

Create Yourself as a Haltija

Background information

Haltija are a Finnish version of gnomes or fairies and are believed to live everywhere you look and serve as protecting spirits for all things. There are Haltijas for nature, graveyards, and even humans. Human homes and buildings can sometimes have a protecting Haltija. Humans themselves may have a Haltija looking out for them, much like the idea of a guardian angel. A special kind of Haltija is the Joulutonttu, seen only at Christmas time; they are similar to Christmas elves, though without pointed ears.

Time: 30 minutes each or whole meeting for both activities

Suitable for: All sections

Equipment/Additional Materials:

Decorate a Haltija:

Haltija template (appendix 7)

Coloured pens/pencils

Optional: tissue paper, scraps of fabric

Haltija comic strip:

Plain paper or template (appendix 8)

Haltija character from first activity

Method:

Decorate a Haltija

1. Take a template picture.
2. Make clothes for your character.
3. Give them a facial expression.

Create a Haltija comic strip

4. Take a comic strip template.
5. Work in small groups to create a story for your character (Does your Haltija have a problem that needs solving? Have a few alternate endings).
6. Write up your comic strip.
7. Add your character in.
8. Add colour to make your story come alive.

Hints and tips:

- When working with a group to make a story, it is important to listen to each other and allow everyone a chance to input their ideas.

Take it further

- Make a video story for Guides and Ranger age by working in small groups to think up a story. You can each be a Haltija character and film your epic play.

Haltija Template

