

FOLKTALES ASSIGNMENT

A. Visit the following website and look at two folkstories.

[Folk Legends - Kids Web Japan - Web Japan](#)



1. Summarize each story very briefly (do not rewrite the story!).
2. Is there a common theme between the two stories?
3. Where any of these like the folk stories you've read or heard?
4. Do you think these stories really happened? How do you know?
5. Can you think of any reason why people would tell stories like these?
6. Which parts of the stories did you like best? Why?
7. What do the stories tell us about Japan?
8. Do you think Japan is still like the Japan in these stories?

B. Now visit another site from Japan by [D. L. Ashliman](#) on Folktales

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/japan.html>

1. Read one of the stories on this site and compare it to one of the two stories you read in Part A.
2. Which website did you like better? Why?

C. Now visit this website.

<http://pweb.sophia.ac.jp/~britto/deekid/task17/yoshi17.html>

1. What does Yoshi-Yoshi have to say about monkeys and foxes in Japanese folk tales?
2. What are other animals that come up in Japanese stories?
3. What are some animals that are common in the folk tales or stories in your culture?

D. Now find out about *Kamishibai*. You can start by looking at the following websites, but feel free to look at other sites. (Make a list of other sites you found useful).

<http://www.kamishibai.com/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamishibai>

1. What is *kamishibai*? Give a brief history/background.
2. For you *kuni* project, make up a folk tale which you will present in the form of a kamishibai. You will have more time and I will give you more details but you can get a start on the assignment.

