

Looking for Bigfoot

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LEVELED BOOK • O

Looking for Bigfoot



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Correlation

LEVEL O

Fountas & Pinnell	M
Reading Recovery	20
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Bigfoot Around the World

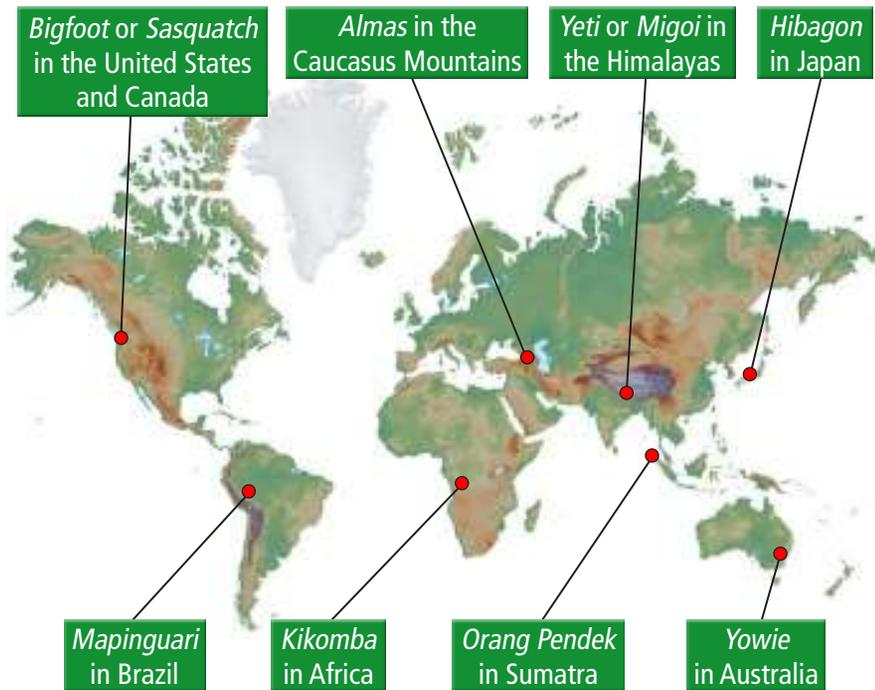


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I Set a Trap!

No one has ever caught Bigfoot before. Some people think the giant hairy **creatures** don't even exist, but I think that Bigfoot is real. To prove it, I'm going to catch one tonight! Then I'm going to take it to school as my science fair project. I can't wait to see the look on the other kids' faces when I come to class with Bigfoot. I'm guaranteed to get first place in the science fair.





How will I catch one? I've been learning everything I can about Bigfoot. Also, I set a trap for one behind my house. Now I just need to wait here and review my Bigfoot Secret Files.



What Is Bigfoot?

Bigfoot gets its name from the huge footprints it leaves behind, but not just its feet are gigantic. Bigfoot is said to be between six and nine feet tall and weigh more than five hundred pounds! There have been **sightings** of both males and females. They are strong, apelike creatures covered in thick hair. Bigfoot is known to walk on two legs, have long arms, and smell terrible (even worse than skunks).

Is Bigfoot Real?

Many people think that Bigfoot is a **hoax**, a practical joke played by people wearing gorilla suits and pretending to be Bigfoot. This doesn't explain why people have reported seeing Bigfoot for hundreds of years all over the world. Could there really be that many people wearing gorilla suits?



The first recorded Bigfoot sighting was in AD 986 by Leif Ericson. The early Viking explorer came to North America and wrote detailed descriptions of "monsters" he saw in the forest. He said they were horribly ugly and hairy, and had big black eyes.
If not Bigfoot, then who?



After all, new **species** are still being discovered. In 2012, scientists announced a new species of monkey called the *lesula*. Until

then, only people in the Congo, in Africa, knew the *lesula* existed. In fact, many rare animals are hard to find. There were no photographs of a giant squid until 2006. Some people thought that the giant squid was a hoax as well.

Evidence for Bigfoot?

One reason people don't believe that Bigfoot is real is that no bones have ever been found. No one has captured Bigfoot, dead or alive. The two best types of **evidence** we do have are footprints and film.

Bigfoot Theories

Since no one has captured Bigfoot, we don't know what species of animal it is. There are two popular theories, though.

Gigantopithecus

Some people think Bigfoot is a giant primate called *Gigantopithecus*, a twelve-foot-tall ape that lived 300,000 years ago. *Gigantopithecus* was the largest known primate to walk on two legs, but

Could *Gigantopithecus* still be alive?

scientists think it went extinct a long time ago.

Neanderthals

Some people think the descriptions of wild apelike creatures sound similar to Neanderthals. Neanderthals, who came before modern humans, were primates who walked on two legs and had human-sized brains. Neanderthals are thought to have disappeared around 100,000 years ago.

Could Bigfoot be a hairy Neanderthal that is not extinct?



Cryptozoologist Jeffrey Meldrum—the world expert on Sasquatch footprints—holds a casting of a footprint that he believes came from Bigfoot.

A professor of anatomy, Meldrum has devoted most of his career to arguing for Bigfoot's existence.

I am a cryptozoologist...

Cryptozoology is the study of creatures, like Bigfoot, that have not yet been proven to exist. The term comes from the words *crypto*, meaning “hidden,” and *zoology*, which is the study of animals.

Since Bigfoot is so big and heavy, it leaves footprints wherever it goes. People have photographed its footprints and—where there's more than one footprint—they've measured the distance between the prints. That's how they measured Bigfoot's **stride**, which can be more than twice the length of a human's!

Better yet, people have made plaster casts of some footprints. They've poured wet plaster into the prints, allowed them to completely harden, and guess what? Some of these casts show skin patterns that, like fingerprints, are only found on humans and other primates.

The patterns found on the Bigfoot prints are like no other primate's we know of, though.



The most famous **footage** of Bigfoot was taken in 1967 in Bluff Creek, California. Roger Patterson and his friend were riding on horseback alongside a stream. They rounded a corner and saw Bigfoot next to the water. Patterson's horse got spooked and reared up, knocking him to the ground. Patterson yanked out his camera and filmed the seven-foot-tall creature walking toward the forest. In the fifty-three second film, you can see a female Bigfoot in motion. Her muscles ripple with her long strides. No one has been able to prove that the film is a fake.

Bigfoot Around the World

The mystery of Bigfoot has captured the imaginations of people across the globe. Large, hairy apelike creatures have been sighted all over the place, and Bigfoot is known by many names in different countries. The creature is called *Bigfoot* in much of the United States. In the Pacific Northwest and Canada, Bigfoot is called *Sasquatch*. In the Himalayas of Nepal and Tibet, it is called a *Yeti*. The names are different, but the wish to know the truth about Bigfoot is the same.



Bigfoot has been spotted around the world for hundreds of years, so why shouldn't it show up in my backyard? When I catch it, I'll prove that Bigfoot is real, but I promise that I won't hurt it. Once I'm done with the science fair project, I'll let it go.

Wait—there's something in my trap! This is the moment of truth, when all of my research pays off.





I've finally caught...my dad!

He does not look pleased.

Dad's feet are kinda big, and he is kinda hairy. You don't suppose...?

Glossary

- creatures** (*n.*) strange or unusual animals (p. 4)
- evidence** (*n.*) something that supports a theory or claim (p. 9)
- exist** (*v.*) to be; to live (p. 4)
- footage** (*n.*) images captured by a motion picture camera (p. 12)
- hoax** (*n.*) something meant to mislead or trick (p. 7)
- primates** (*n.*) mammals that have a large brain and complex hands and feet, such as humans, apes, or monkeys (p. 11)
- sightings** (*n.*) acts of seeing something briefly, especially something unusual (p. 6)
- species** (*n.*) a group of living things that are physically similar and can reproduce (p. 8)
- stride** (*n.*) the length or style of steps taken while walking or running (p. 10)