

# Mythical Creatures and the Paranormal

## Introduction

- Look at the pictures. What do you know about the things you see in each?



Loch Ness Monster



Bigfoot



Yeti



UFO

## Lesson Vocabulary

The following vocabulary is used in the lesson. Look at the words in bold and the definition of each.

**By word of mouth** = If news or information passes by word of mouth, people tell it to each other rather than it being printed in written form. *For example, "The story has been passed down by word of mouth."*

**Folklore** = The traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community, passed through the generations by word of mouth. A body of popular myths or beliefs relating to a place, activity, or group of people and things.

**Lore** = A body of traditions and knowledge on a subject or held by a particular group, typically passed from person to person by word of mouth.

**Dwell** = 1) To live in or at a specified place 2) To live or stay as a permanent resident

**Inhabit** = To live or dwell in (a place), as people or animals

**Exist** = 1) To be, or to be real 2) To live, or to live in difficult conditions

**Entity** = An entity is something that exists separately from other things and has a clear identity of its own.

**Extinct** = A species of animal or plant that is extinct no longer has any living members. Something that no longer exists and has no living representative is extinct. **For example, "Dinosaurs are extinct."**

**Hoax** = A hoax is a trick in which someone tells people a lie. It is a plan to deceive someone, such as telling the police there is a bomb somewhere when there is not one.

**Conspiracy theory** = A theory that rejects the standard explanation for an event.

**Anecdotal** = Not necessarily true or reliable because something is based on personal accounts rather than facts or research

**Tending** = To be likely

**Protruding** = Extending beyond or above a surface

**Depicted** = Represented or shown in a picture or story

**To vanquish** = To defeat in a conflict or contest

**To beckon** = Make a gesture with the hand, arm, or head to encourage or instruct someone to approach or follow

**Cryptozoology** /kriptəʊzʊ:ˈplədʒi/ = The study of evidence that is likely to support or prove the existence of, or the search for, creatures whose reported existence is unproved, such as the Abominable Snowman or the Loch Ness Monster.

**Paranormal** = These are events that are phenomena described in popular culture, folklore, and other non-scientific bodies of knowledge, whose existence within these contexts is described to lie beyond normal experience or scientific explanation. Notable paranormal beliefs include ghost hunting, ufology and cryptozoology.

**Mythical creatures** = For as long as human beings have existed, there have been stories of monsters, legendary beasts and unimaginable, supernatural beings. Some were dangerous creatures of darkness while some were helpful and even heroes to mankind. Some still walk the earth if you ask the right person.

**To be abducted** = to seize and take away (a person) by force. **For example, "The girl was abducted by kidnappers."**

## Famous Mythical Creatures

How well do we know our monsters? There are hundreds of them after all. Read the texts about these creatures and answer the questions for each.

### Plesiosaur

Plesiosaurs were not mythical creatures. They were any of a group of long-necked marine reptiles found as fossils from the Late Triassic Period into the Late Cretaceous Period (215 million to 80 million years ago). Plesiosaurs had a wide distribution in European seas and around the Pacific Ocean, including Australia, North America and Asia. Some forms lived until near the end of the Cretaceous Period (65.5 million years ago).

