



Mermaids  
and

# WHAT IS A MERMAID?

The word mermaid comes from the French word 'mer' which means sea and 'maid' which is a young girl. Above the waist they appear as a lovely young woman, with long flowing hair, whilst from the waist down, they are like a fish with fins and a spreading tail.





# What is a merman?

A male version of a mermaid is a merman. They look like a man from the waist up but have also got a fish tail.

They are handsome and athletic.



In mythology, they have been said to sink ships by summoning great storms, but also said to be wise teachers.

## Where they live

Most mermaids and Mermen live in caverns, far below the surface of the sea. They can be found in many oceans across the world. A majority of mermaids decorate their caves with a variety of seashells and other underwater decorations. Some mermaids and mermen choose to decorate their walls with many human objects instead.



# Hobbies

- Usually, each mermaid or merman will have their own specific hobbies. Mermaids can be frequently seen swimming, exploring parts of the ocean and singing beautiful songs. Their voices are able to attract passing sailors who hear their songs far across the oceans. Mermen are said to enjoy sports including swimming, diving and hunting.



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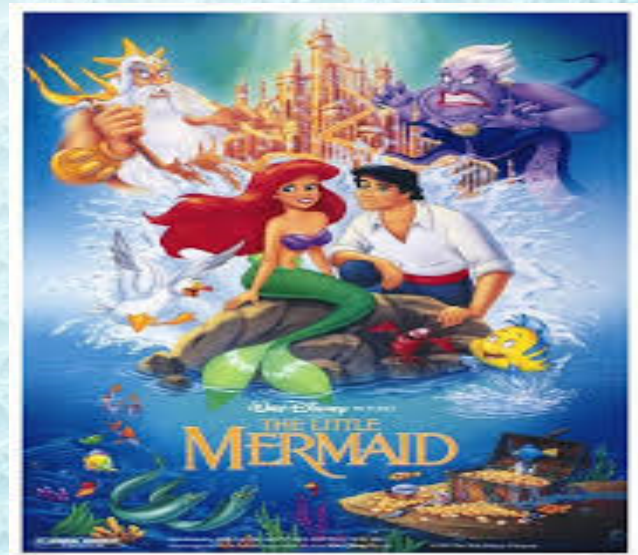
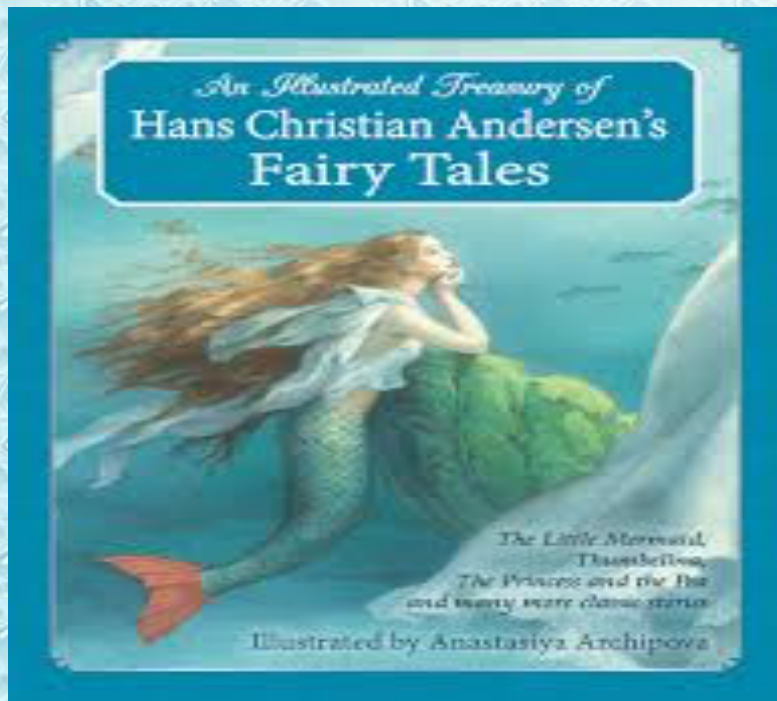
# Meeting Humans

- Occasionally, their meetings with humans can be stressful, which explains why they often choose to stay hidden. Several humans have tried hunting them to put them in tanks - something that all merpeople would fear. However there are reports of many friendships between humans and their underwater cousins.



# THE LITTLE MERMAID

The *Little Mermaid* is a well known fairy tale by the Danish author Hans Christian Andersen about a young mermaid and her mer friends. She is willing to give up her life in the sea, as a mermaid to become human because she fell in love with a human prince. The tale was first published in 1837 and has been adapted to various media including musical theatre and a Disney film.



# The Little Mermaid

A statue of the Little Mermaid sits on a rock in the Copenhagen harbour in Denmark . This statue is a tourist attraction.

In the Disney version of The Little Mermaid when Ariel is sitting on top of the rock looking longingly at Prince Eric, she is in exactly the same position that the statue is in.





As you can see, merpeople are fascinating creatures and we still have much information to learn about them. Whilst they may be hard to find, they are worth keeping a look out for on your next trip to the ocean. You may even be lucky enough to hear one sing! Or you may even know one already!

