

# Cultural Influences on Sandy Cheeks

Alicia Lucas

California University of Pennsylvania

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## Background

- Sandy Cheeks is one of the main characters featured in the television series *SpongeBob* (1999-present).
  - This television show takes place in the undersea city, Bikini Bottom. Within this city, viewers observe the life of a yellow sponge named SpongeBob.
  - Sandy was sent to Bikini Bottom to study marine life.
- Cultures have various perspectives on squirrels
- Norse Mythology viewed squirrels as mischievous messengers.
- During the 18th century, squirrels were highly valued and the most popular pet.
- In the Marvel comic book series *Squirrel Girl* (1991), squirrels' strength and agility are highlighted.
- Native American folklore highlights squirrels' strength.

## Research question

- How do cultural views about squirrels compare to Sandy Cheeks?
- The cultural views around squirrels have a spectrum, ranging from negative to positive outlooks.

## Evidence



Fig 4. Chapman, David. Squirrel Jumping. *Saga*. <https://www.saga.co.uk/magazine/home-garden/gardening/wildlife/wildlife-photography-tips> JPG file. 5 December 2019.



Sandy is valuable in the science field.

Fig 1. Sandy Preparing to Travel Dimensions Using a Portal She Built. *Fandom*. [https://spongebob.fandom.com/wiki/Vortex\\_machine](https://spongebob.fandom.com/wiki/Vortex_machine) JPG file. n.d.



Fig 2. Sandy Doing Karate. *Fandom*. [https://spongebob.fandom.com/wiki/Karate\\_gear](https://spongebob.fandom.com/wiki/Karate_gear) JPG file. n.d.

Looking back to how cultures highlighted squirrels' strength and agility.



Fig 3. Sandy Lifting Weights. *Fanpop*. <https://www.fanpop.com/clubs/spongebob-series/images/34314351/title/spongebob-ripped-pants-episode-photo> JPG file. n.d.

## Conclusions

When looking through these cultural lenses, there is a variety of perspectives on squirrels. Sandy cheeks reflects positive cultural outlooks. In a sense, our views about squirrels shape Sandy Cheeks, and Sandy Cheeks can influence our views on squirrels. While culture had a role in shaping Sandy, it can influence many other aspects of life.

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