

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akashi_kaikyo

Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge (Akashi-Kaikyō Ōhashi; also known as Pearl Bridge) is a suspension bridge in Japan that crosses the Akashi Strait (Akashi-Kaikyō) linking Maiko in Kobe and Iwaya in Awaji city on Awaji Island, as part of the Honshu-Shikoku Highway. The central section is the longest bridge span in the world at 1991 m. It was planned to be one of three Honshu-Shikoku connecting bridges, annexing two borders of the Inland Sea.

Before the Akashi-Kaikyo bridge was built, ferries carried passengers back and forth across the Akashi Strait in Japan. This dangerous waterway often experiences severe storms, and in 1955, two ferries sank in the strait during a storm, killing 168 children. The ensuing shock and public outrage convinced the Japanese government to draw up plans for a suspension bridge to cross the strait. The original plan was for a mixed railway-road bridge but when the bridge was begun in April 1986 it was restricted to road only, with six lanes. Actual construction did not begin until May 1988 and the bridge was opened for traffic on April 5, 1998. The Akashi Strait is an international waterway and required a 1500 metre wide lane.

The bridge has three spans. The central span is 1991 metres, with the two other sections each 960 metres. The bridge is 3911 metres long overall. The central span was originally only 1990 metres but was stretched by a further metre in the Kobe earthquake on January 17, 1995. It was designed on a two-hinged stiffening girder system, allowing it to withstand 286 km/h (178 mph) winds, earthquakes measuring up to 8.5 on the Richter scale, and harsh sea currents. The bridge also contains pendula which operate at the resonant frequency of the bridge to dampen forces on it.

The total cost is estimated at ¥ 500 billion (≈USD 5 billion). This cost is expected to be defrayed by charging commuters a toll to cross the bridge. However, the toll is so high that, ironically, very few drivers actually use the expensive bridge, preferring instead to use the slower-but-cheaper ferries.

Two parks in proximity of the bridge have been built for tourists. One in Maiko (including a small museum) and one in Asagiri. Both are accessible by the coastal train line.

Illumination

The Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge has a total of 1737 illumination lights: 1084 for the main cables, 116 for the main towers, 405 for the girders, and 132 for the anchorages. On the

main cables three high light discharged tubes are mounted in the colors red, green, and blue. The RGB model and computer technology make for a variety of combinations. Currently, 28 patterns are used for such occasions as national or regional holidays, memorial days or festivities.

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Pyramids

Egyptian pyramids

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **pyramids of Egypt**, some of which are among the largest man-made constructions ever conceived^[1], constitute one of the most potent and enduring symbols of Ancient Egyptian civilization. It is generally accepted by most archaeologists that they were constructed as burial monuments associated with royal solar and stellar cults, and most were built during the Old and Middle Kingdom periods^[2].

Historic development

By the time of the early Dynastic period of Egyptian history, those with sufficient means were buried in visually unremarkable bench-like structures^[3] known as mastabas.^[4] The first historically documented Egyptian pyramid is attributed to the architect Imhotep^[5], who in constructing what Egyptologists believe to be a tomb for the pharaoh Djozer, it is theorised first conceived the notion of stacking a number of mastabas on top of each other — thereby creating an edifice comprised of a number of steps that decreased in size towards its apex. The result was the Step Pyramid of Djozer — which was designed to serve as a gigantic stairway by which the soul of the deceased pharaoh could ascend to the heavens. Such was the importance of Imhotep's achievement that he was deified by later Egyptians.^[6]

Each of the pyramids had its own name, such as the Pyramid of Teti was known as *Teti's cult places are enduring*, later the pyramid complexes surrounding the main structures had separate names. Most pyramids have since been given Arabic names by the locals, which usually reflect their appearance.

The most prolific pyramid-building phase coincided with the greatest degree of absolutist pharaonic rule, during the early part of the Old Kingdom. Over time, as the exercise of pharaonic authority became less centralised and more bureaucratised, the ability and willingness to harness the resources required for construction on a massive scale was reduced, and later pyramids were smaller, less well built and often hastily constructed.

Long after the end of Egypt's own pyramid-building period, a burst of pyramid-building occurred in what is present-day Sudan, after much of Egypt came under the rule of the Kings of Napata. Whilst Napatan rule was brief and ceased in 661 BCE, the Egyptian influence made an indelible impression, and during the later Sudanese Kingdom of Meroe (approximately in the period between 300 BCE–CE 300) this flowered into a full-blown pyramid-building revival, which saw more than two hundred uniquely indigenous, but strongly Egyptian-inspired royal pyramid tombs constructed in the vicinity of the Meroitic capital city.

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sr-71>

Lockheed SR-71

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Lockheed SR-71**, unofficially known as the **Blackbird** and by its crews as the **Habu**, was an advanced, long-range, Mach 3 strategic reconnaissance aircraft developed from the Lockheed YF-12A and A-12 aircraft by Lockheed's Skunk Works (also responsible for the U-2 and many other advanced aircraft). The legendary "Kelly" Johnson, in particular, was the man behind many of the design's advanced concepts. The SR-71 was one of the first aircraft to be shaped to have an extremely low radar signature. The aircraft flew so fast and so high that if the pilot detected a surface-to-air missile launch, the standard evasive action was simply to accelerate. No SR-71 was ever shot down.

The SR-71 remained the world's fastest and highest-flying operational aircraft throughout its career. From an altitude of 80,000 ft (24 km) it could survey 100,000 miles²/h (72 km²/s) of the Earth's surface. On July 28, 1976, an SR-71 set two world records for its class: an absolute speed record of 2,193.167 mph (3,529.56 km/h) and a US "absolute

altitude record" of 85,068.997 feet (25,929 m). Only the Soviet MIG-25 high-altitude interceptor broke the record, reaching an altitude of 37,650 m on August 31, 1977 (MIG-25). Several planes exceeded this altitude in zoom climbs but not in sustained flight. When the SR-71 was retired in 1990, one was flown from its birthplace at United States Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale to go on exhibit at what is now the Smithsonian Institute's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center (an annex of the National Air & Space Museum) in Chantilly, Virginia, setting a coast-to-coast speed record at an average 2,124 mph (3,418 km/h). The entire trip took 64 minutes.[3] The SR-71 also holds the record for flying from New York to London: 1 hour 54 minutes and 56.4 seconds, set on September 1, 1974. (For comparison, commercial Concorde flights took around 3 hours 20 minutes, and the Boeing 747 averages 7 hours.)

Specifications (SR-71)

General characteristics

Crew: 1 or 2

Length: 107 ft 5 in (32.74 m)

Wingspan: 55 ft 7 in (16.94 m)

Height: 18 ft 6 in (5.64 m)

Wing area: 1,800 ft² (170 m²)

Wheel track: 16 ft 8 in (5.08 m)

Wheel base: 37 ft 10 in (11.53 m)

Empty weight: 67,500 lb (30,600 kg)

Loaded weight: 170,000 lb (77,000 kg)

Maximum gross takeoff weight: 172,000 lb (78,000 kg)

Powerplant: 2× Pratt & Whitney J58-1 continuous-bleed afterburning turbojets, 32,500 lbf (144.57 kN) each

Performance

Max speed: Mach 3.35 (1,906 knots, 2,193 mph, 3,530 km/h) at 80,000 ft (24,285 m)

Range: 2,900 nm combat, 3,200 nm ferry (5,400 km / 5,925 km)

Service ceiling: 85,000 ft operational, 100,000 ft maximum (25,900 m / 30,500 m)

Climb rate: 11,810 ft/min (60 m/s)

Wing loading: 94 lb/ft² (460 kg/m²)

Thrust/weight: 0.382:1

Armament: 3,500 lb (1,590 kg) of sensors

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine_tarsier

Philippine Tarsier

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Philippine Tarsier (*Tarsius syrichta*; also called *mal* in T'boli) is a tarsier that was, for a very long time, believed to exist only in the provinces of Samar, Leyte, and Bohol, Philippines. Tribal people like the B'laans and T'bolis have been, for a long time, reporting sightings in the province of Sarangani. Unfortunately these reports were merely discarded as a hoax until March 30, 2002 when a pair of these tiny nocturnal mammals was captured in the mountainous areas of the municipalities of Maitum and Kiamba and was brought to the public, proving that these endangered species really exists in this coastal province.

Tarsiers are nocturnal creatures, being active and looking for food during the night, and preying mainly on insects. They are tiny animals, measuring about four to six inches in height. Their small size makes them difficult to discover. During the day, tarsiers sleep in dark hollows close to the ground. Their natural habitat is the tropical rainforest with dense vegetation and trees.

Tarsiers have round heads that can be rotated 180 degrees, with large membranous ears that appear to be almost constantly moving. They have uniquely large goggling eyes (disproportionate to their heads and body), listed in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the largest eyes on a mammal. They use their thin tail about twice their body length to balance themselves. They habitually cling vertically to trees and are capable of leaping from branch to branch. The thick and silky fur is colored gray to dark brown. Their hind limbs are elongated and have disklike pads on the fingertips that help them cling easily to trees.

Paradoxically, indigenous superstition coupled with relatively thick rainforest in this province have apparently preserved this endangered species. Indigenous tribes leave tarsiers in the wild because they fear that these animals could bring bad luck.

Local people sometimes pride themselves by calling the tarsier as the world's smallest monkey. However the tarsier is neither a monkey nor the smallest primate. It is a primate and is part of the group of mammals that includes monkeys, lemurs, gorillas and humans. Scientists say the tarsier falls somewhere between the lemurs and monkeys on the evolutionary scale.

Tarsius syrichta is found in the rainforests of Sumatra, the East Indies, Sulawesi and the Philippines. The Philippine Tarsier is most commonly found on the islands of Bohol, Samar, Leyte, and Mindanao.

The Philippine Tarsier is found in small trees in tropical rainforests and in areas that offer them protection like tall grasses, bushes and bamboo shoots. Their natural habitat is the jungle, leaping from tree to tree with relative ease.

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sauroposeidon>

Sauroposeidon

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The tallest dinosaur known, at 60 feet, *Sauroposeidon* (meaning "earthquake lizard-god") is an Early Cretaceous sauropod related to the *Brachiosaurus*. The only specimen to date is represented by four neck vertebrae.

Discovery

The vertebrae were discovered, not far from the Texas border, in a claystone outcrop that dates the fossils to about 110 million years ago (mya). This falls within the Early Cretaceous, specifically between the Aptian and Albian epochs.

The four neck vertebrae were discovered in 1994 at the Antlers Formation in Atoka County, Oklahoma by Dr. Richard Cifelli and a team from the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

While discovered in 1994, the vertebrae were stored until three years later, when Dr. Cifelli gave them to a graduate student, Matt Wedel, to analyze as part of a project. After realizing the significance of the find, a press release was made in October of 1999, followed by official publication in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* in March of 2000. The new species was dubbed *S. proteles*, and the holotype is OMNH 53062.

Etymology

The genus name comes from *sauros* (Greek for "lizard"), and *Poseidon*, a sea-god in Greek mythology, who is also associated with earthquakes. The species name *proteles* also comes from the Greek, and means "perfect before the end" — which refers to the *Sauroposeidon's* status as the last, and most specialized giant sauropod known in North America during the Early Cretaceous.

Who's the biggest?

"It's truly astonishing. It's arguably the largest creature ever to walk the earth."
— Richard Cifelli, discoverer of *Sauroposeidon*

The press release in 1999 immediately garnered international media attention, which led to many (inaccurate) news reports of "the largest dinosaur ever!". While it is true that the *Sauroposeidon* is probably the tallest known dinosaur, it is neither the longest nor the most massive. The *Supersaurus* and the *Argentinosaurus* are better candidates for the title "World's Largest Dinosaur", though weak fossil evidence makes an exact ranking impossible.

The *Sauroposeidon* find was composed of four articulated, mid-cervical vertebrae (numbers 5 to 8), with the cervical ribs in place. The vertebrae are extremely elongated, with the largest one about 1.2 meters (4 feet) long, which makes it the longest on record. Examination of the bones revealed that they are honeycombed with tiny air cells, and are very thin, like the bones of a chicken or an ostrich, making the neck lighter and easier to lift.

Estimates of size are based on a comparison between the four *Sauroposeidon* vertebrae and the vertebrae of the HM SII specimen of *Brachiosaurus brancai*, located in the Humboldt Museum in Berlin. The HM SII is the most complete brachiosaur known, though since it is composed of pieces from different individuals its proportions may not be totally accurate. Comparisons to the other brachiosaurid cousins of the *Sauroposeidon* would be difficult due to limited remains.

The neck length of the *Sauroposeidon* is estimated at 37 to 39.5 feet (11.25 to 12 meters), compared to a neck length of 30 feet (9 meters) for the HM SII *Brachiosaurus*. This is based on the assumption that the rest of the neck has the same proportions as the *Brachiosaurus*, which is a reasonably good conjecture.

The *Sauroposeidon* was probably able to raise its head 60 feet (18 meters) above the ground, which is as high as a six-story building. The long neck and the high brachiosaurid shoulders are what makes it the tallest known dinosaur. In some ways, its build is similar to the modern giraffe, with a short body and an extremely long neck. In comparison, the brachiosaur could probably raise its head 45 feet (13.5 meters) into the air, and the previous record holder, the *Diplodocus*, might have been able to raise its head 50 feet (15 meters).

The *Sauroposeidon's* shoulders were probably 22 to 24 feet (7 meters) off the ground. Its estimated length is just under 100 feet (30 meters).

The mass of the *Sauroposeidon* is estimated at 50 to 60 metric tonnes (55 to 65 tons). While the vertebrae of the *Sauroposeidon* are 25–33% longer than the brachiosaur's, they are only 10–15% larger in diameter. This means that while the *Sauroposeidon* probably has a larger body than the *Brachiosaurus* its body is smaller in comparison to the size of its neck, so it did not weigh as much as a scaled-up brachiosaur. By comparison, the brachiosaur might have weighed 36 to 40 tonnes (40 to 44 tons). This estimate of the brachiosaur is an average of several different methodologies.

However, *Sauroposeidon* has a relatively gracile neck compared to the *Brachiosaurus*. If the rest of the body turns out to be similarly slender, the mass estimate may be too high. This could be similar to the way the relatively chunky *Apatosaurus* weighs far more than the longer but much slimmer *Diplodocus*. In addition, it is possible that sauropods may have an air sac system, like those in birds, which could reduce all sauropod mass estimates by 20% or more.

Environment

"Sauroposeidon was an unexpected discovery, because it was a huge, gas-guzzling barge of an animal in an age of subcompact sauropods."

—Matt Wedel, *Sauroposeidon* team leader

The *Sauroposeidon* may be the last of the giant North American sauropods. Sauropods, which include the largest terrestrial animals of all time, were a very wide ranging and successful group. They first appeared in the Early Jurassic, and it wasn't long before they spread across the world. By the time of the late Jurassic, North America and Africa were dominated by the diplodocids and brachiosaurids, and by the end of the Late Cretaceous, titanosaurids were widespread. But in the middle, in the Early Cretaceous, the fossil record is sparse. Most of the other sauropods at the time were dying out, and as a result few specimens have been found in North America from that time, and those specimens that do exist are often fragmentary or represent juvenile members of their species. Most of the surviving sauropods at the time were also shrinking in size (to a mere 50 feet, or 15 meters, in length, and maybe 10 to 15 tons or tonnes), which makes the discovery of an extremely specialized super-giant like the *Sauroposeidon* very unusual.

The *Sauroposeidon* lived on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, which ran through Oklahoma at that time, in a vast river delta, similar to the Mississippi delta today. There were probably no predators who could take down a full-grown *Sauroposeidon*, but juveniles were likely prey to the *Acrocanthosaurus* (a carnosaur a little smaller than a *T. rex*), and packs of *Deinonychus*.

A giant brachiosaurid similar to *Sauroposeidon* was described in 2004 by Darren Naish and colleagues, and is from the Early Cretaceous of England. Known only from two neck vertebrae, it was apparently similar in some details to *Sauroposeidon* and perhaps similar

in size. Its discovery highlights the similarity seen between Early Cretaceous North American and European dinosaurs.

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canterbury_Tales

The Canterbury Tales

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Canterbury Tales is a collection of stories written by Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century (two of them in prose, the rest in verse). The tales, some of which are originals and others not, are contained inside a frame tale and told by a group of pilgrims on their way from Southwark to Canterbury to visit the shrine of Saint Thomas à Becket's at Canterbury Cathedral^[1]. *The Canterbury Tales* are written in Middle English.

Some of the tales are serious and others humorous; however, all are very precise in describing the traits and faults of human nature. Religious malpractice is a major theme as well as focusing on the division of the three estates. Most of the tales are interlinked with similar themes running through them and some are told in retaliation for other tales in the form of an argument. The work is incomplete, as it was originally intended that each character would tell four tales, two on the way to Canterbury and two on the return journey. This would have meant a possible one hundred and twenty tales which would have dwarfed the twenty-six tales actually written.

People have sought political overtones within the tales, particularly as Chaucer himself was a significant courtier and political figure at the time, close to the corridors of power. There are many hints at contemporary events, although few are proven, and the theme of marriage common in the tales is presumed to refer to several different marriages, most often those of John of Gaunt. Aside from Chaucer himself, Harry Bailly of the Tabard Inn was a real person and the Cook has been identified as quite likely to be Roger Knight de Ware, a contemporary London cook.

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_of_the_Rings

The Lord of the Rings

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Lord of the Rings is an epic high fantasy saga by the British author J. R. R. Tolkien, his most popular work and a sequel to his popular fantasy novel *The Hobbit*. *The Lord of the Rings* was written during World War II and originally published in three volumes in 1954 and 1955.

Three film adaptations have been made of the story told by the books: the first, by animator Ralph Bakshi, was released in 1978 (as the first part of what was originally intended to be a two-part adaptation of the story); the second, a 1980 television special; and the third, director Peter Jackson's epic film trilogy, released in three installments in 2001, 2002, and 2003, which starred Elijah Wood as the main character of Frodo. There are also two Collectible Card Games that take place in the book's setting of Middle-earth.

For more information regarding the fictional universe in which the story takes place, including lists of characters and locations, see Middle-earth.

Synopsis

Although a major work in itself, *The Lord of the Rings* is merely the last movement of a larger mythological cycle which Tolkien called his *legendarium*. The action is mainly set in what is conceived to be the lands of the real Earth inhabited by humanity but placed in a fictional time. Tolkien called this setting by a modern English rendering of the Old English *Middangeard*: Middle-earth.

The back story begins thousands of years before the action in the trilogy, with the rise of the eponymous *Lord of the Rings*, the Dark Lord Sauron, a malevolent incarnated spiritual being who possesses great supernatural powers and is the ruler of the dreaded realm of Mordor.

At the end of the First Age of Middle-earth, Sauron survives the catastrophic defeat and exile of his master, the *diabolos* figure Morgoth. During the Second Age, Sauron schemes to gain dominion over Middle-earth. In disguise as "Annatar", or *Lord of Gifts*, he aids Celebrimbor and the other Elven-smiths of Eregion in the forging of the Rings of Power, but then secretly forges the One Ring by which he could enslave their wearers. This plan fails when the Elves become aware of him and take off their rings. Sauron then launches a military campaign during which he captures the Seven Rings and the Nine Rings and distributes them to lords of the Dwarves and Men respectively. The Dwarves prove too tough to enslave, but the Men who possess the Nine become the Nazgûl, his

most feared servants. The Three he fails to capture, and they remain in the possession of the Elves.

The king of Númenor, Ar-Pharazôn, arrives with overwhelming force and takes Sauron prisoner. After Sauron sets into motion the events that bring about Númenor's destruction he returns in spirit to Mordor, assumes a new form, and launches an attack against the Númenorean exiles led by Elendil and his sons Isildur and Anárion. However, the exiles have time to prepare, and forming the Last Alliance of Elves and Men with the king of the Eldar Gil-galad they march against Mordor and besiege Barad-dûr, at which time Anárion is slain. Sauron himself is ultimately forced to engage in single combat with the leaders. Gil-galad and Elendil perish as they defeat Sauron, and Elendil's sword Narsil breaks beneath him. Isildur cuts the One Ring from Sauron's hand with the hilt-shard of Narsil, and at this Sauron's spirit flees and does not reappear for many centuries.

So begins the Third Age of Middle-earth. A short time later while journeying to Rivendell, Isildur is ambushed by a band of Orcs and killed. The Ring slips from his finger into the Great River Anduin and is lost for millennia.

In *The Hobbit*, the "prequel" to the saga, Tolkien relates the story of the seemingly accidental finding of the Ring by the hobbit Bilbo Baggins .

The Lord of the Rings takes up the story a few years after the end of *The Hobbit*. It follows the adventures of an alliance of the various 'races' of Middle-Earth, including Elves, Dwarves, Hobbits and Men, a coalition that hopes to destroy the dreaded Ring of Power, which has come into their possession at the very time Sauron once again threatens conquest.

Although the One Ring confers great powers (including invisibility) on its wearer, the alliance knows that the victory of Sauron is certain if the Ring falls back into his hands. The hero of the saga is the hobbit Frodo Baggins who, in order to destroy it, must secretly take the Ring into the very heart of Sauron's realm.

The Lord of the Rings is one of the very few books that is named after its villain, in contrast to the usual convention of a book being named after its hero.

(disputed — see talk page) While *The Lord of the Rings* is by far the most popular of his works, Tolkien did not consider it to be his magnum opus: he bestowed that honour upon *The Silmarillion*. Whereas *The Lord of the Rings* could be considered as a mere story and a literary venture, *The Silmarillion* is the basis of an entire legendarium, which provides the historical and linguistic context for the more popular work and his constructed languages.

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walkman>

Walkman

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Walkman** is a popular Sony brand used by the company to market its portable audio players, and is synonymously used to refer to the original *Walkman* portable personal stereo player. The original Walkman became famous for bringing about a change in the listening of music, allowing people to carry their own choice of music with them.

The first Walkman was a transistorized miniature portable cassette tape player invented by a German inventor. The first Sony Walkman stereo was sold in 1979 as the Soundabout. Akio Morita created the name Walkman, and until recently he was also credited with the invention of the personal stereo. However Sony has recently acknowledged the claims of Andreas Pavel, who created and patented a similar device, the stereobelt, in 1977. After 30 years of highly financed court battles against Pavel, Sony came to an out-of-court settlement in 2003.

The names "Walkman", "Pressman", "Watchman", "Scoopman", and "Discman" are trademarks of Sony, and have been applied to a wide range of portable entertainment devices manufactured by the company. Sony continues to use the "Walkman" brand name for all of these kinds of portable audio devices as well, after the "Discman" name for CD players was dropped in the late 1990s. The plural form can be either "Walkmans" or "Walkmen."

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winnie_the_Pooh

Winnie-the-Pooh

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Winnie-the-Pooh is a fictional bear created by A. A. Milne. He appears in the books *Winnie-the-Pooh* (published October 14, 1926) and *The House at Pooh Corner* (1928). Milne also wrote two books of children's poetry, *When We Were Very Young* and *Now We Are Six*, which include several poems about Winnie-the-Pooh. All four volumes were illustrated by E. H. Shepard. The setting of the stories is based on the Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, England. The name "Winnie" was inspired by a similarly named pet bear of a Canadian soldier (details).

The Pooh stories were later made into a series of Winnie the Pooh (without hyphens) featurettes by Walt Disney Productions, which became one of the company's most successful franchises.

Origins

The character was named after a stuffed bear owned by Milne's son, Christopher Robin Milne. Most of the other characters are also named after toys belonging to Christopher Milne, the exceptions being Christopher Robin himself, and also Owl and Rabbit who are presumably based on real life animals, judging by their appearance in illustrations. Christopher Milne had named his toy after a real bear called Winnipeg, brought to Britain from Canada and whom Milne and his son often saw at London Zoo, and "Pooh", a swan they had met on a holiday (and who appears in *When We Were Very Young*).

Winnipeg the bear was discovered at a stop in White River, Ontario, by members of The Fort Garry Horse Canadian regiment of cavalry, en route to the battlefields of France during World War I. The bear was smuggled to Britain as the unofficial regimental mascot. Winnie's first owner was Lt. Harry Colebourn. He was the regiment's veterinarian, responsible for their horses. Winnie's eventual destination was to be the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg, but at the end of the War, the officers of the Fort Garry Horse decided to allow her to remain in the London Zoo, where she was much loved.

Christopher Robin's toy bear is now on display at the Donnell Library Center Central Children's Room.

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xi_Shun

Xi Shun

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Xi Shun (born China, 1951) is a resident of Inner Mongolia and since January 15, 2005 has been recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's tallest living man.

Measured at 7 feet and 8.95 inches (2 metres and 36.1 centimetres) tall at the Chifeng City Hospital, Shun does not have a growth disorder--- unlike the tallest man ever, Robert Wadlow, and the tallest living man claimant, Leonid Stadnik. Stadnik claims a height of 8 ft 4 in, but his claim is controversial and not currently accepted by Guinness.

Xi Shun claims to have been of normal height until he was sixteen when he experienced a growth spurt for unknown reasons, and reached his present height seven years later. He was in the Army before returning to Inner Mongolia where he works as a herdsman.

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