



3

**MYSTERIES
FROM THE PAST**

THE MARY CELESTE



2

In the school yard...

1

I SAW A PROGRAM ABOUT THE MARY CELESTE ON TELEVISION LAST NIGHT.

OH, I SAW THAT TOO.

WHAT'S THE MARY CELESTE?

IT WAS AN AMERICAN SHIP.

WHAT WAS SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

WELL, IT'S A WEIRD STORY. IT'S A MYSTERY...

3

IT WAS 1872 AND THE MARY CELESTE WAS SAILING FROM NEW YORK TO EUROPE. IT WAS CROSSING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN TO ITALY. CAPTAIN BRIGGS, HIS WIFE, AND HIS YOUNG DAUGHTER, SOPHIA, WERE ON THE SHIP. THERE WERE EIGHT CREW MEMBERS TOO.

4

ONE DAY IN DECEMBER, A BRITISH SHIP WAS SAILING TO NEW YORK. THE CREW SUDDENLY SAW THE MARY CELESTE IN THE DISTANCE. THEY SAILED CLOSER. THEY DIDN'T SEE ANYONE. THAT WAS VERY UNUSUAL, SO THEY WENT TO INVESTIGATE.

A Work in pairs. Complete the sentences about the story.

1. The Mary Celeste was...
2. Sophia was...
3. A British crew...
4. They found...
5. They did not find...

B Work in groups. Make notes in the chart.

What happened to the Mary Celeste?

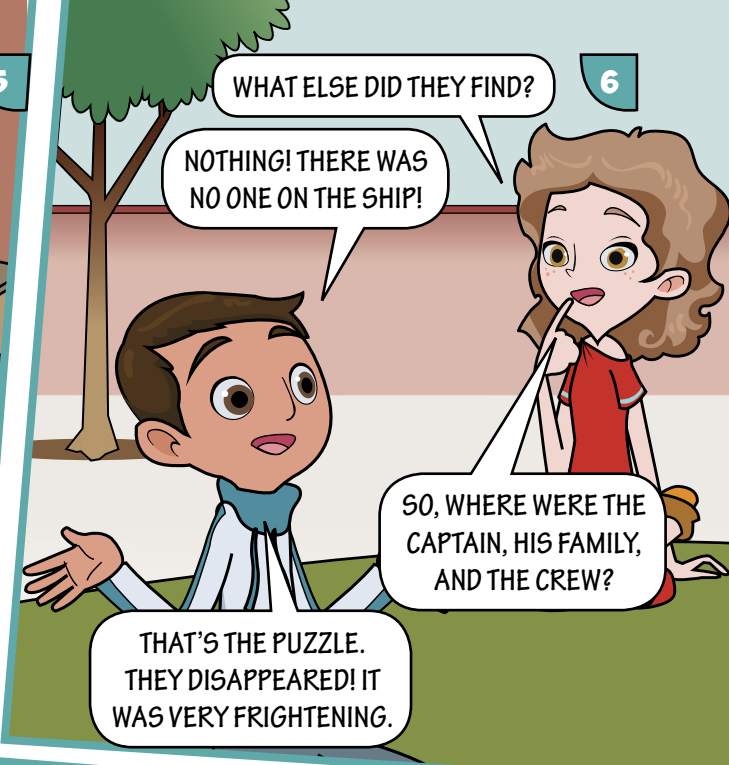
Idea 1

Idea 2



5

THEY EXPLORED THE SHIP. IT WAS VERY DARK, BUT THEY WERE CARRYING LANTERNS. ONE LIFEBOAT WAS MISSING, BUT THE SHIP WAS IN PERFECT CONDITION.



6

WHAT ELSE DID THEY FIND?

NOTHING! THERE WAS NO ONE ON THE SHIP!

SO, WHERE WERE THE CAPTAIN, HIS FAMILY, AND THE CREW?

THAT'S THE PUZZLE. THEY DISAPPEARED! IT WAS VERY FRIGHTENING.



7

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED?

PERHAPS THERE WAS A STORM AND THEY ABANDONED THE SHIP.

NOBODY KNOWS. IT'S SCARY!



8

THERE'S ANOTHER MYSTERY NEXT WEEK. IT'S ABOUT THE YETI.

THE YETI? WHAT'S THAT?

DON'T KNOW! COME TO MY HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY EVENING AND LET'S FIND OUT!

C Read again and find synonyms for the words.

1. explore: _____
2. unusual: _____
3. scary: _____
4. puzzle: _____
5. leave: _____

D Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

1. What is strange about the *Mary Celeste* mystery?
2. Why did the British crew go to investigate?
3. Why does Maya think the crew abandoned the ship?
4. Do you think the story is frightening? Why or why not?



A Listen to the radio show and match the ships to the dates. 📢¹⁶

1. The *Mary Celeste*
2. The *Flying Dutchman*
3. The *Octavius*
4. The *Baychimo*

1931
Alaska

1775
Greenland

1872
New York to Europe

1641
The Cape of Good Hope

B Listen again and match the ships to the information.

1. The *Mary Celeste* ___ People say its ghost appears in storms today.
2. The *Flying Dutchman* ___ It disappeared in 1969.
3. The *Octavius* ___ There was food and water but no people on the ship.
4. The *Baychimo* ___ Nobody saw the boat again after it was discovered.

C Listen to the sentences and write the words according to the **-ed** sound. 📢¹⁷

1. The *Herald's* crew **investigated**.
2. They **watched** it disappear.
3. It **disappeared** in 1969.

/d/	/t/	/id/

D Work in pairs. Describe what happened to one of the ships. 🗣️

The captain of the *Herald* **discovered** the *Octavius*.
It **was snowing**.

E Label the sentences from the radio show about the *Mary Celeste*.

1. Describe a scene
2. Describe finished actions

- Ten people were traveling from New York to Europe on the *Mary Celeste*. The ship was carrying food and water.
- A British crew discovered it. They didn't see any people.

F Complete the story of the *Flying Dutchman* with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

The *Flying Dutchman*

In 1641, the *Flying Dutchman* 1) _____ (sail) around the Cape of Good Hope. There 2) _____ (be) a terrible storm and huge waves 3) _____ (crash) against the ship. Eventually, it 4) _____ (hit) some rocks and sank. Some people believe the ghost of the *Flying Dutchman* appears in storms.

G Write sentences to describe the story of the *Octavius*.



1. Captain/*Herald*/discover/*Octavius*

2. It/sail/through icebergs

3. It/snow/when/*Herald's* crew/leave/boat

4. They/watch/the ship/disappear

● Work in pairs. Tell the story to your partner.



A Read the web post and decide if the writer believes the Bigfoot exists or not.

mysteriouscreatures.com
🔍
☰

Our Furry Friends

The Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, is a large, hairy, humanlike **creature**. Some people **believe** Bigfoots live in the United States and Canada. I am not so sure.

In one story, a brother and sister were playing near some trees when they saw something move. A giant, furry creature was watching them with **frightening** eyes. The children ran away to tell their mom and dad. The family decided to go back to **explore**, but the Bigfoot did not **appear** again. They found a huge footprint when they were searching the forest.

There are thousands of stories like this, but little real **evidence**. There is even a movie about a Bigfoot from 1967. It is about eight feet tall and weighs 150 kilos. However, I think it looks like a man dressed in a furry costume.

Do you think the Bigfoot exists?

250
200
150
100
50
0

45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0

B Read the web post again and make notes in the chart.

Physical appearance		
Habitat		
Size		
Evidence		
Opinion		

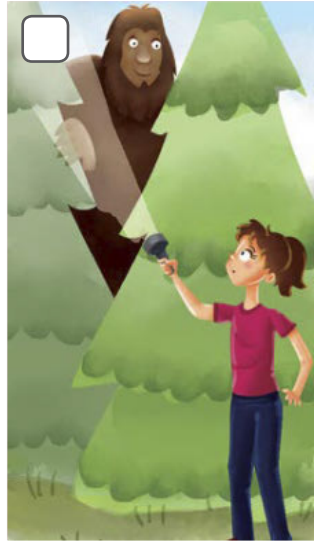
C Work in groups. Look at the words in bold in the text and discuss the questions. 🗨️

1. Do you believe that the Bigfoot exists? Why or why not?
2. What is the best way to look for a Bigfoot? Where are they supposed to appear?
3. What other frightening creatures do you know about?

LOOK!

They **were playing** near some trees when they **saw** something move.

D Listen to a radio interview about a Bigfoot sighting and number the pictures in order.  18



E Listen again and match the parts of the sentences.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. I was hiking through the woods | ___ when the Bigfoot disappeared. |
| 2. I was searching the trees | ___ when I heard a squeaking noise. |
| 3. It was smiling at me | ___ when I saw something move. |
| 4. They were walking up the path | ___ when I called my mom and dad. |

F Complete the newspaper story with your own ideas.

EXTRA **The Loch Ness Monster Is Back!** **EXTRA**

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Loch Ness, 1934


The world-famous Loch Ness Monster is back! Motorcyclist Arthur Grant was riding down the east of the lake when

1) _____. It was walking away from the lake when 2) _____.

At that moment, it turned around and returned to the lake.

Mr. Grant was following the creature when

3) _____.



G Work in pairs. Tell your stories. 



A Read the historical narrative and answer the questions.

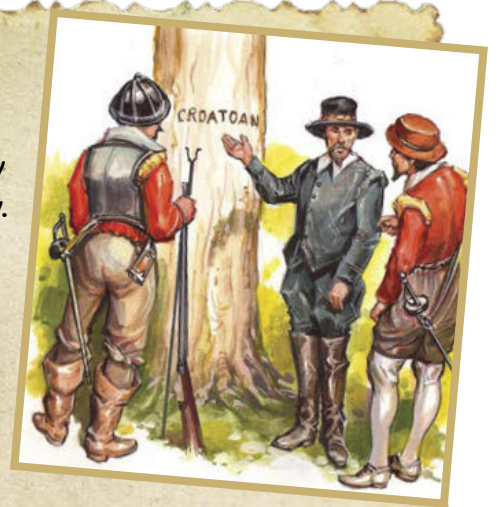
The Lost Colony of Roanoke

In 1587, John White sailed for America with over a hundred people, including his daughter Eleanor and her husband. They made their home on Roanoke Island, and Eleanor had a baby.

Before long, John had to return to England for more food. He was traveling back to Roanoke when pirates attacked his ship. So John returned again to England. At the time, England was at war with Spain, so John was not permitted to leave.

Eventually, in 1590, John returned to Roanoke Island. But when he arrived, there was no one there. He searched desperately for his daughter, but only found a single word on a tree: CROATOAN.

To this day, no one knows what happened to the colony. There was no sign of them on Roanoke Island or Croatoan, a place near the island. It is one of America's greatest mysteries.



1. When did Eleanor have a baby?

2. When did pirates attack John's ship?

3. What did John find on his return to Roanoke?

B Look at the words in bold in the text and decide if they refer to time or place.

C Work in groups. Read the story again and make a case file.

The Mystery

Clues

What I think happened

- D** Read the notes about another mystery and number them in order.

Amelia Earhart's Last Flight

- ___ After New Guinea, their next stop is Howard Island. It is a very small island in the Pacific Ocean over 4,000 km away.
- ___ Amelia contacts the Itasca. She says she is near but she is lost.
- ___ Over 35,000 km later, they arrive in New Guinea. They are tired.
- ___ She decides to fly with her navigator, Fred. The total distance is 47,000 km.
- ___ The Itasca loses radio contact with Amelia.
- ___ The Itasca, a ship, is near the island ready to guide them.
- ___ In 1937, they start their flight in Miami.
- 1 Amelia wants to be the first woman to fly around the world.
- 9 Amelia's plane disappears.



- E** Write an historical narrative about Amelia's last flight. Use the words in the box to connect ideas.

before long later eventually to this day suddenly while during

- F** Work in groups. Look at the case file on page 38. Make another case file for Amelia Earhart's last flight.

- Share your ideas.



Heads = 1 space
Tails = 2 spaces

● Play with a coin.

Finish
El Dorado

16
What evidence exists for Bigfoots?

17
What did you see when you were coming to school today?

18
What is a synonym for *puzzle*?

15
What do you think happened to the *Mary Celeste*?

14
Describe a frightening experience.

13
What was a member of your family doing when you got up this morning?

12
Complete the sentence.
The family were exploring when...

8
You see a ladder. Climb to square 14.

9
A path takes you back to square 2!

10
Complete the sentence.
My m_____ing pencil mysteriously ap_____ed on the table.

11
Describe an unusual creature.

7
Rearrange the words.
I was/strange creature/a/in the woods/I saw/walking/when.

6
What do you need to see in the dark?

5
Tell the other player about a mystery that you know.

4
Say what you believe.
Do you think the Bigfoot is real?

1
What is another word for *unusual*?

2
What does a Bigfoot look like?

3
A Bigfoot chases you to square 11.

Start

CHECK IT!

I can...	Got It (✓)
● narrate a story.	<input type="checkbox"/>
● describe interrupted actions in the past.	<input type="checkbox"/>

VALUE!

Be imaginative!