

Over the next several weeks, we will begin the research process—and you will be researching unsolved mysteries. Now is a perfect time to start in this Halloween season. First you will choose a topic. Then you will research. Next you will write the paper. Lastly along with a visual you create, you will give a brief presentation explaining your unsolved mystery.

Below are the different unsolved mysteries and a brief description. Vote on your top 4 and I will try my best to give you one those!

ATLANIS, A LOST CIVILIZATION

In about 360 B.C. the Greek philosopher Plato wrote about the city of Atlantis and its destruction. People thought it was just a nice story until the 1800s, when a scholar announced that the city might actually have existed. People have been trying to find it ever since. Was Atlantis real or not?

THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE

In the Atlantic Ocean, bounded by the island of Bermuda; Miami, Florida; and San Juan, Puerto Rico, is an area where planes and ships have been known to disappear without warning. The U. S. military insists it's all coincidence. But what do YOU think?

BIGFOOT, A.K.A. SASQUATCH

For more than 400 years people have reported finding footprints of an astonishingly large human in the western United States and throughout the world. Real or hoax? You decide.

CROP CIRCLES

Long before Mel Gibson made the movie *Signs*, people have tried to make sense of crop circles. People have confessed to making some as practical jokes. But evidence left at others suggests there may be something else at work.

AMELIA EARHART

Amelia Earhart captured the American imagination as a daring pilot at a time when most women were not allowed to work outside the home. One July 2, 1937, she disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to fly around the world.

EASTER ISLAND

In the middle of the Pacific Ocean sits a collection of huge stone carving. The East Island *Moai* have been the subject of speculation for centuries. How did the native people move and carve all that stone? And why?

THE ZODIAC KILLER

The Zodiac Killer was active in Northern California for ten months in the late 1960's. He killed at least five people, and injured two. He committed the first two murders with a pistol, just inside the Benicia border. In his second shooting in Vallejo, he attempted to kill two people, but one survived despite gunshots to the head and neck. 40 minutes later the police received an anonymous phone call from a man claiming to be their killer and admitted to the murders of the previous two victims. One month three letters were sent to newspapers in California containing a cypher that the killer claimed would give them his name.

THE MOTHMAN

Mothman is the name given to a strange creature reported in the Charleston and Point Pleasant areas of West Virginia between November 1966 and December 1967. The creature was sporadically reported to be seen before and after those dates, with some sightings as recent as 2007. Most observers describe the Mothman as a winged man-sized creature with large reflective red eyes. It often appeared to have no head, with its eyes set into its chest. A number of hypotheses have been presented to explain eyewitness accounts, ranging from misidentification and coincidence to paranormal phenomena and conspiracy theories.

THE ALCATRAZ ESCAPE

In its 29 years of operation, there were 14 attempts to escape from Alcatraz prison involving 34 inmates. Officially, every escape attempt failed, and most participants were either killed or quickly re-captured. However, the participants in the 1937 and 1962 attempts, though presumed dead, disappeared without trace, giving rise to popular theories that they were successful.

BILLY THE KID

Henry McCarty (November 23, 1859 — July 14, 1881), better known as Billy the Kid, but also known by the aliases Henry Antrim and William H. Bonney, was a 19th century American frontier outlaw and gunman who participated in the so-called Lincoln County War. According to legend, he killed 21 men, one for each year of his life, but he most likely participated in the killing of fewer than half that number.

ALLAGASH ABDUCTEES

The Allagash Abduction is a purported UFO sighting and alien abduction which is alleged to have occurred in 1976. As four men all claimed the same sequence of bizarre events occurred to them despite little to no discussion of the incident amongst them, the Allagash case achieved notoriety as perhaps the first well-documented multiple-witness UFO abduction event.

SHROUD OF TURIN

The Shroud of Turin (or Turin Shroud) is a linen cloth bearing the image of a man who appears to have been physically traumatized in a manner consistent with crucifixion. It is kept in the royal chapel of the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Turin, Italy. It is believed by many to be the cloth placed on the body of Jesus at the time of his burial. Scientists, however, have used modern technologies to find that the artifact may postdate the death of Jesus Christ by more than a millennium.

THE BLACK DAHLIA MYSTERY

Elizabeth Short (July 29, 1924 – ca. January 15, 1947) was an American woman who was the victim of a gruesome and much-publicized murder. Nicknamed the Black Dahlia, Short was found mutilated, with her body severed, on January 15, 1947 in Leimert Park, Los Angeles, California. The murder, which remains unsolved, has been the source of widespread speculation as well as several books and film adaptations.

THE MYSTERIES OF POLTERGEISTS

Poltergeists denotes an invisible spirit or ghost that manifests itself by moving and influencing objects, generally in a particular location such as a house or room or place within a house.

WEREWOLVES

Why do or why did people think they existed?

DO/DID VAMPIRES REALLY EXIST?

Why do or why did people think they existed?

WHO SHOT JFK?

There are many conspiracy theories regarding the assassination of John F. Kennedy on 22 November 1963 that arose soon after his death and continue to be promoted today.

JERSEY DEVIL

The Jersey Devil, sometimes called the Leeds Devils, is a legendary creature or cryptid said to inhabit the Pine Barrens in southern New Jersey. The creature is often described as a flying biped with hooves, but there are many variations. The Jersey Devil has worked its way into the pop culture of the area, even lending its name to New Jersey's team in the National Hockey League.

NAZCA LINES

In Peru the Nazca Indians left geoglyphs: mysterious lines, spirals, animal figures carved into the desert. How did they do it? And why?

ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO

It's 1947, and outside Roswell, New Mexico, something falls from the sky. Witnesses report finding some kind of craft and four bodies. Then the military arrives, and no one is quite sure what happens after that. What do you think?

THE MARY CELESTE

In 1874 the Mary Celeste set sail from New York bound for Italy. It had a captain, his family, a crew, and a cargo. They were never seen again. The ship was found adrift, and there were no signs of foul play. What happened?

THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

Loch Ness, a lake in northern Scotland, is home to ... well, something. Known affectionately as "Nessie" by the locals, the Loch Ness monster has spawned many sightings and stories. Just what is it?

JACK THE RIPPER

In 1888 someone literally got away with murder in London. Some women were found murdered in a very gruesome way. The serial killer was never caught. People still speculate on who he might have been. Who do YOU think he was?

STONEHENGE

Stonehenge is arguably one of the most famous megalithic monuments in the world. It's also one of the most mysterious, with its prehistoric concentric rings garnering plenty of speculation as to why and how they were constructed. Stonehenge is arguably one of the most famous megalithic monuments in the world.

THE LINDBERG BABY

On March 1, 1932, Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr., 20-month-old son of aviator Charles Lindbergh and Anne Morrow Lindbergh, was abducted from his home Highfields in East Amwell, New Jersey, United States. On May 12, his body was discovered nearby. In September 1934 Bruno Richard Hauptmann was arrested for the crime. After a trial that lasted from January 2 to February 13, 1935, he was found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to death. Despite his conviction, he continued to profess his innocence.

D.B. COOPER

An unidentified man hijacked a Boeing 727 aircraft in the northwest United States between Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington, on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 24, 1971. He extorted \$200,000 in ransom (equivalent to \$1,210,000 in 2017) and parachuted to an uncertain fate. Despite an extensive manhunt and protracted FBI investigation, the perpetrator has never been located or identified. It remains the only unsolved case of air piracy in commercial aviation history.

THE LOST COLONY OF ROANOAKE

The lost colony of Roanoke is one of the most-notorious mysteries in American history; the cryptic clues left at the abandoned settlement and the lack of any concrete evidence make it the focus of wild speculation and theories.

EL DORADO

The lust for gold spans all eras, races, and nationalities. To possess any amount of gold seems to ignite an insatiable desire to obtain more. Through the centuries, this passion gave rise to the enduring tale of a city of gold. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Europeans believed that somewhere in the New World there was a place of immense wealth known as El Dorado. Their searches for this treasure wasted countless lives, and left many wondering if the city ever existed.

THE CURSE OF THE HOPE DIAMOND

The diamond has been surrounded by a mythology of a reputed curse to the effect that it brings misfortune and tragedy to persons who own it or wear it, but there are strong indications that such stories were fabricated to enhance the stone's mystery and appeal, since increased publicity usually raised the gem's value and newsworthiness.