



### Strange But True:

10 of the world's greatest mysteries explained

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ISBN: 9781786037848

\$22.99 US/\$27.99 CAN

128 pages, color illustrations

Hardcover, 9.25 x 10.87 inches

Ages: 10 to 14



**LEARNING OBJECTIVE:** Prepare to have your mind blown! As you explore ten of the world's greatest unsolved mysteries, you'll witness a UFO encounter, search for the lost city of Atlantis, tour a haunted house and discover the kraken's true form. Along the way, you'll use the scientific method and sharp thinking to separate fact from fiction and explain the unexplainable.

### GENERAL QUESTIONS:

1. What paranormal mystery fascinates you the most? Ghosts, aliens, Bigfoot, psychics, or something else? What do you find so interesting about it?
2. Have you ever thought that paranormal creatures or powers might really exist? Why or why not?
3. How does a scientist go about investigating a mystery? What steps does he or she follow?
4. What is Occam's Razor? How might this principle help someone understand a mystery?

### READ "AN ENCOUNTER WITH ALIENS" AND THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

5. What evidence makes it seem as if Betty and Barney experienced an alien abduction? Are there any other ways to explain this evidence?
6. What typically happens during sleep paralysis? Why might a person mistake the experience for an encounter with aliens?
7. Each time you remember something, you may alter the memory or add new details. Your memories do not stay the same over time. How does this fact make you feel? Does it change how you think about your past experiences?

### READ "THE HAUNTED MANSION" AND THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

8. Have you ever been to a haunted house or location? What supposedly happened there to make it haunted? Did you get scared or experience anything unusual during your visit?
9. Explore a ghost hunting case on the Paranormal Milwaukee website: <https://paranormalmilwaukee.com/category/cases/> Did they find any evidence of ghosts on this trip? How convincing is the evidence?
10. If someone shows you a photo of a ghost, what questions could you ask to try to figure out other possible explanations?

### READ "THE SEARCH FOR LOST WORLDS" AND THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

11. Was the Bimini Road built by the citizens of Atlantis? Why or why not?
12. Research the ancient Minoans and the volcanic eruption at Thera that likely led to their destruction. What are the similarities and differences between this true history and the story of Atlantis?

*READ "THE STAR OF DEEP BEGINNING" AND THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:*

13. Go online and look up images of the Nazca geoglyphs. Which design is your favorite, and why? What do you think it would feel like to come across something like this while exploring?
14. What's wrong with the idea that ancient people needed help from aliens to accomplish great feats of engineering or art? Discuss how this could be a form of racism.

*READ "WHEN THE DEAD RETURN" AND THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:*

15. What are the similarities and differences between a zombie and a zombi?
16. The Vodou religion is often misrepresented in popular culture. Research the religion and talk about how it is practiced today.

*READ "AMAZING POWERS OF THE MIND" AND THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:*

17. Have you ever seen a magician or psychic do something that seemed impossible to explain? What happened? How did the experience make you feel?
18. Do you ever do anything superstitious, such as wear a certain piece of clothing to watch sports games? Why do you do this?
19. What is confirmation bias? How might this explain dreams that seem to predict the future?

*READ "THE SECRETS OF AN ANCIENT TOMB" AND THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:*

20. What is the null hypothesis? How can you apply this to the idea of a curse that affected people who participated in opening Tutankhamen's tomb?
21. Do you think archaeologists should open the tomb of the first emperor in China? Why or why not?

*READ "LOST AT SEA" AND THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:*

22. Do you remember hearing news about the search for MH370? What facts stood out to you? Discuss any unusual theories you heard.
23. Would you feel safe traveling through the Bermuda triangle? Why or why not?

*READ "THE MYSTERY OF DEAD MOUNTAIN" AND THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:*

24. Would you want to go on an expedition hiking or camping in a remote or dangerous area? Why or why not?
25. What evidence could prove that the Bigfoot or Yeti exists? Why aren't people's stories about seeing these creatures good enough evidence?

*READ "MONSTERS OF THE DEEP" AND THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:*

26. Think of a body of water near your home and invent a sea, lake, or river monster to live there. Draw a picture of it and write a story about it. Share your monster with friends and family, but be sure to tell them it's imaginary.
27. What evidence did scientists gather to prove that the kraken exists, and is really the giant squid?