Yuru-Chara ゆるキャラ



Alex Craig Power of Japanese Pop Culture

History & Concept



- Believed to originate from polytheism and yokai
- Term created by Jun Miura in early 2000s
- Loosely translated to "gentle", "laid-back", "light-hearted"
- Three main requirements of yuru-chara
 - a strong message of love for one's hometown
 - character's behaviors and movements should be unstable and unique
 - character should be loveable and hold forgiveness







 events, sports teams, video games, prefectures/cities/shopping districts, product companies, historical destinations/people/buildings, train lines, organizations, tv stations, food, theme parks, vacation destinations, schools



Well-known Mascots

- Hello Kitty (1974) • Mario (1981) • Pikachu (1996)
- Domo-kun (1998)











Began in 2010

http://www.yurugp.jp





Funasshi ふなっし

- Pear (梨, nashi)
- Created November 2011

How a hyperactive, dancing, talking pear became a Japanese obsession

By Will Ripley, CNN and Edmund S. Henry, for CNN June 11, 2014 -- Updated 0247 GMT (1047 HKT)

- Unofficially promotes Funabashi City
- Has gained celebrity status (made ¥200,000,000 in 2013)
- Appears on TV, has made CDs, merchandise, visited London, Paris, Italy, and Hawaii

Funasshi in Action



