

## THE HOBBITS



hobbits-header.jpg

## APPEARANCE

Hobbits are between two and four feet (0.61–1.22 m) tall, the average height being three feet six inches (107 cm). They dress in bright colours, favouring yellow and green. Nowadays (according to Tolkien's fiction), they are usually shy, but are nevertheless capable of great courage and amazing feats under the proper circumstances. They are adept at throwing stones. For the most part, they cannot grow beards, but a few of the race of Stoor can. Their feet are covered with curly hair (usually brown, as is the hair on their heads) with leathery soles, so hobbits hardly ever wear shoes. The race's average life expectancy is 100 years. Two hobbits, Bilbo Baggins and the Old Took, are described as living to the age of 130 or beyond, though Bilbo's long lifespan owes much to his possession of the One Ring. Hobbits are considered to "come of age" on their 33rd birthday, so a 50-year-old hobbit would be regarded as entering middle-age.

Hobbits are not quite as stocky as the similarly-sized dwarves, but still tend to be stout, with slightly pointed ears.

hobbits-feet.jpg



## TYPES

hobbits-harfoots.png



The Harfoots

hobbits-stoors.png



The Stoors

hobbits-fallohides.png



The Fallohides

**The Harfoots** were the most numerous group of hobbits and were the first to enter Eriador. They were the smallest in stature, and the most typical of the race as described in *The Hobbit*. They lived in holes, or smials, and had closer relations with Dwarves than did other hobbits. Tolkien coined the term as analogous to "hairfoot".

**The Stoors** were the second most numerous group of hobbits and the last to enter Eriador. They were stockier than other hobbits. They had an affinity for water, dwelt mostly beside rivers, and were the only hobbits to use boats and swim. Males were able to grow beards. Tolkien says they were "less shy of Men". Many hobbits of Buckland and the Marish in the Shire were Stoors, as were Déagol and Sméagol/Gollum. Tolkien used the Old English word *stor* or *stoor*, meaning "strong".

**The Fallohides** were the least numerous group and the second group to enter Eriador. They were generally fair-haired and tall (for hobbits). They preferred the forests and had links with the Elves, and were more adventurous than the other breeds. Wealthy prominent families, like the Tooks and Brandybucks, tended to be of Fallohide descent. Bilbo and three of the four principal hobbit characters in *The Lord of the Rings* (Frodo, Pippin, and Merry) had Fallohide blood through their common ancestor, the Old Took. Tolkien created the name from the archaic meanings of English words "fallow" and "hide", meaning "pale skin".

## LIFESTYLE

**Hobbits are fond of an unadventurous, bucolic and simple life of farming, eating, and socializing, although capable of defending their homes courageously if the need arises. They would enjoy six meals a day, if they could get them. They claimed to have invented the art of smoking pipe-weed. They were extremely "clannish" and had strong "predilections for genealogy";**



hobbits-lifestyle.jpg

The hobbits of the Shire developed the custom of giving away gifts on their birthdays, instead of receiving them, although this custom was not universally followed among other hobbit cultures or communities. They use the term *mathom* for old and useless objects, which are invariably given as presents many times over, or are stored in a museum (*mathom-house*).

home-01.jpg



The hobbits had a distinct calendar: every year started on a Saturday and ended on a Friday, with each of the twelve months consisting of thirty days. Some special days did not belong to any month—Yule 1 and 2 (New Year's Eve & New Years Day) and three Lithedays in mid-summer. Every fourth year there was an extra Litheday, most likely as an adaptation, similar to a leap year, to ensure that the calendar remained in time with the season.

Hobbits traditionally live in "hobbit-holes" or smials, underground homes found in hillsides, downs, and banks. It has been suggested that the soil or ground of the Shire consists of loess and that this facilitates the construction of hobbit-holes. Loess is a yellow soil, it causes the colour of the Brandywine River, and it was used in making the bricks at Stock, the main Shire brickyard. Like all hobbit architecture, the hobbit-holes are notable for their round doors and windows.