =

Þorgerðr is mentioned in the Prose Edda book Skáldskaparmál . Here , Hålogaland is described as named after king Hǫlgi , and that he was Þorgerðr 's father . According to Skáldskaparmál , blót were made to them both that included money , and a tumulus was made for Hǫlgi that was built with layers of gold and silver , then covered by a layer of earth and stone . Later in Skáldskaparmál , a list of " troll @-@ wives " is given that includes Hǫlgabrúðr .

= = = Færeyinga Saga = = =

In chapter 23 of Færeyinga Saga , Haakon asks Sigmund where he puts his trust . Sigmund responds that he puts his trust nowhere but with himself . Haakon responds :

" That must not be , " the Earl [ Haakon ] answered , " but thou shalt put thy trust where I have put all my trust , namely , in Thorgerd Shinebright , " said he . " And we will go and see her now and seek luck for thee at her hands . "

The two then follow a small path through the woods until they come to a house with a stake fence around it . The house is described as beautiful , featuring carvings filled with gold and silver . They enter the house with a few men , and find that it is lit from glass windows in the ceiling , so that the daylight illuminates the room and there are no shadows to be seen due to this . There were depictions of many gods there and a woman who is described as well dressed near the door .

The saga relates that Haakon throws himself to the ground before the woman for some time . When he gets up , he tells Sigmund that they should give her an offering , that they ought to lay silver on the stool before her . Haakon says :

And we shall have it as a mark of what she thinks of this , if she will do as I wish and let the ring loose which holds in her hand . For thou , Sigmund , shalt get luck by that ring .

Haakon takes hold of the ring , and , seemingly to Sigmund , she clasps her hand around it . Haakon does not receive the ring . Haakon casts himself down before her a second time , and Sigmund notices that Haakon is weeping . He stands up again , takes hold of the ring , and finds that it has become loose . Haakon gives the ring to Sigmund , and tells him that he must never part with it . Sigmund gives him his word on it and the men part , each returning to their ships . A storm appears and the two ships are swept apart , and many days are described as passing afterwards .

= = = Harðar saga ok Hólmverja = = =

In chapter 19 of the saga Harðar saga ok Hólmverja , Grímkell Bjarnarson , a goði closely related to Haakon , goes to the temple ( Old Norse hof ) of Þorgerðr Hǫlgabrúðr to ask for a successful marriage for his daughter . When he arrives , the gods are preparing to leave . After an angry exchange with Þorgerðr , who tells him he does not have long to live , Grímkell burns down the hof with all the gods in it . Later that evening , Grímkell suddenly falls dead at dinner .

= = = Ketils saga hǫngs = = =

In chapter 5 of Ketils saga hǫngs , Ketill encounters a troll @-@ woman in the forest . The troll @-@ woman tells him she is traveling to a trolla @-@ þing ? an assembly of trolls . Among the major figures who will be present , she continues , are Skelkingr , the king of the trolls , and Þorgerðr Hǫrgatrǫll .

= = = Þorleifs þáttr jarlsskálds = = =

In Þorleifs þáttr jarlsskálds , Þorleifr Ásgeirsson , known as jarlsskáld ( " the Jarl ? s skald " ) , recites an abusive and magically aggressive poem in Earl Haakon 's hall . In chapter 7 ( chapter 173 of Óláfs saga Tryggvasonar ) , Haakon recovers from his injuries and offers gifts to Þorgerðr H?rdabrúðr and her sister Irpa , seeking their counsel on how best to take vengeance on Þorleifr . Following their advice , Haakon has a wooden man ( Old Norse trémaðr ) built out of driftwood and endows it with a human heart . Haakon and the two sisters then bring the trémaðr to life , arm him with a halberd , and send him to Iceland to kill Þorleifr , which he does .

= = Theories = =

A number of theories surround the figures of Þorgerðr and Irpa :

= = = Guardian goddesses = = =

Hilda Ellis Davidson counts Þorgerðr and Irpa as examples of guardian goddesses in Germanic paganism , and compares their roles to that of the dísir and valkyries . Davidson says that if Helgi is the mythical founder of Hålogaland , it would explain Þorgerðr 's last name ( " bride of Helgi " ) and that , subsequently , she would be the wife of each ruler of the kingdom in turn . Substantially the same argument has been advanced by McKinnell . Davidson compares this role to accounts of kings or leaders being granted entry into Valhalla in the Viking Age , that the idea of a guardian goddess welcoming kings was essentially an aristocratic concept , and that a tradition such as this could explain noble valkyries welcoming dead kings into the after life , using the poem Hákonarmál as an example .

= = = Þorgerðr and Freyja = = =

Davidson further theorizes that Þorgerðr 's name may have originally been Gerðr , reasons that this form is what is found in early skaldic verse , and , further , that this is one of the names given for the goddess Freyja . Davidson points out that Haakon may have later turned to the same goddess soon before he met his death , when he hid in the earth beneath a swine in Óláfs saga Tryggvasonar ( collected in Heimskringla ) chapter 48 , and that this could symbolize a mound of Freyja , one of whose names means " sow " ( Old Norse sýr ) . Davidson theorizes that the account of Olaf I of Norway dragging Þorgerðr 's image out of its temple after Haakon 's death , and burning it next to a depiction of Freyr ( Freyja 's male twin ) , further supports this view .

= = = Irpa = = =

Irpa has been proposed as an earth goddess due to the derivation of her name to a word for " dark brown " , but F.R. Schröder has expressed criticism at the notion of concluding that Irpa is an earth goddess based on this evidence . John McKinnell proposes that the Irpa may represent a " dark " aspect of Þorgerðr , in that her name may mean " swarthy , " and that the two were probably of contrasting appearance ; Irpa being unlucky to name and seen as a troll . McKinnell further proposes a connection between Irpa and Hel , stating that the two may have been seen as synonymous .

= = = Miscellaneous theories = = =

Nora Chadwick ( 1950 ) suggested that mythical legends of Þorgerðr and Irpa have become confused and intertwined with historical accounts of Haakon ? s wife Þóra and her sister , Guðrún ; and that the figure of the shieldmaiden Lagertha in the Gesta may also be an aspect of Þorgerðr .

Lotte Motz ( 1993 ) proposed that Þorgerðr was a rare instance of a giantess who was the recipient of cultic worship in her own right in heathen Scandinavia .