

Unsolved Mystery Research Project



Introduction

The world is full of mysterious places, creatures, and phenomena. Have you ever wondered if the Loch Ness Monster or the Abominable Snowman really exist? What about the Lost City of Atlantis or the mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle? How do you explain Crop Circles, UFOs, or the statues on Easter Island? Well, lucky for you, there has been a new sighting, incident, or discovery related to one of these very mysteries! The popular magazine *Unsolved Mysteries Around the World* would like to feature a cover article about the mystery in question.

Process

Step 1: Choose a topic (see last page in folder)

Step 2: Research your unsolved mystery using the **Resources** listed in Mrs. McGregor's library collection. You will be researching who or what your mystery is, different sightings and/or hoaxes, and the different theories/hoaxes behind the mysteries.

Step 3: Create source and note pages and check off information as you find it on the checklist.

Step 4: Create a bibliography to cite all your sources properly.

Step 5: Make a visual. This could be a Prezi, PowerPoint, Scrapbook, Poster, etc. Find pictures and maps.

Step 6: Writing the rough draft, revising, editing, and producing a final copy.

Step 7: Present your unsolved mystery to the class along with your visual in a 3-minute presentation (this may be pre-recorded).

What will I turn in?

- 5 Note Pages
- A 2-3 page research paper with at least 5 paragraphs.
- Must include in-text citations that match the Bibliography.
- A Bibliography Page with a minimum of 5 sources
- Visual
- 3-minute presentation (may be pre-recorded)

Unsolved Mystery Research Checklist



You will need to find all these things in order to write a successful research paper. You should verify each fact by finding it in more than one source.

- _____ 1. Who or what am I?
- _____ 2. What do I look like?
- _____ 3. Where am I from?
- _____ 4. What year was I first spotted?
- _____ 5. Why am I famous? What is so special about me?
- _____ 6. Why do I remain a mystery?
- _____ 7. one theory behind my existence
 - _____ 8. Fact about theory #1
 - _____ 9. Fact about theory #1
 - _____ 10. Fact about theory #1
 - _____ 11. Likelihood of this theory
- _____ 12. Second theory behind my existence
 - _____ 13. Fact about theory #2
 - _____ 14. Fact about theory #2
 - _____ 15. Fact about theory #2
 - _____ 16. Likelihood of this theory
- _____ 17. Third theory behind my existence
 - _____ 18. Fact about theory #3
 - _____ 19. Fact about theory #3
 - _____ 20. Fact about theory #3
 - _____ 21. Likelihood of this theory
- _____ 22. Other interesting facts
- _____ 23. Other interesting facts (May need more than 2)
- _____ 24. Am I dangerous? Why am I important do figure out?
- _____ 25. What will happen if I am discovered/figured out?

Unsolved Mystery Research Paper, Works Cited, Visual and Presentation

Name: _____

Requirement	1 - Emerging	2 - Developing	3 - Proficient	4 - Extending
Length (2-3 pages)				
Introduction				
Body Para. 1				
Body Para. 2				
Body Para. 3				
Conclusion				
Grammar & Conventions (capitalization, punctuation, etc.)				
In-Text Citations				
Bibliography				
Visual				
Presentation Content				
Presentation Length				
Presentation Skills				

NOTES:

TOTAL _____ /

Research Paper Outline: Unsolved Mysteries (UM)

Step 1. Introduction (first paragraph):

A. **Hook:** Grab the reader's attention with something interesting. Some possibilities are a question, an interesting or shocking fact, a short tale, or a quote.

B **Basic Information:** Introduce your subject and make your reader familiar with who or what it is. Answer all the following questions as applicable:

1. Who or what is your subject?
2. What do I look like?
3. Where from and when did I originate?
3. What am I famous? What did I do or what is so special about me?
4. Why do I remain an unsolved mystery?

C. **Thesis:** The final sentence in your introduction should tell the reader what they will read about in the body paragraphs. What theories are there about the unsolved mystery? You should be able to use this formula (you may change the wording a bit):

Although _____ (name of your mystery) remains a mystery several theories have been established including _____, _____, and _____.

Step 2. Body Paragraphs (paragraphs 2, 3, and 4):

1. Topic Sentence: State ONE theory you be discussing in this paragraph.
2. List at least 3 significant facts explaining this theory AND the source you are taking these facts from.
3. How has this theory been dismissed or discredited or why do some researchers not believe in this theory? What is the likelihood that this theory or suspects holds any truth?

****You will repeat Step 2 for EACH theory **** (Researching only one theory will earn a grade no higher than "emerging," researching two theories will earn a grade no higher than "developing." You need to research three theories for a mark of "proficient," and four for "extending.")
Go from the least to most convincing theory *

Step 3: Conclusion (paragraph 5):

There should be **four parts** to the conclusion.

1. Touchback: Summarize your main points.
2. Heart of the matter: Why does your topic matter? What would solving the mystery mean for the rest of the world?
3. Look to the future: How will solving this unsolved mystery aid us in the future?
4. Zinger: Leave your reader with something to think about.

Outline Template

Name: _____ Topic: _____ Class: _____

I. Introduction (Paragraph 1)

a. Hook

b. Basic information

c. Thesis

2. Body Paragraph #1: Put your most convincing theory in the LAST body paragraph

Topic Sentence _____

Fact 1 _____

_____ Source _____

Fact 2 _____

_____ Source _____

Fact 3 _____

_____ Source _____

How has this theory been dismissed? What is the likelihood that this theory holds any truth?

_____ Source _____

3. Body Paragraph #2

Topic Sentence _____

Fact 1 _____

Source _____

Fact 2 _____

Source _____

Fact 3 _____

Source _____

How has this theory been dismissed? What is the likelihood that this theory holds any truth?

Source _____

4. Body Paragraph #3

Topic Sentence _____

Fact 1 _____

Source _____

Fact 2 _____

Source _____

Fact 3 _____

Source _____

How has this theory been dismissed? What is the likelihood that this theory holds any truth?

Source _____

(Continue on another sheet with body paragraphs as needed if you are researching a fourth theory.)

6. Conclusion:

1. Touchback _____

2. Heart of the matter _____

3. Look to the future _____

4. Zinger: _____

Notes and Sources (you need at least five different sources).

NOTE PAGE 1

Note: From your research checklist, what question(s) does the information on this note page answer?

INFO: Write in fragments! Paraphrase! If you must write word for word, remember to put "QUOTATION MARKS" around words!

Source Information:

- a. Author's name (if there is no author look for a company)
- b. Article title (not a www.)
- c. Title of larger site (not a www.)
- d. Date of publication or last update:
- e. Date you accessed the website:
- f. URL (web address)

Notes and Sources (you need at least five different sources).

NOTE PAGE 2

Note: From your research checklist, what question(s) does the information on this note page answer?

INFO: Write in fragments! Paraphrase! If you must write word for word, remember to put "QUOTATION MARKS" around words!

Notes and Sources (you need at least five different sources).

NOTE PAGE 3

Note: From your research checklist, what question(s) does the information on this note page answer?

INFO: Write in fragments! Paraphrase! If you must write word for word, remember to put "QUOTATION MARKS" around words!

Notes and Sources (you need at least five different sources).

NOTE PAGE 4

Note: From your research checklist, what question(s) does the information on this note page answer?

INFO: Write in fragments! Paraphrase! If you must write word for word, remember to put "QUOTATION MARKS" around words!

Notes and Sources (you need at least five different sources).

NOTE PAGE 5

Note: From your research checklist, what question(s) does the information on this note page answer?

INFO: Write in fragments! Paraphrase! If you must write word for word, remember to put "QUOTATION MARKS" around words!

Research Unit: Unsolved Mysteries Around the World

Over the next three weeks, you will be researching unsolved mysteries. First you will choose a topic. Then you will research. Next you will write the paper. Lastly, along with a visual you create, you will give a brief presentation explaining your unsolved mystery. The presentation may be pre-recorded if you like (i.e., PowerPoint with recorded audio).

Below are the different unsolved mysteries and a brief description. Vote on your top 4 and I will try my best to give you one those!

Atlantis, a lost civilization

In about 360 B.C. the Greek philosopher Plato wrote about the city of Atlantis and its destruction. People thought it was just a nice story until the 1800s, when a scholar announced that the city might actually have existed. People have been trying to find it ever since. Was Atlantis real or not?

The Bermuda Triangle

In the Atlantic Ocean, bounded by the island of Bermuda; Miami, Florida; and San Juan, Puerto Rico, is an area where planes and ships have been known to disappear without warning. The U.S. military insists it's all coincidence. But what do YOU think?

Bigfoot, a.k.a Sasquatch

For more than 400 years people have reported finding footprints of an astonishingly large human in the western United States and throughout the world. Real or hoax? You decide.

Crop Circles

Long before Mel Gibson made the movie *Signs*, people have tried to make sense of crop circles. People have confessed to making some as practical jokes. But evidence left at others suggests there may be something else at work.

Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart captured the American imagination as a daring pilot at a time when most women were not allowed to work outside the home. On July 2, 1937, she disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to fly around the world. Her plane was never found. What happened to her?

Easter Island

In the middle of the Pacific Ocean sits a collection of huge stone carvings. The Easter Island Moai have been the subject of speculation for centuries. How did the native people move and carve all that stone? And why?

The Great Pyramids of Giza

The Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, built somewhere between four and five thousand years ago have sparked mysterious debate for centuries. How were the pyramids built and for what purpose?

The Mothman

Mothman is the name given to a strange creature reported in the Charleston and Point Pleasant areas of West Virginia between November 1966 and December 1967. The creature was sporadically reported to be seen before and after those dates, with some sightings as recent as 2007. Most observers describe the Mothman as a winged man-sized creature with large reflective red eyes. It often appeared to have no head, with its eyes set into its chest. A number of hypotheses have been presented to explain eyewitness accounts, ranging from misidentification and coincidence to paranormal phenomena and conspiracy theories.[[]

Allagash Abductees

The Allagash Abduction is a purported UFO sighting and alien abduction which is alleged to have occurred in 1976. As four men all claimed the same sequence of bizarre events occurred to them despite little to no discussion of the incident amongst them, the Allagash case achieved notoriety as perhaps the first well-documented multiple-witness UFO abduction event.

The Mary Celeste

In 1874 the *Mary Celeste* set sail from New York bound for Italy. It had a captain, his family, a crew, and a cargo. They were never seen again. The ship was found adrift, and there were no signs of foul play. What happened?

The Loch Ness Monster

Loch Ness, a lake in northern Scotland, is home to ... well, something. Known affectionately as "Nessie" by the locals, the Loch Ness monster has spawned many sightings and stories. Just what is it?

Ogopogo/Nsyilxcən

Okanagan Lake is also home to a mysterious aquatic creature. The Indigenous Peoples of the Okanagan refer to it as *nsyilxcən* and believe it to be a spirit which appears as an aquatic serpent, while the early European Settlers refer to it as Ogopogo believed it to be a dinosaur or large fish such as sturgeon. What is it that makes such an unusual wave on the surface of the lake?

Stonehenge

Stonehenge - a circular formation of stones that date back at least five thousand years - stand on a flat plain just north of Salisbury, England. The massive size of the stones has for centuries led people to ponder the mystery of how they were moved there, and what purpose they served. Who actually built Stonehenge? Was it Merlin the wizard, the Romans, or an ancient civilization?