

Selkie Information



Selkies are mythical creatures that can change from seal to human form by shedding their skin. They are mainly found in folktales and mythology from the Northern Isles of Scotland.

The Scots word for grey seal is selch. It is thought that this is where the word selkie comes from. Selkie can be spelt in different ways, for example: selky, seilkie, seilki, silkie, silkey, saelkie, sylkie

Often, in a selkie folk tale a man will find a selkie's skin and will keep it, so that the selkie will become his wife. They might be happy together but the selkie will always long for the sea. When she discovers her skin, she will return to the sea and leave her family. In some stories she comes to visit her family again, sometimes every seven years.