

Over at The Atlantic, Ed Young has a very good [write up](#) of some [work](#) done by [Sara Graça da Silva](#) and [Jamie Tehrani](#) on the origins of folktales. The researchers have used existing databases of folktales, fitted them with their geographical distribution, and used statistical methods from evolutionary biology to trace back the ancestry of common European folktales. Their results suggest that some of these folktales might be 6000 years old — talk about strong attractors!