

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,000

It is half man, half ape.

2

00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:04,000

It lives in the shadows.

3

00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:09,000

Thousands of people claim they have seen it.

4

00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:15,000

From the wilds of the Pacific Northwest to the mountaintops of Tibet.

5

00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:17,000

But it remains a lucid.

6

00:00:20,000 --> 00:00:24,000

Truth or Scare tracks the truth about the creature known as Bigfoot.

7

00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:33,000

No!

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00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:35,000

The Bigfoot

9

00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:01,000

Its name has been translated from many native languages.

10

00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:07,000

Yes, Yeti, Sasquatch, the abominable snowman, and yes, Bigfoot.

11

00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:13,000

Is this creature the last great undiscovered animal in the world, or just an oversized prank?

12

00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:20,000

For many generations, Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest have told of an ape-like creature they call Sasquatch.

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:24,000

But it was only folklore, or so they thought.

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00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:37,000

Beginning in the 1950s, hikers and woodsmen roaming the wilderness of Northern California came back with reports of a strange ape-like creature.

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00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:49,000

Then, in 1958, some loggers deep in the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest found huge, strange footprints.

16

00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:53,000

The press immediately dubbed it Bigfoot.

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00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:56,000

Hey, you fellas, gotta come up here and take a look at this.

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00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:06,000

But as this ancient legend turned to modern rumor, two hunters who'd never seen Bigfoot set out to shoot it.

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00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:08,000

On film, that is.

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00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:13,000

They headed to Bluff Creek in Trinity National Forest,

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:17,000

160 miles north of San Francisco.

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00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:21,000

It had a reputation as one of Bigfoot's stomping grounds.

23

00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:38,000

Roger Patterson was a former rodeo rider and part-time inventor.

24

00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:42,000

Bob, Gimlin, an expert horseman and tracker.

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:51,000

According to Patterson, for seven days they saw nothing.

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00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:55,000

But all that changed on October 20, 1967.

27

00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:05,000

Patterson was so stunned he fell from his horse.

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00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:21,000

As he stumbled forward with his camera, he said Bigfoot stopped to look back at them.

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00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:26,000

Gimlin aimed his gun at the beast in case it attacked.

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00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:30,000

The creature had seen enough. It disappeared into the forest.

31

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:36,000

Patterson followed it with his camera, but he'd already filmed too much of the beautiful mountain scenery.

32

00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:39,000

A breath of air, he ran out of film.

33

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:43,000

This is the actual film shot by Roger Patterson.

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00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:48,000

Most scientists dismiss the film as a clever hoax.

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00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:54,000

A man in a modified ape costume, perhaps, pretending to be the fabled creature.

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00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:03,000

It is true that Roger Patterson sold rights to the footage all over the world and made a small fortune.

37

00:04:04,000 --> 00:04:10,000

But Bob Gimlin, who made no money for his part in the adventure, swears the film is real.

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00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:17,000

Many alleged Bigfoot prints and hair samples have turned out to be fake.

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00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:25,000

One bit of fur found alongside a footprint in California was actually the hair from a Barbie doll.

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:30,000

Do these incidents prove Bigfoot is nothing more than a fable?

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00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:41,000

Did Roger Patterson actually film a shy relative of man hiding out in the wilderness for thousands?

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00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:43,000

Maybe even millions of years?

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00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:48,000

Maybe the key to tracking Bigfoot is in his footprints.

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00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:54,000

Find out next on Truth or Scare.

45

00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:59,000

Claims of a Bigfoot creature are not limited to North America alone.

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:05,000

There have been reports of a similar creature in Australia, Central Asia, India and Tibet.

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00:05:05,000 --> 00:05:11,000

Coincidence? Or is it possible that a gigantic man ape could go and capture it for thousands of years?

48

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:16,000

It may seem unlikely that animals thought to be extinct have turned up before.

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00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:26,000

In the early 20th century, many zoologists believed that all Earth's largest animals had already been discovered.

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00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:33,000

But in 1939, a supposedly extinct fish, the Silicam, was discovered in South Africa.

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00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:40,000

Scientists also found the very first mountain gorilla in Africa as recently as 1901.

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00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:46,000

And the first giant panda was captured in China in 1936.

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00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:52,000

These animals were once dismissed as mere folklore, until science proved they were real.

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00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:59,000

I did a calculation and I came up with about 40% of all known mammal species.

55

00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:02,000

40% were discovered in this century.

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00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:09,000

Richard Greenwell is a member of the International Society of Cryptozoology, which searches for unknown animals.

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00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:15,000

More traditional scientists say that Cryptozoology isn't a real science at all.

58

00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:23,000

They say that looking for such mythical creatures as giant octopuses and living dinosaurs is inspired by pure fantasy.

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00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:28,000

But Greenwell thinks Bigfoot is alive and well hidden.

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00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:34,000

There are vast regions on this planet where there is hardly anybody at all or hardly anybody goes.

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00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:43,000

And certainly intelligent animals like primates could survive there and remain undetected. It is possible.

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00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:48,000

Greenwell believes the animal may also be an nocturnal creature, only coming out at night.

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00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:55,000

Animals have strategies for survival, you know, some move in herds, others have spines on their backs.

64

00:06:55,000 --> 00:07:03,000

Perhaps some animals have a strategy that makes them more difficult to find. I call that elusiveness.

65

00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:06,000

Bigfoot may be elusive, but he does leave tracks.

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00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:12,000

At least that's what believers say, who point to his footprints as their strongest evidence.

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00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:17,000

So far, collectors have cast more than 400 footprints.

68

00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:25,000

Bob Titmiss of British Columbia, Canada saw his first Bigfoot track on a logging road in 1958.

69

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:31,000

I'd never seen anything like it. I couldn't imagine what on earth was making it.

70

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:38,000

And after I tracked it several times in the next few weeks,

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00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:45,000

I came to believe that it had to be, absolutely had to be some live animal.

72

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:53,000

Find out why this professional tracker thinks these footprints are the real deal.

73

00:07:56,000 --> 00:07:58,000

Next on Truth or Scare.

74

00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:03,000

The giant creature known as Bigfoot has been dodging hunters and investigators for years.

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00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:09,000

He supposedly hides by day and hunts by night in the giant forests of the Pacific Northwest.

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00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:12,000

The only physical evidence is its unusual footprints.

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00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:15,000

The question is, are any of them real?

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00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:22,000

Bob Titmiss has been a professional hunter all his life.

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00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:27,000

From Alaska to Mexico, but the trophies on his wall are of Bigfoot.

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00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:32,000

He believes these tracks cannot have been made by man or machine.

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00:08:32,000 --> 00:08:37,000

The fluctuation in the track and the movement in the foot,

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00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:42,000

and the places this would go that no mechanical thing could have gone.

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00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:46,000

The tracks would eventually lead him to a remote canyon,

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00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:51,000

in the Rockies of Northern British Columbia, on a summer day in 1963.

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00:08:54,000 --> 00:09:00,000

Over 30 years later, the memory of what he claims he saw there remains as clear as when it happened.

86

00:09:00,000 --> 00:09:09,000

I was going up an old glacier bed, and there was reports of Indians having shot one up there many years before.

87

00:09:09,000 --> 00:09:14,000

And looking across the canyon, a huge canyon in front of me,

88

00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:18,000

I noticed three Sasquatches going up the opposite wall,

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00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:21,000

and they were climbing just hand over hand.

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00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:23,000

That was a sight to see.

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00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:30,000

Like other Sasquatch hunters who came back without even a snapshot, no one believed him.

92

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:33,000

Except John W. W. W.

93

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:39,000

Except John Green, a writer and publisher in British Columbia.

94

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:41,000

He had followed Bigfoot in the press.

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00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:45,000

When he heard about Bob to Mrs. Find, he tracked him down.

96

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:51,000

By 1958, there was a picture in the newspaper of a man holding a cast.

97

00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:53,000

One of these huge footprints.

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00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:57,000

I just got in the car and went down there to see what it was all about.

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00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:00,000

And footprints are real.

100

00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:03,000

There has to be something real to make them.

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00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:10,000

Since 1958, John Green has gathered more than 3,000 eyewitness accounts from the United States and Canada.

102

00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:14,000

Most sightings are in the Pacific Northwest.

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00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:18,000

Others come from as far east as Indiana and Arkansas.

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00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:24,000

He admits some reports have turned out to be false, but he's convinced most are real.

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00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:29,000

It reaches the point where the evidence is true.

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00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:36,000

The explanation that there is an animal with a foot like that and it looks like what people say they see,

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00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:44,000

is by far the simpler explanation than to try to patch together some human conspiracy,

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00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:49,000

operating over hundreds of years and right across the entire globe.

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00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:58,000

From 1958 to 1962, both Titmuss and Green became involved in Bigfoot hunting expeditions led by Tom Slick.

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00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:04,000

An oil millionaire, he spent a small fortune trying to track Bigfoot down.

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00:11:04,000 --> 00:11:07,000

He even collected some alleged Bigfoot droppings.

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00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:09,000

Lovely.

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00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:12,000

But when Slick died in a plane crash, the trail grew cold.

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00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:17,000

His records and evidence vanished.

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00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:20,000

Some say his company destroyed them out of embarrassment.

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00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:24,000

Others say they're still hidden away.

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00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:30,000

Perhaps the most complete and thorough search for Bigfoot is taking place here at Washington State University.

118

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:37,000

Anthropologist Grover Kranz has risked his professional reputation by taking Bigfoot seriously.

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00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:40,000

He believes the footprints are real.

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00:11:40,000 --> 00:11:43,000

They're not just oversized human feet.

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00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:46,000

They show seven slightly different characteristics.

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00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:50,000

Five of these I've published in journal articles.

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00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:55,000

Kranz won't say what he calls the other two typical Bigfoot traits.

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00:11:55,000 --> 00:12:00,000

That way, he says, he can more easily uncover a phony.

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00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:08,000

The common traits that he will reveal include flat, wide feet with near equal sized toes.

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00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:11,000

Some alleged prints have ridges like a fingerprint,

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00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:14,000

but again, some have turned out to be human.

128

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:15,000

Nothing.

129

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:17,000

But clever forgeries.

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00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:22,000

Grover Kranz has found examples of Bigfoot tracks he believes would be impossible to fake.

131

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:29,000

What happened here is the individual stepped on a stone and the stone impressed deeply into the foot.

132

00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:35,000

Now, we know that this was not a fake that somebody put on and rocked it side to side to get the impression on both sides

133

00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:42,000

because a very good fingerprint expert was able to trace dermal ridges running all the way across the footprint

134

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:46,000

without any break right through the rock impression.

135

00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:51,000

And since there's no human foot that this is this large, no human foot has that thickness of padding,

136

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:53,000

we're quite sure this is real.

137

00:12:53,000 --> 00:13:01,000

By studying the Patterson film frame by frame, Kranz has even come up with a theory on the mechanics of how he thinks Bigfoot walks.

138

00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:04,000

They do swing their arms back and forth in a human manner,

139

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:12,000

but the differences come from they lean forward at the hip more than a normal human does or should.

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00:13:12,000 --> 00:13:17,000

When they put weight support on one foot, they bend the knee, so...

141

00:13:23,000 --> 00:13:27,000

And most reports of Bigfoot have described the same slumping posture,

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00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:31,000

slightly bent knees, and free-swaying arms.

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00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:34,000

That's roughly how the Sasquatches walking on the Patterson film,

144

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:40,000

and that's about how they would have to walk if they weigh 500 pounds or more and are well muscled.

145

00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:47,000

Solid proof, like Bigfoot, remains hidden.

146

00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:52,000

Can bones discovered in a cave in China prove the existence of a giant mannequin?

147

00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:58,000

Find out next on Truth or Scare.

148

00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:17,000

The Himalayas, one place with a long history of sightings, is home of the legendary Yeti.

149

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:26,000

Like Bigfoot, the Yeti is said to be a hairy, ape-like creature with a cone-shaped head.

150

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:36,000

In 1921, British explorers were the first Westerners to try climbing Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain.

151

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:43,000

At 17,000 feet, a Sherpa guide spotted dark figures moving in a snow field above them.

152

00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:51,000

According to the guide, the creature was what the Sherpa natives called Matoa Kongmi,

153

00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:55,000

or the man who is not a man.

154

00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:05,000

But a mistake in the translation ended up giving the mysterious beast its more familiar name, the abominable Snowman.

155

00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:12,000

Overnight, the abominable Snowman became a worldwide sensation.

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00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:18,000

According to the Sherpas, he was a man-like creature, and he wasn't abominable at all,

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00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:22,000

but a shy, harmless beast who was afraid of humans.

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00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:32,000

For the next 40 years, dozens of other Yeti sightings were reported in the Himalayan Mountains of Tibet.

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00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:41,000

Then, in 1960, the man who had originally conquered Mount Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary, returned to the Himalayas.

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00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:48,000

One of his goals was to find the so-called abominable Snowman.

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00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:53,000

He found snowy footprints allegedly made by the creature.

162

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:58,000

He concluded that they were ordinary animal tracks, perhaps those of a bear,

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00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:02,000

made larger and more frightening by the melting snow.

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00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:07,000

Hillary also examined a so-called Yeti skullcap preserved in a Tibetan monastery.

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00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:12,000

It turned out to be the skin of a goat-like animal called a serral.

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00:16:12,000 --> 00:16:18,000

However, the abominable Snowman, the Sherpas believed, was also invisible.

167

00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:22,000

According to native folklore, he could disappear at will.

168

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:29,000

But the famed beast, Sir Edmund Hillary concluded, was merely a fascinating fairy tale.

169

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:38,000

A startling discovery in a forgotten cave has added a new character to the story,

170

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:43,000

an extinct giant ape that's dead ringer for Bigfoot.

171

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:51,000

In 1989, anthropologists found the teeth and fossilized bones of a giant ape-like creature hidden in a remote cave in China.

172

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:58,000

The bones were really just fragments, but scientists were able to estimate that the animal stood more than 8 feet tall

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00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:02,000

and weighed as much as 1200 pounds.

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00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:06,000

They named it Gigantopithecus.

175

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:13,000

This is a specimen of lower jaw of Gigantopithecus. This is the only adult male specimen.

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00:17:13,000 --> 00:17:18,000

It contains the teeth and the tooth-bearing part of the jaw.

177

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:24,000

When you compare that with a human jaw broken off at the same parts,

178

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:27,000

you can see it's obviously extraordinarily large.

179

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:33,000

Some anthropologists believe that we are distantly related to the human jaw.

180

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:38,000

Some anthropologists believe that we are distantly related to Gigantopithecus

181

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:46,000

and that roughly 11 million years ago, our lines split and we climbed different branches of our family tree.

182

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:50,000

They also think it's possible that by 2 million years ago,

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00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:56,000

Gigantopithecus roamed the land alongside Homo erectus, the forefather of modern man.

184

00:17:56,000 --> 00:17:59,000

The proof lay in the cave in China.

185

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:07,000

Along with the Gigantopithecus bones, scientists found fragments of Homo erectus that dated to the same time.

186

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:14,000

If the two creatures coexisted 2 million years ago, could we still be living with Gigantopithecus' descendants?

187

00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:19,000

Grover Kranz thinks so.

188

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:28,000

The descriptions that people give of the big foot are the same size as what we have reconstructed here on the Gigantopithecus.

189

00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:34,000

It comes out to be about 8 feet tall, hairy, wide-shouldered, a very heavy set,

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00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:39,000

and with a nearly ape-like face but somewhat straighter, more vertical.

191

00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:42,000

And that's an exact description of the big foot.

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00:18:42,000 --> 00:18:48,000

According to this theory, Gigantopithecus originated in East Asia, where its bones were found.

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00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:53,000

It could have crossed into North America over land bridges that formed during the Ice Ages.

194

00:18:53,000 --> 00:19:02,000

Scientists believe this was the same root taken by the first Americans, whose descendants still know the creature as Sasquatch.

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00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:06,000

With nothing to go on but questionable sightings and footprints,

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00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:11,000

Bigfoot, by any name, remains the mere shadow of a ghost.

197

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:16,000

Its bones have never been discovered.

198

00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:20,000

But Grover Kranz thinks he can explain that as well.

199

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:25,000

He believes animals dying in natural death tend to hide themselves before they die.

200

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:31,000

I have talked to so many hunters, game guides, officials, and asked them all the same question.

201

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:34,000

How many dead bears have you found that died in natural death?

202

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:38,000

So far, my grand total is zero.

203

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:45,000

Far from achieving fame and fortune, many who seriously search for big foot pay a heavy price for their beliefs.

204

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:50,000

If you're in the academic world and you let it be known that you take the big foot story seriously,

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00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:54,000

your reputation suffers rather badly for that.

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00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:57,000

Promotions and pay raises are greatly delayed.

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00:19:57,000 --> 00:20:03,000

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, I absolutely believe in Bigfoot.

208

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:07,000

After I evaluate all the data and read all the information,

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00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:13,000

and on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, I think it's a lot of nonsense.

210

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:16,000

On Sundays, I rest.

211

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:24,000

Many sightings of a mythical ape man have been reported, but to this day, no hard evidence exists.

212

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:30,000

And so Bigfoot remains what he has always been, a mythical legend.

213

00:20:34,000 --> 00:20:41,000

If the secret of Bigfoot's survival is to remain hidden, it may be very difficult to ever prove its existence.

214

00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:47,000

Sightings and stories, legends and half truths, footprints and fabrications.

215

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:53,000

Somewhere in between lies the truth and the answer to the question, is there a real Bigfoot?

216

00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:16,000

Thank you for watching.