

ARTHUR C CLARKES MYSTERIOUS UNIVERSE (TV SERIES)

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Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World

Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World is a thirteen-part British television series looking at unexplained phenomena from around the world. It was produced by Yorkshire Television for the ITV network and first broadcast on 6 September 1980.

Each program is introduced and book-ended by author and inventor of the communications satellite Arthur C. Clarke in short sequences filmed in Sri Lanka. The bulk of the episodes are narrated by Gordon Honeycombe. The series was produced by John Fanshawe and John Fairley, and directed by Peter Jones, Michael Weigall and Charles Flynn. It also featured a unique soundtrack composed by British artist Alan Hawkshaw.

In 1980, Book Club Associates published a hardcover book with the same name, authored by Simon Welfare and John Fairley, where the contents of the show were further explored. It featured an introduction written by Clarke as well as his remarks at the end of each chapter or topic. In 1985, a paperback of this book was released by HarperCollins Publishers.

Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World



Genre	<u>Documentary television</u>
Directed by	<u>Peter Jones</u> <u>Michael Weigall</u> <u>Charles Flynn</u>
Narrated by	<u>Gordon Honeycombe</u>
Country of origin	<u>United Kingdom</u>
No. of series	1
No. of episodes	13
Production	
Producers	<u>John Fanshawe</u> <u>John Fairley</u>
Running time	25 minutes ^[1]
Production company	<u>Yorkshire Television</u>
Original release	
Network	<u>ITV</u>
Release	2 September – 25 November 1980
Related	
	<u>Arthur C. Clarke's World of</u>

The series was followed by *Arthur C. Clarke's World of Strange Powers* in 1985 and *Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe* in 1994.

Strange Powers
Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe

Episodes

No.	Title	Original air date
1	"The Journey Begins..."	2 September 1980
<p>This episode introduces the themes that are explored in the remainder of the series. Clarke expounds on his categorisation of mysteries, self-consciously aping the famous '<u>close encounters</u>' categorisation used by some <u>ufologists</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mysteries of the First Kind</i> – phenomena which were mysterious to our ancestors but are now well understood. Clarke illustrates this category by observing the Solar eclipse of 16 February 1980 from <u>Hyderabad</u>, India, highlighting that eclipses are still treated with reverence and suspicion in some cultures. <i>Mysteries of the Second Kind</i> – phenomena which are as yet unexplained, but where we have several clues that hint at an answer. Clarke looks at ball lightning (including one sighting by Roger Jennison in the cabin of an aircraft), the Loch Ness Monster, Remy Van Lierde's encounter with a gigantic snake, a sighting of a sea serpent off the coast of England, the stone spheres of Costa Rica, the Baghdad Battery, the vitrified forts of Scotland, <u>Stonehenge</u>, and the <u>Cerne Abbas Giant</u>. The ruined ancient palace of <u>Sigiriya</u> in Sri Lanka, which Clarke mentions at the beginning of the episode, could also be included in this category. <i>Mysteries of the Third Kind</i> – phenomena for which we have no rational explanation. Clarke mentions <u>psychic phenomena</u> as something that would be included in this category, and the extremely strange phenomena of <u>raining animals and seeds and nuts "raining"</u> from the sky might also be included. 		
2	"Monsters of the Deep"	9 September 1980
<p>Including the <u>giant squid</u>, <u>gigantic octopus</u>, <u>sea serpent</u> and <u>megamouth shark</u></p>		
3	"Ancient Wisdom"	16 September 1980
<p>This show is concerned with technology from history that was either ahead of its time and subsequently forgotten, or artefacts which are mysteries in themselves. This includes the <u>Baghdad Battery</u>, where German scientist Arne Eggebrecht is shown electroplating a small silver statue with a gold cyanide solution and a replica of the battery using grape juice. There are also segments on the <u>Antikythera Mechanism</u> (including an interview with <u>Derek J. de Solla Price</u>), the <u>Stone Balls of Costa Rica</u> and the so-called '<u>Skull of Doom</u>' which dominates the opening credits of the series. Also included are the vitrified stone forts of Scotland including <u>Tap o' Noth</u> near Aberdeen.</p> <p>Clarke opines at the end that had some of these forgotten technologies been developed and not lost that it would now be like it was the year 4000 AD and that we would have already 'colonised the stars'.</p>		
4	"The Missing Apeman"	23 September 1980
<p>This episode is divided equally between considering evidence for the <u>Bigfoot</u> and <u>Yeti</u>. Interviewees for the segment on the Yeti include <u>Don Whillans</u>, <u>Lord Hunt</u> and <u>Eric Shipton</u>. Lengthy consideration is given to the <u>Patterson–Gimlin film</u>, and interviewees include <u>Grover Krantz</u> – who demonstrates several casts of alleged Bigfoot tracks that he feels bolsters his belief that the creature represents a relative of <u>Gigantopithecus</u>.</p> <p>Clarke concludes that, although Russian scientists who studied the Patterson–Gimlin film declared the stride to be 'quite inhuman', special effects used in the 1968 movie <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> showed that it is possible to create very convincing ape-men. He also notes that it would be very difficult for a creature such as Bigfoot to remain undetected in North America.</p>		
5	"Giants for the Gods"	30 September 1980

About the Cerne Abbas giant , Nazca lines and others		
6	"Monsters of the Lakes"	7 October 1980
Including Nessie , Ogopogo		
7	"The Great Siberian Explosion"	14 October 1980
This episode investigated the cause of the Tunguska event . The programme concluded that the explosion was caused by the impact of a comet fragment, or other ice-rich body, that exploded above the ground. The reasons given for this were the fact that there was no crater as might be expected had a stony or iron object been involved and the heightened levels of rare earth elements discovered in the devastated environment afterwards.		
8	"The Riddle of the Stones"	21 October 1980
Newgrange and other megalithic structures, such as Stonehenge , Avebury		
9	"Out of the Blue"	28 October 1980
Discussing ice falls, frog falls, raining animals , etc.		
10	"U.F.O.s"	4 November 1980
Including the Robert Taylor incident and an interview with Kenneth Arnold		
11	"Dragons, Dinosaurs and Giant Snakes"	11 November 1980
Including Mokele-mbembe , giant anaconda , Ameranthropoides loysi as well as sightings and excavations of animals such as the moa and the woolly mammoth . Also interviews with Roy Mackal and James Powell.		
12	"Strange Skies"	18 November 1980
Including lost planets such as Vulcan , the Martian canals , the identity of the Star of Bethlehem etc.		
13	"Clarke's Cabinet of Curiosities"	25 November 1980
A collection of unrelated subjects and a summing-up – including the sailing stones of Death Valley , the alma , entombed toads , ball lightning in which physicist James Tuck appears, and a summing-up.		

Home release

In January 2008 the original series was released on DVD in the UK by Network and Granada. It features all of the 13 original episodes unedited and remastered.

A collection DVD Box Set of all three Arthur C. Clarke documentary series, *Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World*, *Arthur C. Clarke's World of Strange Powers* and *Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe* was released in July 2013 by [Visual Entertainment](#), which also re-released them separately in September 2013.^[2]

See also

- [In Search of...](#)* – a similar U.S. television show hosted by [Leonard Nimoy](#) beginning in the late 1970s

References

- "[Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World](https://thetvdb.com/series/arthur-c-clarkes-mysterious-world)" (<https://thetvdb.com/series/arthur-c-clarkes-mysterious-world>). TheTVDB.com. Retrieved 2 January 2022.
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External links

- *Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World* (https://web.archive.org/web/20130511233800/http://www.eofftv.com/a/art/arthur_c_clarkes_mysterious_world_main.htm)
 - *Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0247885/>) at IMDb
 - *Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World* (<https://www.isfdb.org/cgi-bin/title.cgi?958599>) title listing at the [Internet Speculative Fiction Database](#)
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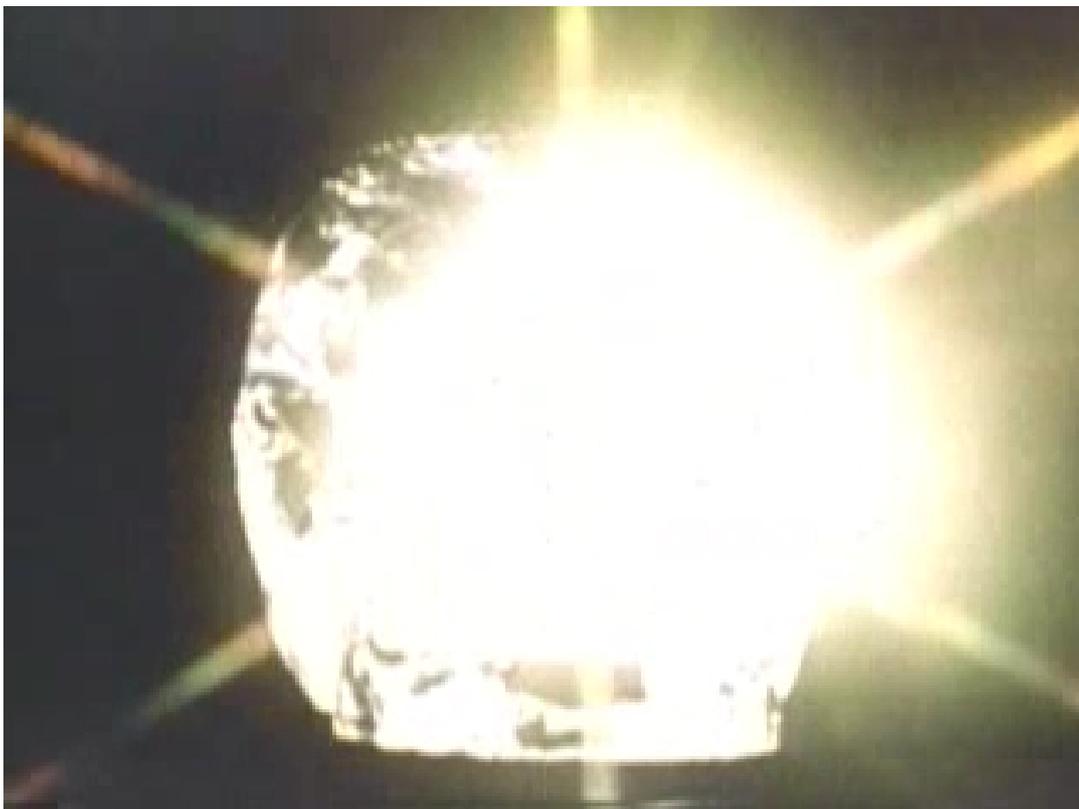


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Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World

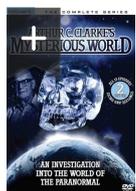
Original title: Mysterious World

TV Series 1980 TV-G 25m



15 VIDEOS

19 PHOTOS



Documentary Mystery

"Mysterious World" was a 1980 series of investigation of unexplained phenomena and mysteries around the world.

★ 8.1/10 240 ☆ Rate

Stars [Arthur C. Clarke](#) [Gordon Honeycombe](#) [Arne Eggebrecht](#)

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TOP-RATED
Tue, Sep 9, 1980



S1.E2 Monsters of the Deep

Arthur C. Clarke dives into the mysteries of the deepest and darkest realms of earth. Encounters with the great sea serpent, the giant squid, the giant octopus and the megamouth shark are explored. Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke'...

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S1.

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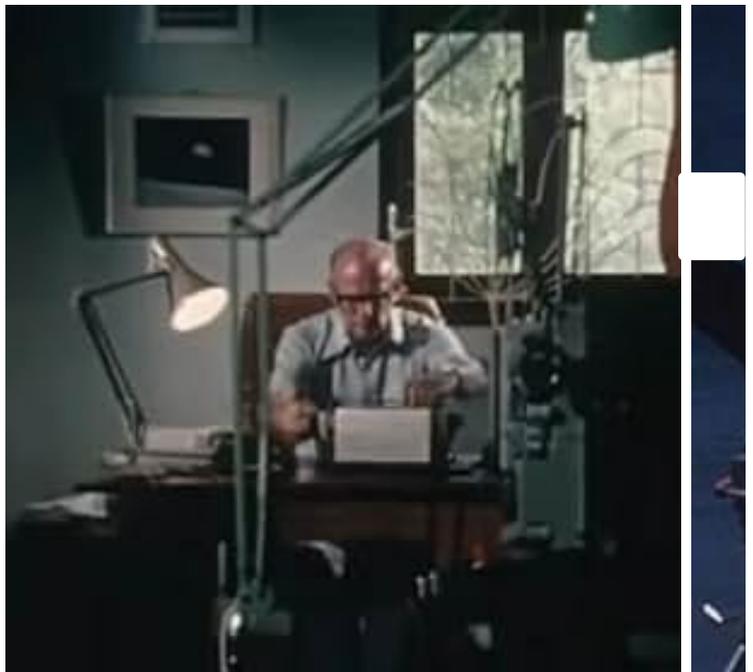
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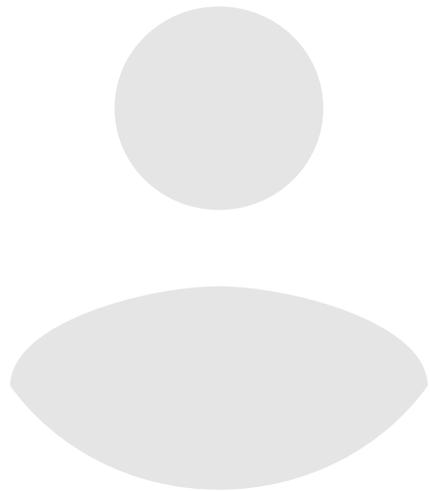


Top cast >



Arthur C. Clarke

Self - Presenter
13 eps · 1980



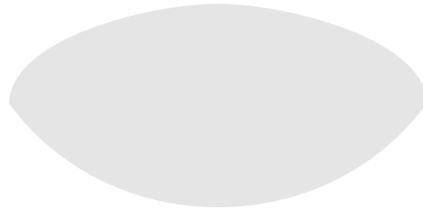
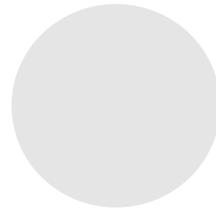
Gordon Honeycombe

Narrator



Arne Eggebrecht

Self
2 eps · 1980



Remy Van Lierde

Self
2 eps · 1980



Alex Campbell

Self
2 eps · 1980



Bob Gimlin

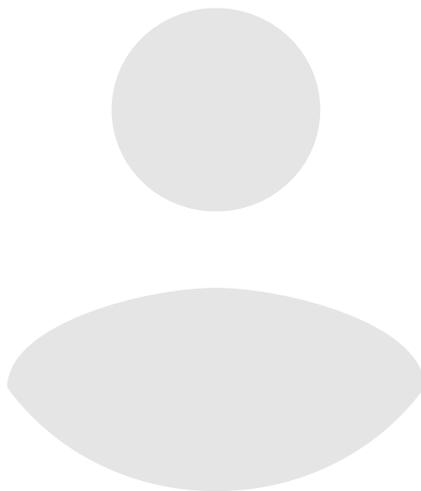
Self
1 ep · 1980





Anna Mitchell-Hedges

Self
1 ep • 1980



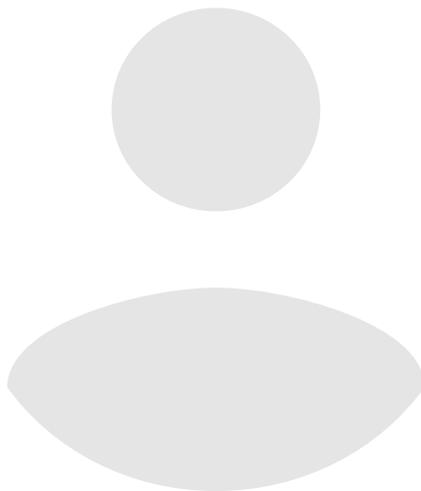
Grover Krantz

Self
1 ep • 1980



Kenneth Arnold

Self
1 ep • 1980



Stuart Piggott

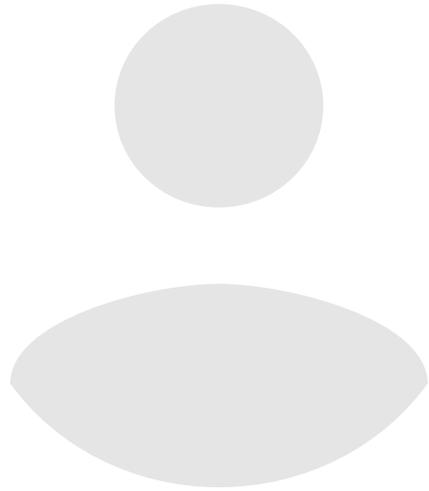
Self
1 ep • 1980





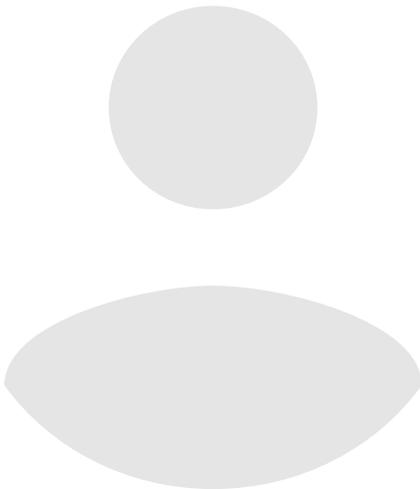
Michael Ward

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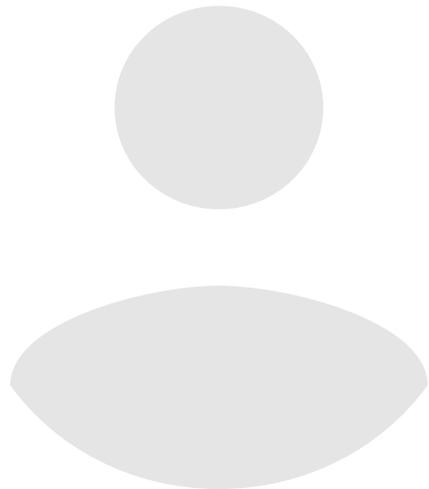
Gerald Hawkins

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Ian Redmond

Self
1 ep • 1980
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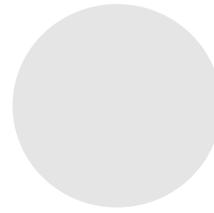
Paul LeBlond

Self
1 ep • 1980
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Paul Bottriell

Self
1 ep · 1980
▼

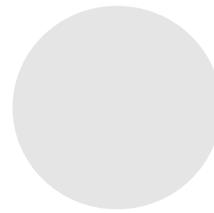


Jessie Roestenberg

Self
1 ep · 1980
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Derek de Solla Price



Robert Rines

Self
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★ 8.1 ☆

Mysterious Universe

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★ 8.0

In Search of the Unknown

Storyline



Did you know



Connections

Followed by [World of Strange Powers](#) (1985)



Soundtracks

The Stones Of Death Valley
Composed and performed by [Alan Hawkshaw](#)
[series theme tune]



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FEATURED REVIEW

★ 10/10

Who put those Chinese seals in Mrs Murphy's peat bog?

The entire medium of television would be radically different (and probably a lot more limited) if not for the achievements of Sir Arthur C Clarke, who devised the idea of communication satellites. Clarke has long been respected for his work as a scientist and for his high-tech science fiction. Less well known is the fact that Arthur C Clarke has a long-standing interest in Fortean phenomena: not the paranormal nor the supernatural, but bizarre occurrences at the borders of known science that force us to examine the rules of how the universe works.

I met Arthur C Clarke during the 1979 World Science Fiction Convention in Brighton, where we had a long talk over drinks in the bar of the Brighton Metropole while discussing one of Arthur C Clarke's favourite subjects: cryptozoology, the serious study of species that have not been conclusively shown to exist, such as the Yeti and the Sasquatch. That subject dominates one episode of 'Mysterious World'.

Arthur C Clarke's participation in 'Mysterious World' is minimal -- largely confined to sound-bites of him expressing his opinions as he

...

helpful · 18 1



[F Gwynplaine MacIntyre](#) Aug 19, 2004

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Details



Release date [September 2, 1980 \(United Kingdom\)](#) >

Country of origin [United Kingdom](#)

Language [English](#)

Also known as [Mysterious World](#) >

Production companies [Trident Television](#) [Yorkshire Television \(YTV\)](#) >

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Technical specs >



Runtime 25 minutes

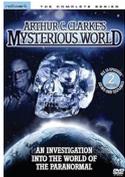
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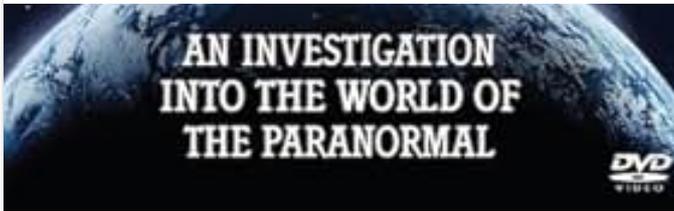
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Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World

Episode list



TOP-RATED

Tue, Sep 9, 1980

S1.E2 Monsters of the Deep

Arthur C. Clarke dives into the mysteries of the deepest and darkest realms of earth. Encounters with the great sea serpent, the giant squid, the giant octopus and the megamouth shark are explored...

★ 8.3/10 ☆ Rate

S
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N
★

Seasons

Years

Top-rated

1



TOP-RATED

S1.E1 · The Journey Begins

Tue, Sep 2, 1980

Arthur C. Clarke explores and explains mysteries of the first, second, and third kinds. Eclipses, ball lightning, the Lock Ness monster, giant stone balls of Costa Rica, ancient Baghdad batteries, the rude man of Cerne, and frogs and fish raining from the sky, are the stories that begin this thirteen part series.

★ 7.7/10 (22) ☆ [Rate](#)



TOP-RATED

S1.E2 · Monsters of the Deep

Tue, Sep 9, 1980

Arthur C. Clarke dives into the mysteries of the deepest and darkest realms of earth. Encounters with the great sea serpent, the giant squid, the giant octopus and the megamouth shark are explored. Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World brought an innovative approach to exploring natural and supernatural phenomenon. After 13 episodes, the series sadly came to a close. Our team at Gaia diligently pursued the acquisition of Mysterious World in order to save it from obscurity. Gaia is proud to re-present this groundbreaking series and restore the sense of wonder and intrigue that it once brought to our mysterious world.

★ 8.3/10 (26) ☆ [Rate](#)



TOP-RATED

S1.E3 · Ancient Wisdom

Tue, Sep 16, 1980

This episode explores extraordinary technologies from ancient civilizations that were either ahead of their times or forgotten in the ruins of history. This includes the Baghdad Battery, the Antikythera Mechanism, and Stone Balls of Costa Rica and the "Skull of Doom," which appears in the opening credits for the series.

Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World brought an innovative approach to exploring natural and supernatural phenomenon. After 13 episodes, the series sadly came to a close. Our team at Gaia diligently pursued the acquisition of Mysterious World in order to save it from obscurity. Gaia is proud to re-present this groundbreaking series and restore the sense of wonder and intrigue that it once brought to our mysterious world.

★ 7.6/10 (19) ☆ [Rate](#)



TOP-RATED

S1.E4 · The Missing Apeman

Tue, Sep 23, 1980

This episode looks at evidence for both Bigfoot in North America and the Yeti, or abominable snowman, in the Himalayas. There are several interviewees and also consideration is given to the famous film of Bigfoot. Arthur C. Clarke offers his take on the evidence, recognizing that alternate explanations are possible. Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World brought an innovative approach to exploring natural and supernatural phenomenon. After 13 episodes, the series sadly came to a close. Our team at Gaia diligently pursued the acquisition of Mysterious World in order to save it from obscurity. Gaia is proud to re-present this groundbreaking series and restore the sense of wonder and intrigue that it once brought to our mysterious world.

★ 7.8/10 (20) ☆ [Rate](#)



S1.E5 · Giants for the Gods

Tue, Sep 30, 1980

Mystifying geoglyphs, giant pictures covering large areas on the ground, appear across the globe, many created by ancient peoples. They only become recognizable at great distances or are situated away from the common sight of man. Some remind us that many civilizations held beliefs that dealt with ideas well beyond everyday life, while others concern rituals and legends. Many, because of scale, were obviously not meant for mere humans of Earth to see. Large scale geometric lines and animals are drawn in the sands of the Peruvian Desert. The name of the Cerne Abbas Giant in Dorset, England, is revealed by Clarke. Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World brought an innovative approach to exploring natural and supernatural phenomenon. After 13 episodes, the series sadly came to a close. Our

...

★ 7.3/10 (18) ☆ [Rate](#)



TOP-RATED

S1.E6 · Monsters of the Lakes

Tue, Oct 7, 1980

Tales of gigantic monsters lurking in more than 70 lakes around the world, such as: Nessie in the Loch Ness, Scotland, and Ogopogo in the Okanagan Lake, Canada. After considering the accounts and evidence, the question of believability concerning Loch Ness as well as the entire collection - he weighs the possibilities: Fact or hoax or merely mistaken identity. Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World brought an innovative approach to exploring natural and supernatural phenomenon. After 13 episodes, the series sadly came to a close. Our team at Gaia diligently pursued the acquisition of Mysterious World in order to save it from obscurity. Gaia is proud to re-present this groundbreaking series and restore the sense of wonder and intrigue that it once brought to our mysterious world.

★ 8.1/10 (22) ☆ [Rate](#)



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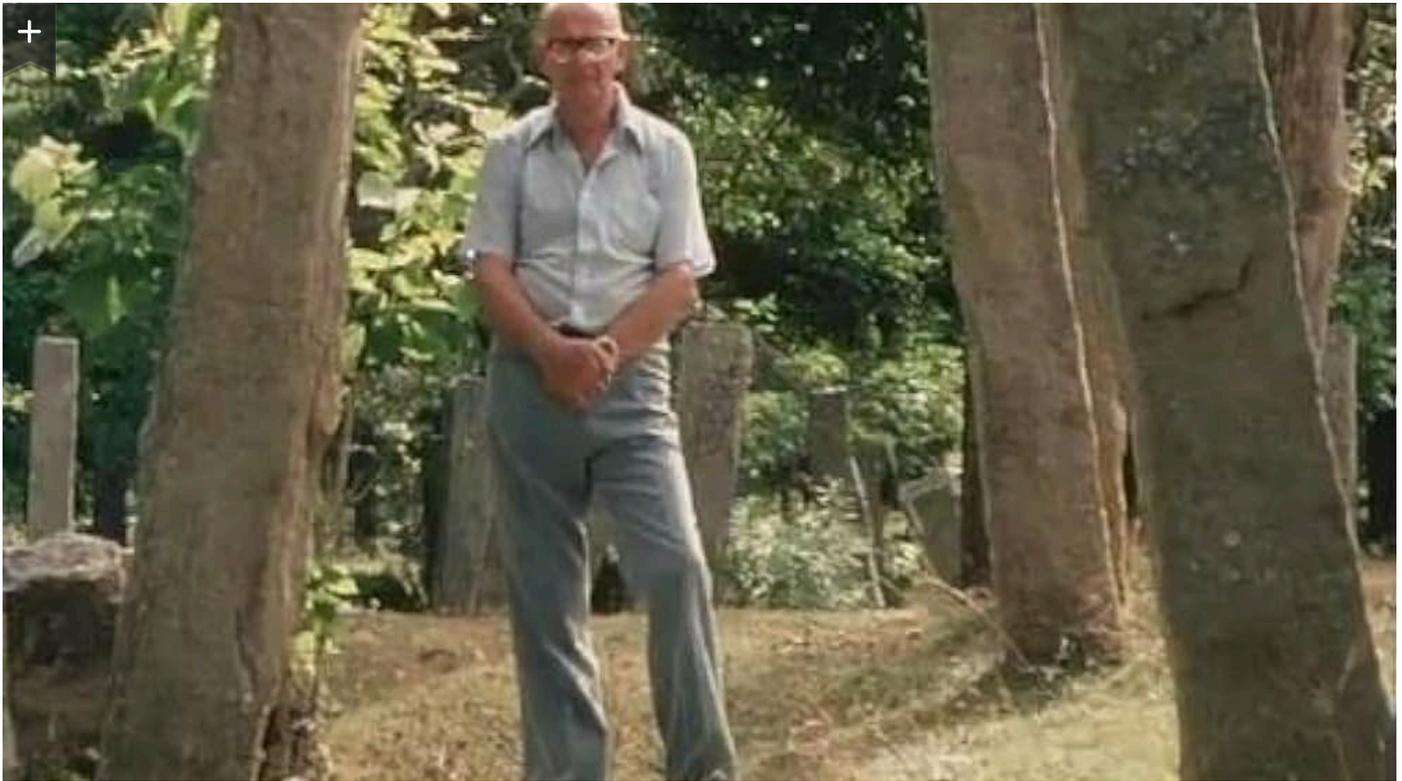
S1.E7 · The Great Siberian Explosion

Tue, Oct 14, 1980

We explore the largest naturally occurring explosion, which sent shock waves around the world and is known as the Tunguska event of 1908 in Siberia. Still to this day there is uncertainty as to the true nature of the incident and its possible implications concerning the expectations should such an event again take place. Our investigation suggests one explanation that the explosion was caused by the impact of a comet fragment or other ice-rich body that exploded about the ground, in as much as there was no crater nor impact material left behind on the ground. Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World brought an innovative approach to exploring natural and supernatural phenomenon. After 13 episodes, the series sadly came to a close. Our team at Gaia diligently pursued the acquisition of Mysterious World in

...

★ 7.9/10 (20) ☆ [Rate](#)



TOP-RATED

S1.E8 · The Riddle of the Stones

Tue, Oct 21, 1980

Arthur C. Clarke examines theories behind the pre-historic mysteries of stone circles and standing stones in Britain. These ancient stones are shrouded in a secret of time. Their purpose, their builders and the very source of the stones themselves are still subject to debate. Clarke invites us to hear the legends and theory concerning the famous site sites as Newgrange, Stonehenge and Avebury. Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World brought an innovative approach to exploring natural and supernatural phenomenon. After 13 episodes, the series sadly came to a close. Our team at Gaia diligently pursued the acquisition of Mysterious World in order to save it from obscurity. Gaia is proud to re-present this groundbreaking series and restore the sense of wonder and intrigue that it once brought to our

★ 7.6/10 (18) ☆ [Rate](#)



S1.E9 · Out of the Blue

Tue, Oct 28, 1980

Clarke devotes this episode to a story old as man: something falling to Earth from the sky. The cases vary and so do the possible solutions as to how and why strange or unlikely objects fall out of it. Some answers seem fairly simple while others defy easy analysis. Nevertheless the famed author displays a variety of cases and offers possible scenarios to explain the phenomena. The bizarre occurrences include incidents of fish, frogs, massive blocks of ice and hazelnuts falling from out of the clear blue sky. Clarke investigates an incident of fish raining down in his own back yard in Sri Lanka. Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World brought an innovative approach to exploring natural and supernatural phenomenon. After 13 episodes, the series sadly came to a close. Our team at Gaia diligently pursued the

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★ 7.4/10 (18) ☆ [Rate](#)



TOP-RATED

S1.E10 · UFOs

Tue, Nov 4, 1980

This episode looks into one of the most ubiquitous mysteries of our lifetime - reported sightings of "flying saucers." Right away Clarke removes any doubt as to his opinion of UFOs - he states that he has been interested for 50 years and claims to have observed at least six. He even goes on to say that sightings are very common. He does, however, reserve his opinions concerning them; revealing more and more of his ideas on the subject as the episode progresses. Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World brought an innovative approach to exploring natural and supernatural phenomenon. After 13 episodes, the series sadly came to a close. Our team at Gaia diligently pursued the acquisition of Mysterious World in order to save it from obscurity. Gaia is proud to re-present this groundbreaking series

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S1.E11 · Dragons, Dinosaurs and Giant Snakes

Tue, Nov 11, 1980

Sightings and excavations of the giant anaconda, the woolly mammoth and the tale of the De Loys' ape, an unknown primate named after the Swiss geologist who photographed it in 1920. Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World brought an innovative approach to exploring natural and supernatural phenomenon. After 13 episodes, the series sadly came to a close. Our team at Gaia diligently pursued the acquisition of Mysterious World in order to save it from obscurity. Gaia is proud to represent this groundbreaking series and restore the sense of wonder and intrigue that it once brought to our mysterious world.

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S1.E12 · Strange Skies

Tue, Nov 18, 1980

Investigations into mysteries of celestial bodies such as an unknown civilization on Mars, the lost planet Vulcan and the identity of the Star of Bethlehem. Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World brought an innovative approach to exploring natural and supernatural phenomenon. After 13 episodes, the series sadly came to a close. Our team at Gaia diligently pursued the acquisition of Mysterious World in order to save it from obscurity. Gaia is proud to re-present this groundbreaking series and restore the sense of wonder and intrigue that it once brought to our mysterious world.

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S1.E13 · Clarke's Cabinet of Curiosities

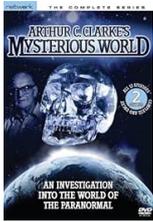
Tue, Nov 25, 1980

A collection of mysteries in this season finale includes the moving stones of California's Death Valley, entombed toads and ball lightning. Originally broadcast in September 1980, Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World brought an innovative approach to exploring natural and supernatural phenomenon. After 13 episodes, the series sadly came to a close. Our team at Gaia diligently pursued the acquisition of Mysterious World in order to save it from obscurity. Gaia is proud to re-present this groundbreaking series and restore the sense of wonder and intrigue that it once brought to our mysterious world.

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By what name was Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World (1980) officially released in Canada in English?

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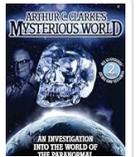
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