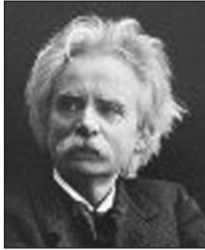


Beware of Trolls!



Theodor Kittelsen (1857-1914) was a Norwegian artist, famous for his nature paintings and illustrations of fairytales and legends—especially trolls. The listening map uses his Forest Troll, drawn in 1906.



Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) was born in Bergen, Norway. At age 6, he began studying piano with his mother. And at age 15, he traveled to Germany to study at the Leipzig Conservatory. At first, he was very homesick. He was glad to return home after graduation. As a composer, he incorporated many folk melodies, helping his music to sound Norwegian.

In 1875, Grieg was asked to write incidental music for Henrik Ibsen's play, which tells of the adventures of a young boy named *Peer Gynt*. At one point in the play, Peer is in the great hall of the troll Mountain King. The young boy is chased by a group of trolls. The music gets faster and faster, and comes to a dramatic end, as the young boy escapes to safety. Can you hear the “chase scene” in the music?



Norwegian trolls have very distinct features. They have long crooked noses, with only four fingers and toes on each limb. Most of them have a long bushy tail. Some trolls are giants—others are small. There are stories of two-headed trolls, and even a few with only one eye in the middle of their wrinkled foreheads. Others have trees and rough moss-like growth all over their heads and noses. (What kind of troll is found in the listening map?) Trolls come out after sunset. The sun would cause them to crack, turn into stone and burst. They have supernatural powers, and usually bring good luck! Unfortunately, some trolls bring bad luck!

The word *troll* appears in the names of many Norwegian towns and villages. Edvard Grieg named his home *Troldhaugen* (*Trold* = troll; *haugen* = small hill). The home (now a museum) is located next to a small hill, which is near the “Valley of Trolls,” according to the composer.

Read more about trolls, in **Norwegian Troll Tales** by Joanne Asala (editor), with illustrations by Theodor Kittelsen. (Penfield Books; Revised & Expanded edition, July 2005, ISBN-10: 1932043101)

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