

Merfolk around the World

If you love geography, you'll love learning about mermaids around the world and their stories. There is no one legend and, as you'll read, no one "look" for merfolk. Some of these merfolk are found in multiple countries.



CHITAPO

Continent: Africa

Country: Zambia

Often seen with a snake, Chitapo will steal your pots and pans and put them in the water. To avoid her trickery, make sure you keep your pots and pans busy with good cooking!



YAWKYAWK / LIKANAYA

Continent: Oceania

Country: Australia

Legend has it, if you see seaweed floating near the surface of the ocean it is Likanaya's hair. Like a mermaid, with a human upper body and fish lower body, the Aboriginal Likanaya can also shape-shift and turn into a crocodile, dragonfly, snake, or swordfish. They bring rain when upset.



NINGYO

Continent: Asia

Country: Japan

Though the Ningyo have faces like humans, they have the mouth of a fish, golden scales, and the voice of a flute. It is said if you eat one, you become immortal but then great storms will come.



IARA

Continent: South America

Country: Brazil

This Amazon River queen has green algae for hair and copper skin – she lures people to her with beautiful singing. She has a blowhole in the back of her neck and a dolphin body. She was once a girl who drowned; compassionate fish befriended and turned her into Iara.

MAMA GLOW / MAMA DLO

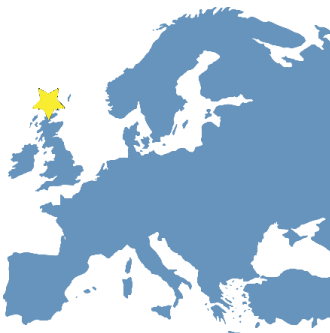


Continent: North America

Country: Trinidad and Tobago

Mama Glow has the upper body of a woman and the lower body of an anaconda snake. If you hear a large, cracking sound – like a whip – it is her tail, snapping on the surface of a mountain pool or lagoon. If a man burns down trees, hurts animals or pollutes water he has to answer to her. If you were to meet Mama Glow in the forest and wish to escape, remove your left shoe, turn it upside down and immediately leave. Walk backwards until you reach home.

SELKIE



Continent: Europe

Country: Scotland

The seals in Scotland can remove their skin, turning into men and women who walk the earth. If you steal their skin, they cannot return to the ocean. Once trapped, some will marry humans and bear children but are often found staring sadly out at the sea. Return their skin and they'll swim home to their Selkie family.