

Yokai: Intro to Yokai

Summary: We discuss the origins of yokai and watch a video about Yokai Illustrator Matthew Meyer and learn about the history of Yokai

Time Slot: 0 Warmup

Yokai started in the Edo period



Japan during the Edo period (1603–1868) was a time of monsters. Every dark corner, every deep forest, every dank graveyard, was filled with yokai—an unimaginable variety of strange creatures, weird phenomenon, and mysterious beings. The entire country was consumed with belief in the supernatural. Some of these monsters were ancient legends from prehistory, but most of them were

sage describing the history of scary stories:

Originally a game:

born right in the Edo period, in a game called *Hyakumonogatari Kaidankai*—A Gathering of 100 Weird Tales.

The way to play was simple. Players would light a hundred candles in a room, then take turns telling stories. With every story, they would douse a candle, so the room got slowly darker. People swapped stories about something they had heard. Or they told of their own mysterious encounters with strange lights at night. It didn't matter if these stories were complete, it only mattered that they were true. And that these spooky encounters sent a shiver down the spine on a hot summer night.



A Definition of Yokai culture

A common definition^[1] of Yokai is that they are "creatures, presences, or phenomena (events) that could be described as mysterious or eerie".

Yokai culture includes:

1. Strange events.
2. Strange beings or objects.
3. Images of Yokai

Which of these are Yokai?

Dobby from Harry Potter

A Kappa

A magic wand

A drawing of a haunted castle

Video about Matthew Meyer, a modern Yokai illustrator

This is a video called "Enchanted By Yokai Monsters" about Yokai Illustrator Matthew Meyer

<https://archive.org/details/enchanted-by-yokai-monsters-matthew-meyer-yokai-illustrator>

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1. from An Introduction to Yōkai Culture: Monsters, Ghosts, and Outsiders in Japanese History

[Kazuhiko Komatsu](#), [Hiroko Yoda \(Translator\)](#), [Matt Alt \(Translator\)](#) ↩

Yokai: Mysterious Events, Scary Stories, or Supernatural Entities

Summary: We discuss scary stories and silly stories

Time Slot: 1 Morning A

Warm-up for Silly and Scary stories

Yokai are often called scary or mysterious stories. Sometimes they are even just silly.

- What makes a story scary? Silly?
- What are things you associate with Yokai and Yokai stories?
- How is silly different than scary?
- What is a mystery? What is the Supernatural?
- How do you write or tell a silly or scary story:
 - What kinds of places do they happen in?
 - What happens in these stories?
 - What kind of people or creatures are in silly stories?
- What is an explanation?
- What makes an explanation good? interesting? not good?

Yokai: Tsukumogami Story

Summary: We make a story about a Tsukumogami (Yokai Object) based on simple questions.

Time Slot: 1 Morning A

Making the Story

To make this easier, I provide some easy things to draw below

I suggest walking through the steps with group. You can elicit suggestions, or use the example below:

- **Pick an object**
A radio
- **Give a spooky location**
An dusty attic
- **Make something strange about it.**
It only plays one song on every station.
- **Come up with a mysterious explanation for it**
A time traveller came back looking for his lost love and got stuck in time.
- **Who finds the object?**
A young woman finds it in her attic.
- **How do they react?**
She is surprised.
- **How do they solve/fix the mystery?**
She unplugs the radio. The song stops.
- **How does the story end?**
The time traveller appears, tells her he is her future husband, and returns to his time

Write the story out neatly, so you can read it for presentations.

Sequence

1. Kids pick out their object.

Two options for choosing the images.

- Cute things from a pdf
- Kids take a sheet with a set of easy line drawings to choose from.

[Yokai - CuteThingsToDraw 1 copy to share among classes.pdf](#)

[Yokai 50 Things to Draw 1 per class.pdf](#)

2. Kids write the story by filling out fill out a worksheet based on it.

[scary_story.pdf](#)

Yokai: Yokai - Conditionals

Summary: We add 2 zero conditionals to our story (w/ worksheet). Ex:
If I see it, I run away.

Time Slot: 2 Morning B

[Conditionals Type 0 ESL Printable Multiple Choice Quiz](#)

[conditionals type zero esl multiple choice quiz for kids.pdf](#)

[Zero Conditionals.pdf 2 up.pdf](#)

Yokai: Book about yokai

Summary: We look at some books about Yokai.

Time Slot: 2 Morning B

The original Toriyama Sekien

This is one of the oldest books about Yokai, and is the one that started its popularity

<http://archive.org/details/GazuHyakkiyagyo3Tori>

[A version in Spanish](#)

Collected in "Japandemonium Illustrated" but I can't find a link to it.

Yokai Encyclopedia The Book of Yokai

[Michael Dylan Foster's Encyclopedia](#)

Kitaro by Shigeru Shimizu

[Kitaro](#) is an famous influential manga all about Yokai

[Another set of his manga](#)

BOO-GLEECH: 31 Favorite Yo-Kai Watch I Yo-kai!

Yokai watch is a famous manga/anime series in Japan that was translated into a popular Disney Series

<https://bogleech.com/halloween/hall16-yokaiwatch>

Yokai: Lunch Movie

Summary: After lunch we can watch Yokai-Watch in English

Time Slot: 3 Lunch

Yo-Kai Watch Full (or mostly full) Series (Official US English dub) :

Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

[https://archive.org/details/yo-kai.watch.s01e74.dubbed.720p.hdtv.x264-w4f/Yo-Kai+Watch+\(2014\)/Season+1/Yo.Kai.Watch.s01e01.mp4](https://archive.org/details/yo-kai.watch.s01e74.dubbed.720p.hdtv.x264-w4f/Yo-Kai+Watch+(2014)/Season+1/Yo.Kai.Watch.s01e01.mp4)

Yokai: Googly Tsukumogami

Summary: We illustrate the story by tracing the Tsukumogami. We add Googly Eyes and other elements to make them come alive. We add a scene from our story. 1-1 sessions with teacher to fix stories.

Time Slot: 5 Afternoon A

Intro:

Watch Caspar Babypants - Googly Eyes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1eZXCIDGQ0>

Drawing the Tsukumogami Yokai

1. Take your picture of your Tsukumogami you chose earlier and trace or copy it.
2. Add googly eyes, arms, legs, and other modifications
3. Color it in with a crayon or marker
4. Add a frame from cardstock.
5. If time/alternate: Choose one scene from your [Tsukumogami Story](#) and illustrate it.

Practice reading the stories

1-1 with teacher to help and bring the stories into shape.

Yokai: Telling scary stories

Summary: Classes come together and listen to scary stories in a darkened room.

Time Slot: 7 Presentations