

Mythological creatures of Japan

A list of Japanese mythological creatures from A~Z

A

- * Abumi-guchi - a furry creature formed from the stirrup of a mounted military commander
- * Abura-akago - an infant ghost who licks the oil out of andon lamps
- * Abura-bō - a spook fire from Shiga Prefecture, in which the shape of a monk can often be seen
- * Abura-sumashi - a spirit who lives on a mountain pass in Kumamoto Prefecture
- * Akabeko - a red cow involved in the construction of Enzō-ji in Yanaizu, Fukushima
- * Akamataa - a snake spirit from Okinawa
- * Akaname - the spirit who licks the bathroom
- * Akashita - a creature that looms in a black cloud over a floodgate
- * Akateko - a red hand dangling out of a tree
- * Akki - another name for a wicked oni
- * Akkorokamui - an Ainu monster resembling a fish or octopus
- * Akuma - an evil spirit
- * Akurojin-no-hi - a ghostly fire from Mie Prefecture
- * Amaburakosagi - ritual disciplinary demon from Shikoku
- * Amamehagi - ritual disciplinary demon from Hokuriku
- * Amanojaku - a small demon which instigates people into wickedness
- * Amanozako - a monstrous goddess mentioned in the Kujiki
- * Amazake-babaa - an old woman who asks for sweet sake and brings disease
- * Amefurikozō - a little boy spirit who plays in the rain
- * Amemasu - an Ainu creature resembling a fish or whale
- * Ameenon - a female rain spirit
- * Amikiri - the net-cutting spirit
- * Amorōnagu - a tennyō from the island of Amami Ōshima
- * Anmo - ritual disciplinary demon from Iwate Prefecture
- * Aoandon - the spirit of the blue paper lantern
- * Aobōzu - the blue monk who kidnaps children

- * Aonyōbō - a female ghost who lurks in an abandoned imperial palace
- * Aosaginohi - a luminescent heron
- * Asobibi - a spook fire from Kōchi Prefecture
- * Arikura-no-baba - an old woman with magical powers
- * Ashiaraiyashiki(足洗邸) - the story of a huge demon which demands that its leg be washed
- * Ashimagari - a spook which entangles the legs of travelers
- * Ashinagatenaga - a pair of characters, one with long legs and the other with long arms
- * Ato-oi-kozō - an invisible spirit that follows people
- * Ayakashi - another name for the ikuchi
- * Ayakashi-no-ayashibi - a spook fire from Ishikawa Prefecture
- * Azukiarai - a spirit which makes the sound of azuki beans being washed
- * Azukibabaa - azukiarai's more vicious cousin, a bean-grinding hag who devours people
- * Azukitogi - another name for azukiarai

B

- * Betobeto-san - an invisible spirit which follows people at night, making the sound of footsteps
- * Bake-kujira - a ghost whale
- * Bakeneko - a cat with magical powers
- * Bakezōri - a sandal spirit
- * Baku - an auspicious beast who can devour nightmares
- * Basan - a large fire-breathing chicken monster
- * Binbōgami - the spirit of poverty
- * Biwa-bokuboku - the spirit of a biwa lute
- * Bunbuku Chagama - a famous story about a tanuki in the form of a teakettle
- * Buruburu - a spirit which causes the shivers
- * Byakko - the white tiger of the west

C

- * Chōchinobake - a haunted paper lantern
- * Cho Hakkai - Zhu Bajie, the pig spirit from Journey to the West

D

- * Daidarabocchi - a giant responsible for creating many geographical features in Japan
- * Daitengu - the most powerful tengu, each of whom lives on a separate mountain
- * Datsue-ba - an old woman who steals clothes from the souls of the dead
- * Dodomeki - the ghost of a pickpocket, her arms covered in eyes
- * Dorotabō - the ghost of an old man whose rice fields were neglected and sold

E

- * Enenra - a monster made of smoke
- * Enkō - the kappa of Shikoku and western Honshū
- * Eritate-goromo - the tengu Sōjōbō's enchanted clothes

F

- * Fūjin - the god of wind
- * Funayūrei - ghosts of people dead at sea
- * Futakuchi-onna - the two-mouthed woman

G

- * Gagoze - a demon who attacked young priests at Gangō-ji temple
- * Gaki - the hungry ghosts of Buddhism
- * Gangi-kozō - a fish-eating water-monster
- * Garappa - a kind of kappa from Kyūshū
- * Gashadokuro - a giant skeleton, the spirit of the unburied dead
- * Genbu - the black tortoise of the north
- * Goryō - vengeful spirits of the dead
- * Guhin - another name for the tengu
- * Gyūki - another name for the ushi-oni, the ox demon

H

- * Hakutaku - the wise Bai Ze beast of China, who reported on the attributes of demons
- * Hakuzōsu - a fox who disguised himself as a trapper's uncle

- * Hannya - a noh mask representing a jealous female demon
- * Harionago - a female monster with deadly barbed hair
- * Hayatarō - the dog that killed the sarugami
- * Heikegani - crabs with human-faced shells, the spirits of the warriors killed in the Battle of Dan-no-ura
- * Hibagon - the Japanese Bigfoot
- * Hiderigami - the god of drought
- * Hihi - a baboon monster
- * Hitodama - a fireball-ghost that appears when someone dies
- * Hitotsume-kozō - a one-eyed boy
- * Hoji - the wicked spirit of Tamamo-no-Mae
- * Hōkō - a dog-like tree spirit from China
- * Hone-onna - a skeleton woman
- * Hō-ō - the mythical Fenghuang bird of China
- * Hotoke - a deceased person
- * Hyakki Yakō - the demons' night parade
- * Hyakume - a creature with a hundred eyes
- * Hyōsube - a kind of hair-covered kappa
- * Hyōtan-kozō - a gourd spirit

I

- * Ibaraki-dōji - the oni of the Rashomon gate, Shuten-dōji's accomplice
- * Ichimoku-nyūdō - a one-eyed kappa from Sado Island
- * Ikazuchi-no-Kami - a thunder god
- * Ikiryō - a living ghost
- * Ikuchi - a sea-serpent that travels over boats in an arc while dripping oil
- * Inugami - a dog-spirit created, worshipped and employed by a family via sorcery
- * Ippon-datara - a one-legged spirit of the mountains
- * Isonade - a fish-like sea monster with a barb-covered tail
- * Itsumaden - a monstrous bird that appeared over the capital in the Taiheiki
- * Ittan-momen - a cloth-like monster which attempts to smother people by wrapping itself around their faces

* Iwana-bōzu - a char which appeared as a Buddhist monk

J

* Jakotsu-babaa - an old woman who guards a snake mound

* Jatai - an obi which has transformed into a snake

* Jibakurei 地縛霊, 自縛霊 - a ghost that is bound to a certain place

* Jikininki - ghosts that eat human corpses

* Jinmenju - a tree with human-faced flowers

* Jinmenken - a human-faced dog appearing in recent urban legends

* Jishin-namazu - the giant catfish that causes earthquakes

* Jorōgumo - a spider woman

* Jubokko - a vampire tree

K

* Kage-onna - the shadow of a woman cast on the paper doors of a haunted house

* Kahaku 河伯 - another name for a kappa

* Kamaitachi - the slashing sickle-weasel that haunts the mountains

* Kamikiri - the hair-cutting spirit

* Kameosa - a bottle that never runs dry

* Kanbari-nyūdō - a bathroom spirit

* Kanedama - the spirit of money

* Kappa - a famous water monster with a water-filled head and a love of cucumbers

* Karasu-tengu - a tengu with a bird's bill

* Kasa-obake - a paper umbrella monster

* Kasha - a cat-like demon which descends from the sky and carries away corpses

* Kashaibo - kappa who climb into the mountains for the winter

* Katawa-guruma - a woman riding on a flaming wheel

* Katsura-otoko - a handsome man from the moon

* Kawa-akago - an infant monster that lurks near rivers and drowns people

* Kawa-uso - a supernatural river otter

- * Kawa-zaru - a smelly, cowardly kappa-like creature
- * Kerakera-onna - a giant cackling woman who appears in the sky
- * Kesaran-pasaran - a mysterious white fluffy creature
- * Keukegen - a creature made of hair
- * Kijimuna - a tree sprite from Okinawa
- * Kijo - a witch or ogress
- * Kirin - the Qilin of China, part dragon and part hoofed mammal, sometimes called the "Chinese unicorn"
- * Kitsune - a supernatural fox
- * Kitsune-Tsuki - fox possession
- * Kiyohime - a woman who transformed into a serpent-demon out of the rage of unrequited love
- * Kodama - a spirit that lives in a tree
- * Kokakuchō - the ubume bird
- * Koma-inu - another name for the shishi, the pair of lion-dogs that guard the entrances of temples
- * Konaki-Jijii - an infant spirit that cries until it is picked up, then increases its weight and crushes its victim
- * Konoha-tengu - a bird-like tengu
- * Koropokkuru - a little person from Ainu folklore
- * Kosode-no-te - a short-sleeved kimono with its own hands
- * Kuchisake-onna - the slit-mouthed woman
- * Kuda-gitsune - a small fox-like animal used in sorcery
- * Kudan - a human-faced calf which predicts a calamity and then dies
- * Kurabokko - the guardian spirit of a warehouse
- * Kurage-no-hinotama - a jellyfish which floats through the air as a fireball
- * Kyōkotsu - the ghost of a corpse discarded in a well
- * Kyūbi-no-kitsune - a fox with nine tails
- * Kyūketsuki - a Japanese vampire

M

- * Maikubi - the quarreling heads of three dead miscreants
- * Makura-gaeshi - the pillow-moving spirit

- * Mekurabe - the multiplying skulls that menaced Taira no Kiyomori in his courtyard
- * Miage-nyūdō - a spirit which grows as fast as you can look up at it
- * Mikoshi-nyūdō - another name for miage-nyūdō
- * Mizuchi - a dangerous water-dragon
- * Mokumokuren - a swarm of eyes that appear on a paper sliding door in an old building
- * Momonjii - an old-man who is waiting for you at every fork in the road
- * Morinji-no-kama - another name for Bunbuku Chagama, the tanuki teakettle
- * Mōryō - a long-eared, corpse-eating spirit
- * Mujina - a shapeshifting badger
- * Myōbu - a title sometimes given to a fox

N

- * Namahage - ritual disciplinary demon from the Oga Peninsula
- * Namazu - a giant catfish that causes earthquakes
- * Nando-baba - an old-woman spirit who hides under the floor in abandoned storerooms
- * Narikama - a kettle spirit whose ringing sound is a good omen
- * Nebutori - a spook-disease which causes a woman to grow immensely fat and lethargic
- * Nekomata - a bakeneko with a split tail
- * Nekomusume - a cat in the form of a girl
- * Nikusui - a monster which appears as a young woman and sucks all of the flesh off of its victim's body
- * Ningyo - a fish person or "mermaid"
- * Nobusuma - a supernatural wall, or a monstrous flying squirrel
- * Noppera-bō - a faceless ghost
- * Nozuchi - Another name for the tsuchinoko serpent
- * Nue - a monkey-headed, tiger-bodied, snake-tailed monster which plagued the emperor with nightmares in the Heike Monogatari
- * Nukekubi - a vicious human-like monster whose head detaches from its body, often confused with the rokurokubi
- * Nuppefuhofu - an animated lump of decaying human flesh
- * Nure-onna - a female monster who appears on the beach
- * Nuribotoke - an animated corpse with blackened flesh and dangling eyeballs

- * Nurikabe - a ghostly wall that traps a traveler at night
- * Nurarihyon - a strange character who sneaks into houses on busy evenings
- * Nyūbachibō - a mortar spirit

O

- * Oboro-guruma - a ghostly oxcart with the face of its driver
- * Ohaguro-bettari - a female spook lacking all facial features save for a large, black-toothed smile
- * Oiwa - the ghost of a woman with a distorted face who was murdered by her husband
- * Okiku - the plate-counting ghost of a servant girl
- * Ōkamuro - a giant face which appears at the door
- * Ōkubi - the face of a huge woman which appears in the sky
- * Okuri-inu - a dog or wolf that follows travelers at night, similar to the Black dog or Barghest of Anglo-Saxon myth.
- * Ōmukade - a giant centipede
- * Oni - the classic Japanese demon, an ogre-like creature which often has horns
- * Onibi - a spook fire
- * Onikuma - a monster bear
- * Onmoraki - a bird-demon created from the spirits of freshly-dead corpses
- * Onryō - a vengeful ghost
- * Otoroshi - a hairy creature that perches on the gates to shrines and temples

R

- * Raijin - the god of thunder
- * Raijū - a beast which falls to earth in a lightning bolt
- * Rokurokubi - a person, usually female, whose neck can stretch indefinitely
- * Ryū - the Japanese dragon

S

- * Sakabashira - a haunted pillar, installed upside-down
- * Sagari - a horse's head that dangles from trees on Kyūshū

- * Sa Gojō - the water-monster Sha Wujing from Journey to the West, often interpreted in Japan as a kappa
- * Samebito - a shark-man from the undersea Dragon Palace
- * Sarugami - a wicked monkey spirit which was defeated by a dog
- * Satori - an ape-like creature that can read minds
- * Sazae-oni - a turban snail which turns into a woman
- * Seiryū - the azure dragon of the east
- * Seko - a kind of kappa, which can be heard making merry at night
- * Senpoku-Kanpoku - a human-faced frog which guides the souls of the newly deceased to the graveyard
- * Sesshō-seki - the poisonous "killing stones" which Tamamo-no-Mae transformed into
- * Setotaishō - a warrior composed of discarded earthenware
- * Shachihoko - a tiger-headed fish whose image is often used in architecture
- * Shibaten - a kind of kappa from Shikoku.
- * Shikigami - a spirit summoned to do the bidding of an Onmyōji
- * Shiki-ōji - another name for a shikigami
- * Shikome - wild women sent by Izanami to harm Izanagi
- * Shiro-bōzu - a white, faceless spirit
- * Shin 蜃 - a giant clam which creates mirages
- * Shinigami - the "god of death", the Japanese name for the Western Grim Reaper
- * Shiro-uneri - an old, rotten dishcloth appearing in the form of a dragon
- * Shiryō - the spirit of a dead person
- * Shisa - the Okinawan version of the shishi
- * Shishi - the paired lion-dogs that guard the entrances of temples
- * Shōjō - red-haired sea-sprites who love alcohol
- * Shōkera - a creature that peers in through skylights
- * Shōki - the fabled demon-queller Zhong Kui
- * Shunoban - a red-faced ghoulish spirit that surprises people
- * Shuten-dōji - an infamous princess-kidnapping, bloodthirsty oni
- * Sodehiki-kozō - an invisible spirit which pulls on sleeves

- * Sōjōbō - the famous daitengu of Mount Kurama
- * Sōgenbi - the fiery ghost of an oil-stealing monk
- * Son Gokū - the monkey king Sun Wukong from Journey to the West
- * Soragami - a ritual disciplinary demon in the form of a tengu
- * Soraki-gaeshi - the sound of trees being cut down, when later none seem to have been cut
- * Sorobanbōzu - a ghost with an abacus
- * Sōtangitsune - a famous fox from Kyoto
- * Sunakake-baba - the sand-throwing hag
- * Sunekosuri - a small dog- or cat-like creature that rubs against a person's legs at night
- * Suppon-no-yūrei - a ghost with a face like a soft-shelled turtle
- * Suzaku - the vermilion bird of the south

T

- * Taimatsumaru - a tengu surrounded in demon fire
- * Taka-onna - a female spirit which can stretch itself to peer into the second story of a building
- * Tamamo-no-Mae - a wicked nine-tailed fox who appeared as a courtesan
- * Tankororin - an unharvested persimmon which becomes a monster
- * Tanuki - a shapeshifting raccoon dog
- * Tatami-tataki - a poltergeist that hits the tatami mats at night
- * Tengu - the infamous bird-man demon of the mountains
- * Tenjōname - the ceiling-licking spirit
- * Tennin - a heavenly being
- * Te-no-me - the ghost of a blind man, with his eyes on his hands
- * Tesso - the ghost of the priest Raigō, who transformed into a swarm of rats
- * Tōfu-kozō - a spirit child carrying a block of tofu
- * Toire-no-Hanakosan - a ghost who lurks in grade school restroom stalls
- * Tōtetsu - the Taotie monster of China
- * Tsurara-onna - an icicle woman
- * Tsuchigumo - a giant spider which was defeated by Minamoto no Raikō

- * Tsuchikorobi - a tumbling monster which rolls over travelers
- * Tsuchinoko - a legendary serpentine monster, now a cryptid resembling a fat snake
- * Tsukumogami - inanimate objects that come to life after a hundred years
- * Tsurube-otoshi - a monster that drops out of the tops of trees

U

- * Ubume - the spirit of a woman who died in childbirth
- * Uma-no-ashi - a horse's leg which dangles from a tree and kicks passerbies
- * Umibōzu - a giant monster appearing on the surface of the sea
- * Umi-nyōbō - a female sea monster who steals fish
- * Ungaiyō - a mirror monster which can display assorted wonders in its surface
- * Ushi-oni - a name given to an assortment of ox-headed monsters
- * Uwan - a spirit named for the sound it shouts when surprising people

W

- * Wanyūdō - a flaming wheel with a man's head in the center, which sucks out the soul of anyone who sees it.

Y

- * Yagyō-san - a demon who rides through the night on a headless horse
- * Yakubyō-gami - spirits who bring plagues and other unfortunate events
- * Yadōkai - monks who have turned to mischief
- * Yama-biko - a creature that creates echos
- * Yama-bito - the wild people who live in the mountains
- * Yama-chichi - a mountain spirit resembling a monkey
- * Yama-inu - the fearsome mountain dog
- * Yama-otoko - the giant mountain man
- * Yama-oroshi - a radish-grater spirit, a pun on a word for "mountain storm"
- * Yamata-no-Orochi - the eight-headed serpent slain by the god Susanoo

- * Yama-uba - the mountain hag
- * Yama-warō - a hairy, one-eyed spirit, sometimes considered a kappa who has gone into the mountains for the winter.
- * Yanari - poltergeists which cause strange noises
- * Yatagarasu - the three-legged crow of Amaterasu
- * Yato-no-kami - deadly snake-gods which infested a field
- * Yomotsu-shikome - the hags of the underworld
- * Yōsei - the Japanese word for "fairy"
- * Yosuzume - a mysterious bird that sings at night, sometimes indicating that the okuri-inu is near
- * Yukinko - a child-like snow-spirit
- * Yuki-onna - the snow woman

Z

- * Zashiki-warashi - a protective child-like house spirit.
- * Zennyō Ryūō - a rain-making dragon
- * Zunbera-bō - another name for the noppera-bō