UFOS AND ALIENS

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Editorial consultants: Cliff Moon, Lorraine Petersen and Frances Ridley
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What is a UFO?

A **UFO** is something you see flying in the sky. You don’t know what it is.

What could it be?

- A bird?
- An aeroplane?
- A balloon?
- A spaceship?

What’s that?
Near or far?

It’s hard to tell how far away an object is in the sky. It could be a big object far away. Or it could be a small object that’s nearer.

Often, UFOs turn out to be something you can explain.

Some clouds can look like UFOs.

But do some UFOs come from outer space?

Do some UFOs have aliens in them?
What do UFOs look like?

_UFOs_ come in many shapes. These are the shapes most people see.

- **Round flying saucers**

- **Long, thin spaceships**

Schoolboy Stephen Pratt photographed this fly-past of UFOs from his home in Conisbrough, South Yorkshire, UK, on 28th March, 1966.
At night, UFOs can just be strange lights. Where might these lights come from?

A bright planet or a star?  
An aeroplane?  
A searchlight?  
A spaceship?
What else could be UFOs?

If UFOs aren’t alien spaceships, what are they?

As well as birds and aeroplanes, UFOs could be ...

The Northern Lights

This is a strange, bright glow that sometimes appears in the sky.
Ball lightning
This kind of lightning hangs in the air for a few seconds.

Shooting stars
These are small, fiery balls of rock that burn up as they fall to Earth.

UFO study
The UK government did a four-year study about UFOs. They decided UFOs did NOT exist. The study said that every report about UFOs could be explained in other ways.

There is not enough proof to say that UFOs exist.
But some people still believe that UFOs are real.
Little green men

People have written about ‘little green men’ and ‘grey’ aliens for more than one hundred years. They have appeared in films and on TV.
Before people went into space, they thought aliens might live on Mars. They believed aliens would look a lot like people.

Why do aliens on TV look like people?

- It’s cheaper this way.
- It’s easier to do the make-up.
- It’s how the writer wanted the alien to look.
Other aliens

Aliens don’t need to look like humans. They don’t even need heads or arms. They could be big or tiny. They could be bad or good.

This is the alien from ‘Alien’, the movie.
Baddie gremlins from the film ‘Gremlins 2’

Predator from the film ‘Alien V Predator’

Chewbacca with Han Solo from ‘Star Wars’
UFO history

The name **UFO** was first made up in 1952 but people have always seen strange things in the sky.

Here are some possible UFO sightings.

**Ancient Greece, 329 BC**

Did Alexander the Great see UFOs? He reported ‘flashing shields’ diving at his army.
Did Christopher Columbus see UFOs on his way to America? He reported lights flashing in the sky. But they may have been a storm, in the distance.
Pilots on both sides in World War II reported seeing **UFOs**. They said they looked like ‘balls of fire’ following the aeroplanes. Pilots called them ‘foo fighters’.

**World War II, 1939–45**

**What were foo fighters?**

No one knows what foo fighters were but here are some ideas.

- fiery balls of lightning
- secret enemy aeroplanes
- alien spaceships
Beatles’ pop star, John Lennon, saw a UFO above his flat. He said it was so close he could have thrown something at it.

**Album art**

On the cover of his album ‘Walls and Bridges’, John Lennon wrote:

> On the 23rd August 1974 at 9 o’clock, I saw a UFO. JL
Taken by aliens

Some people say they have been kidnapped by aliens.

They are taken into UFOs.

Aliens do tests on them. Some people get skin burns.

When they get back to their real life, they find a long time has gone by. They feel dizzy.
UFO Kidnap!

Betty and Barney Hill say they were kidnapped by aliens last week.

They say a UFO came out of the sky and chased their car. It hovered above them. Then they found themselves in a spaceship.

The Hills cannot remember exactly what happened in the spaceship but they were very frightened. They woke up back in their car.
Kidnapped! (Part one)

It was following me! Faster!

I pedalled as hard as I could, but the UFO was catching up. It was getting closer, lower, following me across the park.

‘Zzzzwhoom!’

I looked back. A beam of light shot out from the UFO. My bike swayed and I crashed in a heap on the grass.

The UFO kept coming. My legs were trapped under the bike. I couldn’t run.
It had been just another normal Saturday. I was on my way to Ben’s house, cycling across the park.

I saw a flashing light in the sky first, but it got bigger and bigger. It became a round metal disc – a flying saucer.

Somehow I knew it was after me, and I started to ride for my life.

And here I was, trapped by my bike, with the light beam coming across the grass ...

Continued on page 30
A UFO was reported from an American airbase in the UK. The airmen spotted it two nights in a row.

Here are some of the things they saw and heard, and what they could have been.

Marks where the ‘spaceship’ landed

A light on the move. The airmen chased it
Case study

Date: 26th December, 1980

Strong lights
A flashing light
Something screaming

UK

Rendlesham Forest
Suffolk
Little Rissington

Two **RAF** pilots reported seeing **UFOs** in Gloucestershire in the UK. They had just flown out of the clouds.

Suddenly, they saw three white **discs** flying right in front of them.

**Trained observers**

People believe reports from **trained observers**, such as the police, **military** and pilots. These people are trained to report only what they see.
Case study

Date: October, 1952

At the same time, three ‘blips’ were seen on radar screens on the ground.

When the pilots landed, they wrote about seeing the UFOs in their log books.
In 1947, something crash-landed on a farm in the United States. Military men came to see it. At first, the military said they had found parts of a UFO! Later, they said it was a secret weather balloon.
In 1995, someone ‘found’ a film of the Roswell alien being cut open on a table.

But the film was a **hoax**. Bits of dead sheep were used as the alien’s insides.
Area 51

In the United States, there’s a secret airbase called Area 51. You can’t get in – it’s ‘off limits’ to everyone.

The United States Air Force tests new aeroplanes here.

Some people think that aliens land at Area 51 to talk to the United States military and the government.
This spy plane was tested at Area 51. Some people think aliens helped to design it.
I was in a white room, a big empty dome. It hummed, and smelt of electricity. I was inside the UFO. I wasn’t afraid. Somehow I knew I would be OK.

A door slid open and an alien came out. It was small and grey, with big black eyes.

It didn’t say anything, but I knew what to do. I followed it back through the door.
In the next room, there was a big bench. I knew the alien wanted me to lie on it, so I did.

The alien leant over me, and stared into my eyes. It was reading my mind.

I could suddenly remember everything about my life: being born, lying in a pram, a toy I’d had when I was two, learning to ride my bike …
Black triangles

Black triangle **UFOs** are as big as a football field and can fly slower and faster than any known plane.

March 30, 1990: Ans, Belgium

2,700 people saw a black triangle UFO. The Air Force sent F-16 planes to follow it. They tracked the UFO on **radar**, but it got away.

Black triangles have been spotted all over the world.
March 12, 1990: Moscow, Russia

People spent the night on their rooftops to watch groups of UFOs, including black triangles and flying saucers.

January 5, 2000: Illinois, USA

Five policemen, in different places, reported a black triangle UFO. The policemen all passed lie detector tests.

This silent spy plane looks like a black triangle UFO.
Close encounters

Researchers **classify UFO** reports.

One system classifies reports like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What was seen</th>
<th>How far away?</th>
<th>Type of report</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lights in the night sky</td>
<td>More than 152 metres</td>
<td>Nocturnal Lights</td>
<td>NL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strange objects in the distant daytime sky</td>
<td>More than 152 metres</td>
<td>Daylight discs</td>
<td>DD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objects by eye and on <strong>radar</strong></td>
<td>More than 152 metres</td>
<td>Radar/Visual cases</td>
<td>RV</td>
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This is a DD report.
Steven Spielberg called this movie ‘Close Encounters of the Third Kind’.

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<th>What was seen</th>
<th>How far away?</th>
<th>Type of report</th>
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<td>Strange objects in the sky</td>
<td>Closer than 152 metres</td>
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<td>CE1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proof that a UFO was there e.g. landing marks</td>
<td>Closer than 152 metres</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Closer than 152 metres</td>
<td>Close Encounter 3</td>
<td>CE3</td>
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Real or fake?

Here are some photos of UFOs. Do you think they’re real or fake?

1. Is this a real UFO above the trees or a fake?

2. What about this? Is it real or a fake?
This photo was taken in 1966. It’s too old to be faked on a computer. Is there a scratch on the photo?

Answers

1. The photo was faked using a model UFO.
2. This photo was made on a computer by pasting an image of a UFO onto a photo.
3. No one knows if this is a real UFO or not. Some people say that "swamp gas" made this UFO.
The **alien** took some little round things from under the bench.

It laid them on my head, my feet, my body and my hands.

The room hummed louder and the round things fizzed on my skin.

The humming stopped and the alien took off the round things. It put them on the bench.

It was time to go.
I wanted something to take with me, to prove I’d been there.

I got up from the bench and put out my hand to pick up one of the round things.

Arghh! It was freezing cold! My hand jerked back and I saw a mark on my palm.

The alien was watching me. If it could have smiled, I think it would have.

I followed it back through the door and everything just faded away...

Continued on the next page
“Rob! Rob! Are you OK?”

I opened my eyes. Ben was bending over me. I was lying against a tree in the park. My bike lay beside me.

“What happened?” he said.

“Wha …?”

“Where have you been? Are you OK? You’ve been gone for hours.”

He continued, “I called your house when you didn’t come. Your mum said you’d left four hours ago! She wanted to call the police, but I said I’d check in the park first.”
Four hours! It seemed like I’d only been in the **UFO** for ten minutes.

I looked at my hand. There was a red, round scar in the palm.

“Ouch!” said Ben “Was that your bike? Did you crash?”

I *knew* where I’d got that scar. But should I tell Ben? Would he believe me?
Is anything out there?

Do aliens exist? Are we alone?

There may be hundreds of millions of planets in the universe. Is there life on any of these planets?
If there is life, maybe it will send a radio signal. People are listening for signals from space. If we heard a signal, we would know there was life.

And maybe it would come and see us ...

It’s a fact!
Fifty-seven per cent of Americans believe that UFOs visit us from outer space.
1 In the daytime, what could you mistake for a UFO?

2 What are the two shapes of UFO most people see?

3 At night, what could you mistake for a UFO?

4 For how many years have people written about ‘little green men’?

5 Can you name two famous people from history who have seen UFOs?

6 What were ‘foo fighters’ in World War II?

7 What is a CE3 report?

8 Can you name two types of trained observer?

9 What kind of ‘aliens’ crashed at Roswell?

10 What is the name of the secret airbase where the United States Air Force tests new aeroplanes?
Glossary of terms

airbase
A military airport.

alien
A living thing from another world.

classify
To put things in classes or groups.

disc
A round, flat object.

encounter
To meet someone unexpectedly.

exist
To have life, or be real.

government
The group of people in charge of a country.

hoax
A trick.

lie detector test
A scientific test which can tell if someone is lying or not.

log book
A book in which you write information about voyages.

military
Something to do with the armed forces – that’s the army, navy or air force.

proof
A fact that shows that something is true.

radar
A system that uses radio waves to show the position of objects.

RAF
Stands for Royal Air Force. It is the UK’s military force that uses aircraft.

radio signal
A series of radio waves that gives information.

trained observer
A person trained to watch things carefully.

UFO
Stands for Unidentified Flying Object.

universe
Everything that exists, including all of space and the stars and planets.

weather balloon
A balloon which carries instruments to send back information on the weather.
More resources

Books

UFOs and Aliens,
The Unexplained series
Colin Wilson
Published by Dorling Kindersley (ISBN: 075135984X)
An overview of the subject.

UFOs: Alien abductions and close encounters,
Graphic Mysteries series
Gary Jeffrey
Book House (ISBN: 1905087810)
This book tells the story of three UFO cases, including Roswell, in cartoon form.

Websites

http://www.ufoevidence.org
This site has lots of reported UFO cases.

http://skepdic.com
This site does not believe in UFOs or aliens. It shows the other side of the argument.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UFO
This online encyclopedia gives factual information about many things, including UFOs and aliens.
Answers

1. Birds, balloons, clouds, spaceships, aeroplanes
2. Flying saucers and long, thin UFOs
3. Planets, shooting stars, lightning, other strange lights in the sky, searchlights shining on clouds
4. More than one hundred years
5. Alexander the Great, Christopher Columbus or John Lennon
6. Foo fighters was the name pilots gave to UFOs which followed their aeroplanes.
7. A CE3 report is a report about a Close Encounter 3.
8. People in the police, the military, or pilots
9. greys
10. Area 51
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An RAF pilot reports flying saucers...
Two Americans are kidnapped by aliens...
Is it all a hoax?
Or is there something out there?

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By Sarah Fleming

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