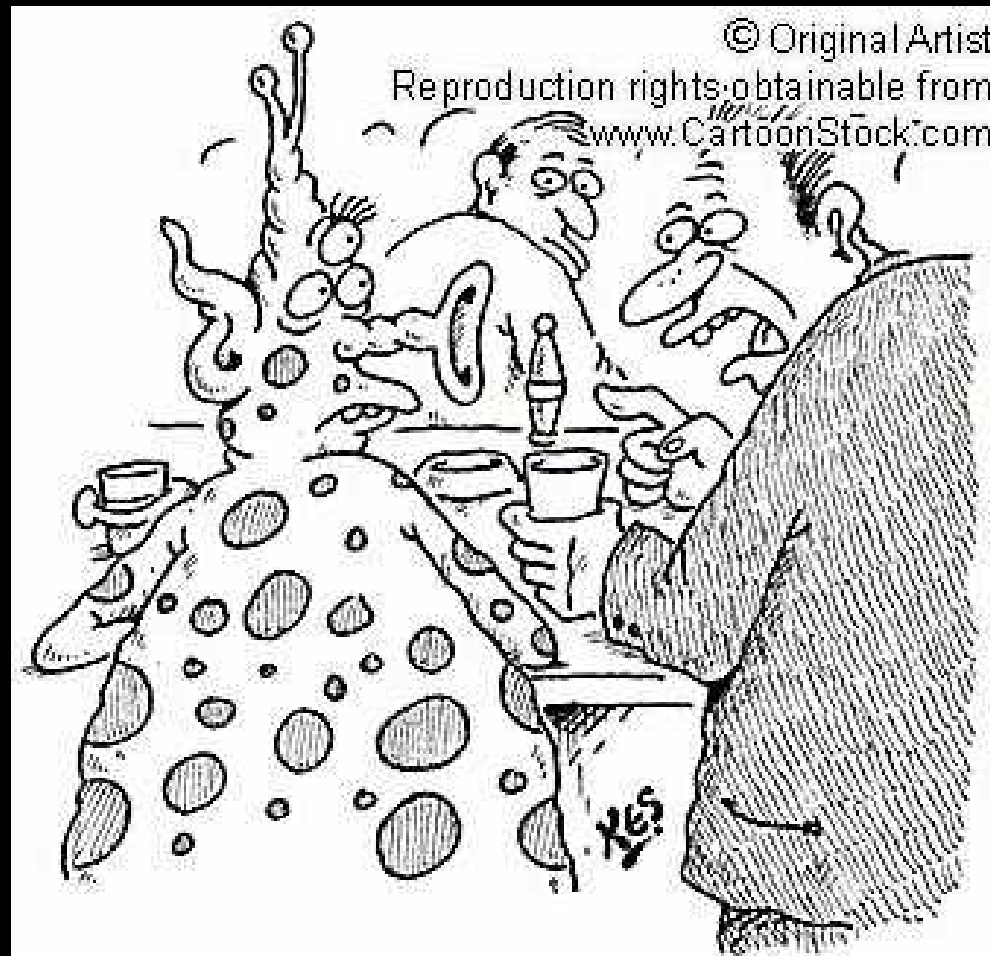


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UFOs and Alien Visits



"You're not from around here are you?"

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UFOs and Alien Visits

Official Course Evaluation On-line

System open: Nov 27 – Dec 12

www.courseevalum.umd.edu/

Please participate!!!

Extra-credit opportunity:

1 page typed single spaced report on a recent news item:

- article from Nov or Dec in newspaper, magazine, or internet on science of relevance to this class
- ½ page summary of article, ½ page on relevance to class and Life elsewhere
- Due no later than Dec 11!!!!

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First – to state it clearly....

I am aware of no scientifically verified data which support the hypothesis that we are being visited by extraterrestrial beings or have been visited in the past, anywhere.

I have not seen and/or heard any strong evidence which would lead me to suspect that extraterrestrials exist on or visit the Earth.

All of the astronomers that I know personally, perhaps hundreds, have no personal evidence for the presence of extraterrestrials.

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UFOs and Alien Visits

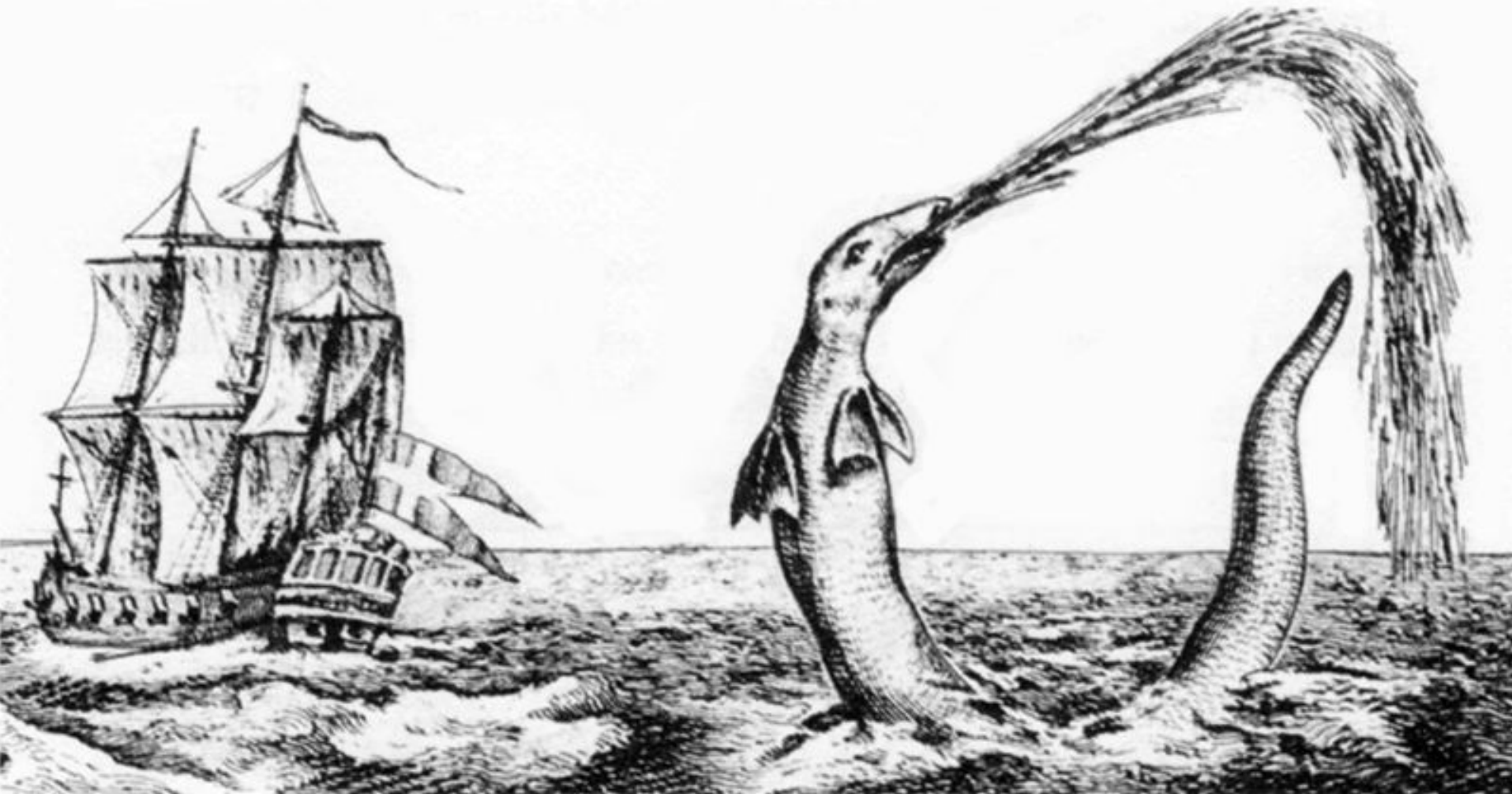
All of that said, let's look at the evidence and claims that exist and try to understand the likelihood of UFOs and Alien visitors.....

Perception and Human context – lessons from the sea
Human ingenuity – brings surprising results
Nature's ingenuity – the unexplained does exist
UFO's, Area 51, and Roswell

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UFOs and Alien Visits

Sea Serpents: Factor or fiction?



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UFOs and Alien Visits

Sea Serpents: Factor or fiction?

Reports of sightings for 100s of years from many sources. Many sightings in the 1800's, last major sightings in the early 1900's....

Did they die out?

A coincidence?



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Perhaps some sightings are misidentifications....

Giant squid can be up to 13 meters long and weighs 500 or more pounds.

First confirmed to exist in the mid 1800s



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Nature's oddities... the Coelacanth: fact or fiction?

A deep sea fish known only from fossils dating 410 Myrs to 65 Myrs ago.

Extinct 65 Myrs ago....

Or not?



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Nature's oddities... the Coelacanth

First specimen found in 1938

First live photo in 1988

Perhaps survived because they can almost hibernate

A 400 Myr old
Living fossil!



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Mermaids: fact or fiction?

First known stories of them date from 1000 BC.

Stories continued into the 1800's....

But there never has been credible evidence of a Mer-body.... No scientific evidence.



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So what are the chances that sea serpents, mermaids, or other creatures of sea lore exist?

Fishing fleets comb the waters driving standard species to record low populations.

Commercial fishing techniques utilize radar, airplane spotters, and satellite information.

Could creature of lore escape discovery now... yet be seen regularly in the past with lesser capabilities?

Are fishermen in a conspiracy to hide their findings?

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Evidence of past visits:

The pyramids of Egypt were put forward as an example of alien influence when it was thought is incredible that the ancient Egyptians could build them...



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Evidence of past visits:

Through studies and records, we now know better their development history, techniques, and labor pool.



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When Europeans arrived on Easter Island, there were some 8,000 natives living substance lives and and worshiping the statues without knowledge of how they were created...

The archeological story is that Polynesians first inhabited the island around 1000 AD.

They thrived and grew and depleted the island's resources.

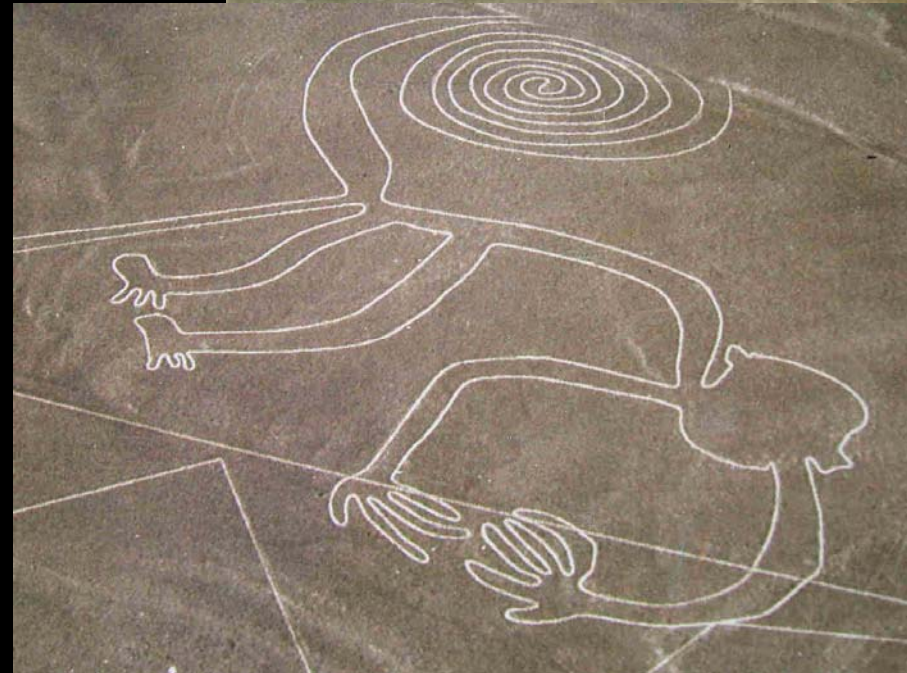
At its height, the culture built the statues. By the time that Europeans found Easter Island, they had declined through war, famine, and scarcity of resources

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Drawings in the Chilean and Peruvian
“too large” for ancient people to make.

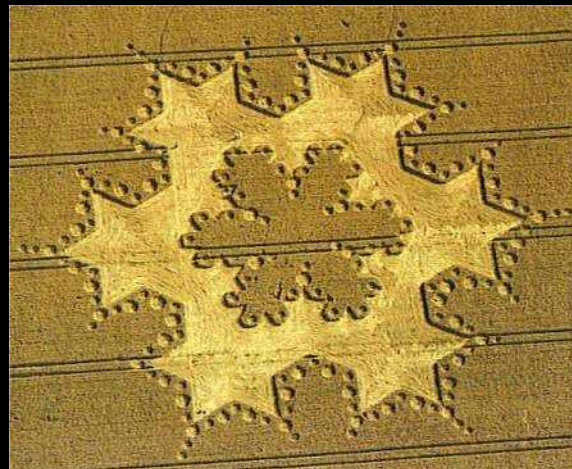
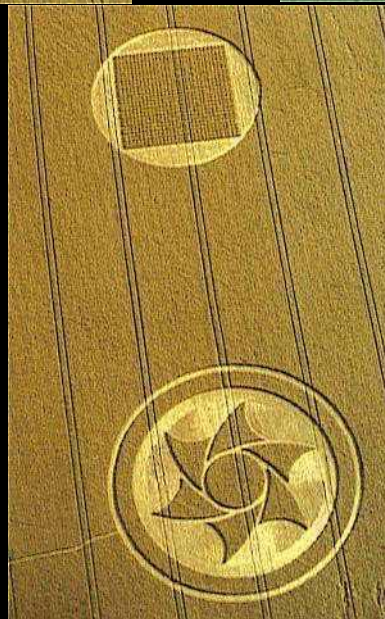
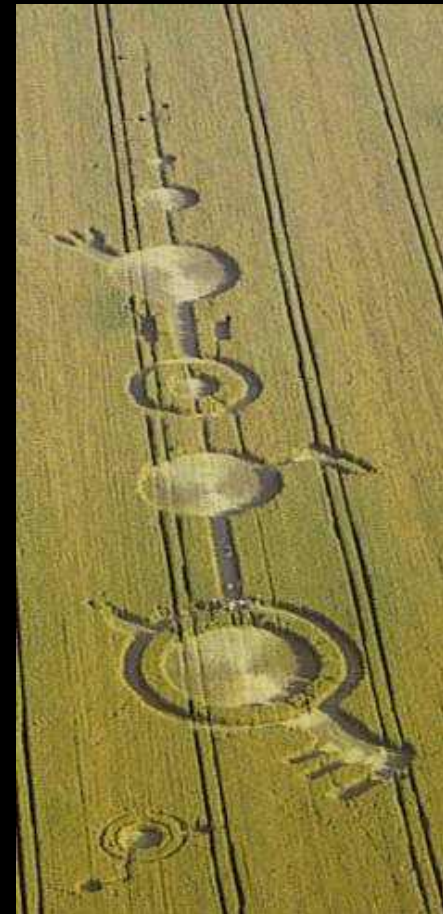
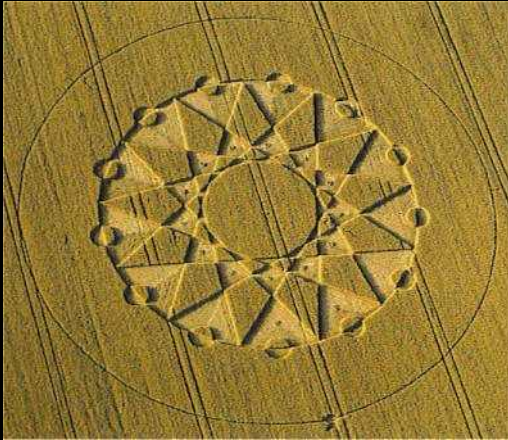
Evidence of aliens or ingenious
people trying to make themselves
known to their Gods or enemies?



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Crop Circles: Alien symbols or ingenious tricksters ?



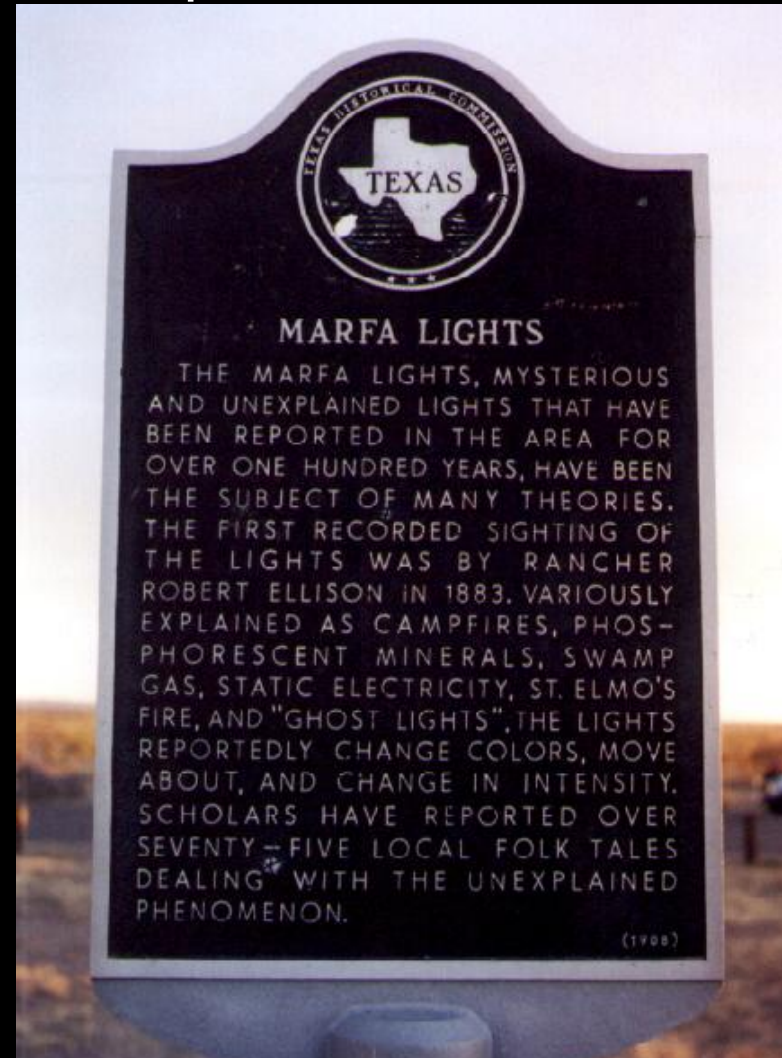
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Natural Phenomena can also be hard to explain...

Marfa lights in isolated west Texas..

Have various possible explanations
But none proven for all claims of
lights.



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Natural Phenomena can also be hard to explain...

It is proven that under certain conditions, the lights from distant cars can appear to hang in the sky due to refraction effects – but that only explains lights in the direction of the main highway...

McDonald Observatory is located about 100 miles from Marfa -- in operation for 75 years with no a
sightings!



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UFOs and Alien Visits

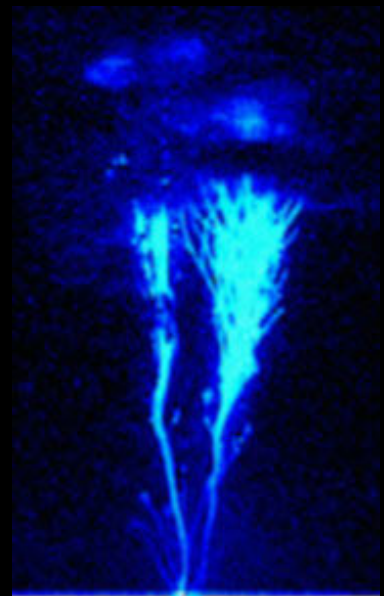
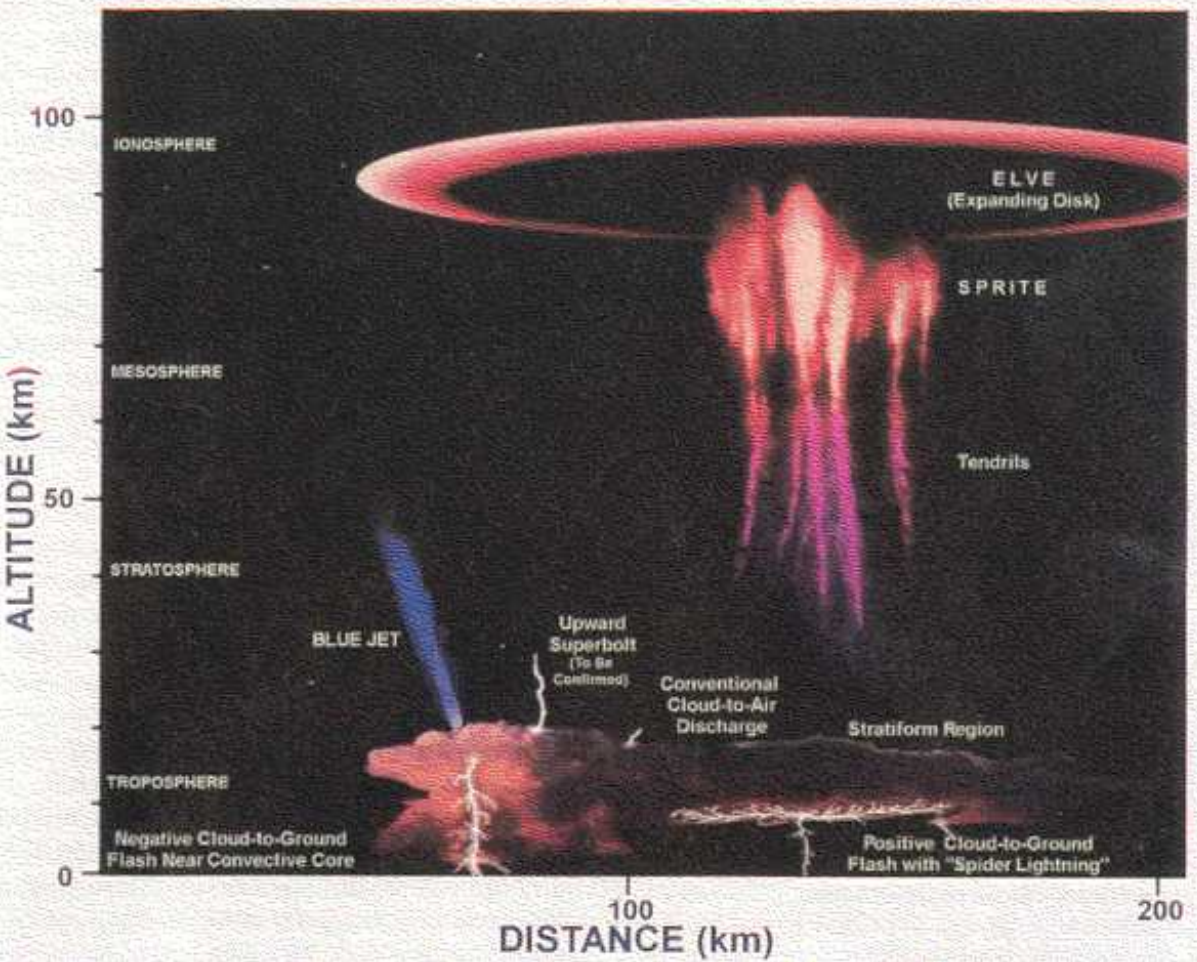
Natural Phenomena can also be hard to explain...
Lightning has proven to be complex with unexpected effects...



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Lightning: sprites and blue jets



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Lightning: Ball lightning



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What evidence is there for UFOs?

Few credible photographs evident on the internet...



and what can you trust?



Honestly, what proof is perfect with today's technology?



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Area 51: is...

Air force base on the southern edge of a dry salt lake in southern Nevada. Used for study of enemy aircraft and development of experimental aircraft.

UFO conspiracy theory maintains that crashed alien spacecraft are being studied and reverse engineered there.

Video of an Alien being interviewed... in Area 51....



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Roswell UFO Incident:

Roswell New Mexico – claimed site of a UFO crash in which the military recovered the crashed spacecraft.

Originally explained as a weather balloon and ignored for 30 years.

The "incident" was revived in earnest in the 1990's.

Roswell Daily Record
RECORD PHONES
Business Office 2288
News Department 2287

CL. 41, NUMBER 99, ESTABLISHED 1884
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO, TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1941
16 PAGES COPY.

Leased Wire
Associated Press

RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch in Roswell Region

Lake Survey, July 8 (AP)—The United States security forces today captured an American machine for arms reduction purposes despite a Russian warning that it would be shot down.

The machine was shot down by a group of men in the Roswell region, it was reported today.

The machine was shot down by a group of men in the Roswell region, it was reported today.

Claims Army Is Stacking Courts Martial

Indiana Senator
Lays Protest
Before Patterson

Washington, July 8 (AP)—Indiana Senator (McLean) estimated today that as many as 100 courts martial are being stacked in the preparation and presentation of their defense.

House Passes Tax Slash by Large Margin

Defeat Amendment by Demos to Remove Many from Rolls

Washington, July 8 (AP)—The house passed today the Revenue tax-cutting bill by a 380-100 margin.

Security Council Paves Way to Talks On Arms Reductions

Lake Survey, July 8 (AP)—The Security Council today paved the way for talks on arms reductions.

No Details of Flying Disk Are Revealed

Roswell Hardware Man and Wife Report Disk Seen

The hardware store of the town's Roswell Hardware Man and wife today reported that they had seen a flying disk.

Ex-King Carol Weds Mme. Lupescu

Former King Carol of Romania and Mme. Elena Lupescu today were married in Bucharest.

Some of Soviet Satellites May Attend Paris Meeting

Europe program and a dispatch from France suggest that some of the nations within the Soviet bloc may try to get back into the game.

Roswellians Have Differing Opinions On Flying Saucers

Some believe it is a weather balloon, others believe it is a spacecraft.

American League Wins All-Star Game

The American League today won the All-Star game.



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Roswell UFO Incident:

Numerous books have been written based on 30-40 year old memories and no physical evidence.

Few firsthand witnesses exist and, as you might expect, the stories evolve over time.

The Air Force claims that the Roswell incident was the “crash” of a weather balloon with equipment being developed to detect soviet nuclear activity – consistent with the general purpose of the base.

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UFOs and Alien Visits

Alien Abductions: No scientific physical evidence.

Abductions are personal recollections – which cannot be evaluated scientifically. There is no case with broad, independent, first-hand verification.



"Should've thought of that before we left. Next rest stop is 4.2 light-years away."

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UFOs and Alien Visits

Passing the sniff test.... Questions to ask:

If aliens are here.....

Why are they so good at avoiding scientific detection yet not so good at avoiding ordinary people?

The number of people with video cameras and digital cameras has increased enormously in the past 15 years (cell phones), why aren't there more pics?

Why are they interested in drawing crop circles and sneaking around instead of making real contact?

What is their purpose? This is a large expenditure of resources... with what goal?

We find bones of tons of different ancient creatures, but no crashes or trash from ancient visits... why?

Why would university scientists keep it secret? No!