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# WORLD OF WONDER

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# BIGFOOT

This mysterious and secretive beast is said to roam the northern forests of North America. Many campers, lumberjacks and hikers have claimed to have seen this elusive monster (or evidence of it), but most scientists do not recognize the creature's existence.



### In a word

Legends of large, human-like creatures can be found throughout history all over the world. Indigenous people across northwestern North America have spoken for centuries of a solitary, furry, bipedal beast. This creature is known by many names. The name **sasquatch** comes from the Salish Sasquits people. The Algonquins call it a **witigo** or **wendigo**. In the Himalayas, a similar monster is known as the **Abominable Snowman** or **yeti**. In Russian folklore, the **chuchunya** or **almas** is said to dwell in Siberia or Mongolia.

### Description

Bigfoot is usually described as a hairy, primatelike animal ranging from 6 to 15 feet (2 to 4.5 m) tall. It stands erect on two feet and moves silently. Footprints have measured up to 24 inches (60 cm) in length and 8 inches (20 cm) in width. The face of a Bigfoot is often described as humanlike, with a flat nose, visible lips and sharp teeth. The eyes are commonly described as dark in color and have been alleged to "glow" yellow or red at night.

People who claim to have encountered the creature say it has a terrible skunklike smell and a high-pitched cry.

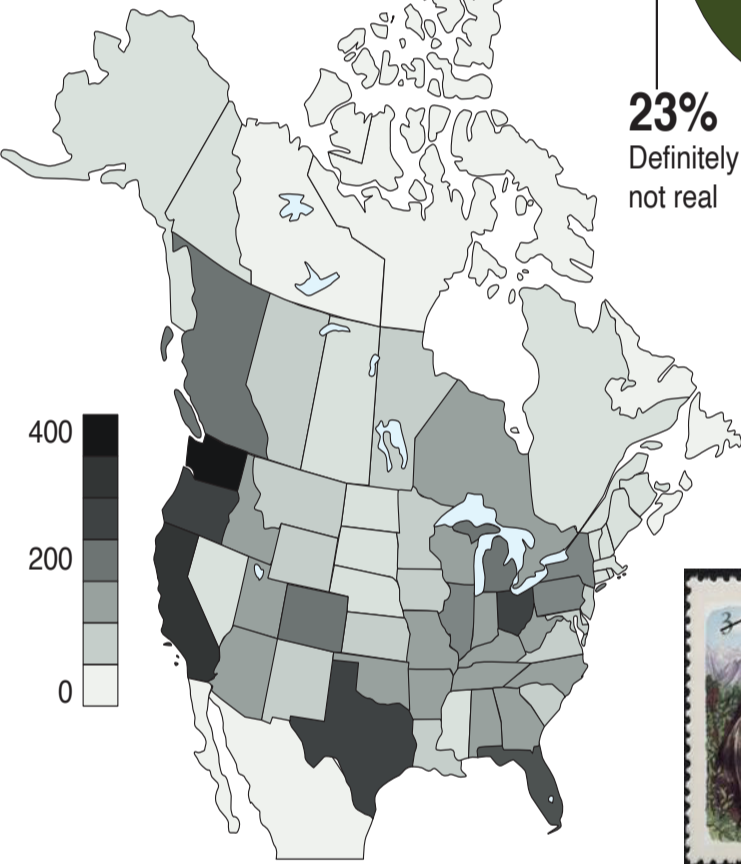
### A bit of history

In 1811, British explorer **David Thompson** claimed he had discovered sasquatch footprints. In 1884, a newspaper in Victoria, British Columbia, published an account of the capture of a "gorilla-type" creature. In 1958, the Humboldt Times ran a letter from a reader about loggers in northern California who had discovered mysteriously large footprints. The best-known video of a Bigfoot is the **Patterson-Gimlin film**, recorded in 1967, by Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin in Northern California.



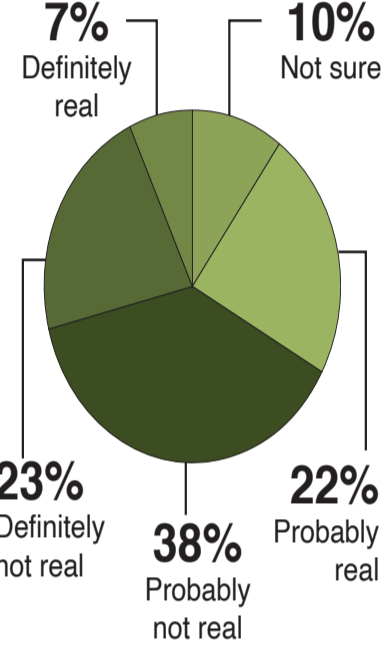
Image from the 1967 Patterson-Gimlin film

### Sightings across North America in 2009



### Believing

Percent of people who believe in Bigfoot/sasquatch



Bigfoot is a **cryptid** — a creature whose existence is suggested but has never been confirmed by science.



1990 Canadian stamp

### Did you know?

Bigfoot got its name from its enormous footprints. It is estimated that 29% of North Americans believe that Bigfoot probably exists. According to Janet and Colin Bord's *The Bigfoot Casebook*, more than 1,000 sightings have been documented between 1818 and 1980. In 2019, the FBI released its 40-year-old file on Bigfoot. They concluded that the Bigfoot hair sent to them was actually from a deer. Descriptions of Bigfoot's hair color vary according to the sightings. It has been described as black, brown or dark reddish. In the case of the yeti and the Abdominal Snowman, it is usually gray or white. In the 1980s, Bigfoot became a symbol of preserving the environment. **Petroglyphs** near the Tule River Indian Reservation in California seem to depict a group of Bigfoots. The local tribespeople call the largest of the glyphs "**Hairy Man**," and they are estimated to be between 500 and 1,000 years old. Animal Planet's TV show *Finding Bigfoot* ran for 11 seasons without finding any solid proof of its existence.

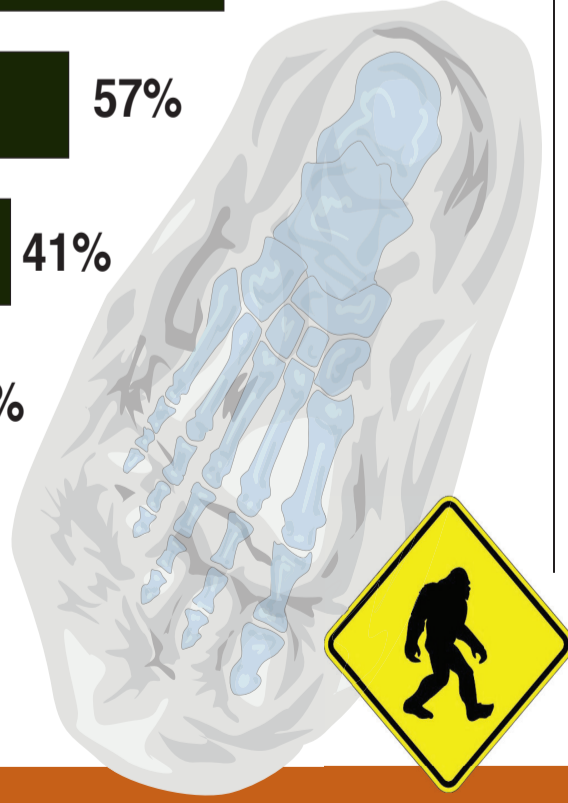
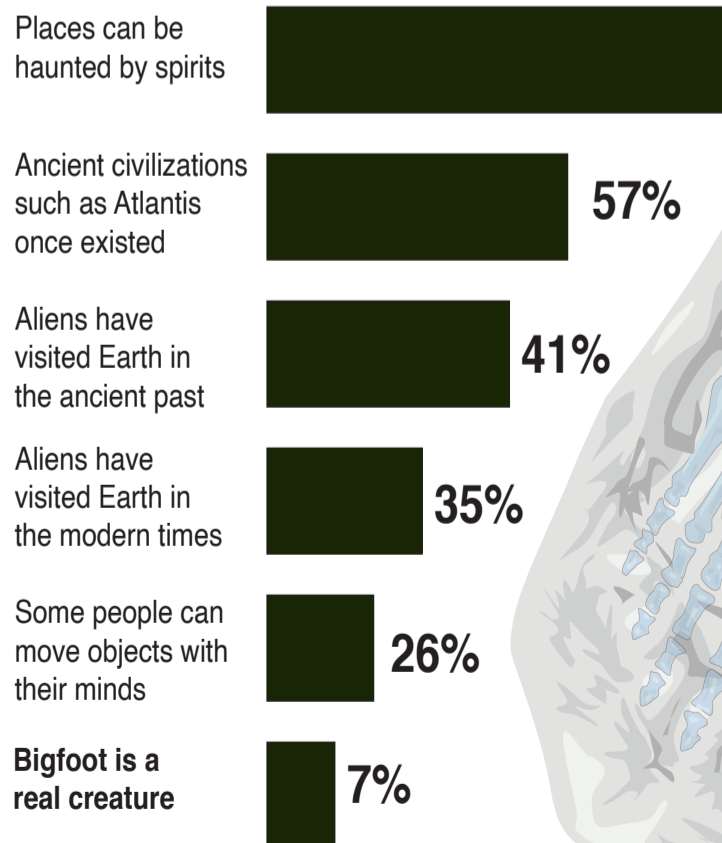
### In conclusion

Evidence of bigfoot includes visual sightings, disputed video recordings and photographs, and casts of large footprints. Almost all of these claims have proved to be hoaxes. It has been suggested that sasquatch may be a remnant of Neanderthals. Despite the many attempts to prove bigfoot's existence, there is no conclusive proof that the creature roams this Earth. **Cryptozoologists**, people who study creatures unrecognized by science, believe evidence of Bigfoot could still be found.

SOURCES: *World Book Encyclopedia*, World Book Inc.; <https://www.britannica.com>; <https://www.history.com>; <https://mil.wa.gov/the-legend-of-bigfoot>;

### Paranormal beliefs

Many people are open-minded about paranormal stuff.



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