

# mysterious america

Mysterious America: Exploring the Unseen and Unexplained

**mysterious america** is a phrase that immediately sparks curiosity and wonder. From shadowy legends whispered in small towns to ancient sites shrouded in enigma, the United States is a land rich with stories that defy easy explanation. Whether you're a history buff, a paranormal enthusiast, or simply someone who enjoys a good mystery, diving into the hidden corners of America reveals a tapestry woven with supernatural tales, unsolved puzzles, and eerie phenomena. Let's embark on a journey through some of the most compelling facets of mysterious America.

## The Enigmatic Landscapes of Mysterious America

One of the most captivating aspects of mysterious America lies in its landscapes, where natural beauty often converges with unexplained occurrences. These locations aren't just scenic wonders; they are hotspots for strange happenings and age-old myths.

### The Devil's Tower: A Geological Wonder with Legends

Rising dramatically from the plains of Wyoming, Devil's Tower is more than just an impressive rock formation. This monolith has long been a focal point for Native American legends, often described as a sacred site with spiritual significance. Beyond the cultural lore, many visitors recount unusual sightings of glowing orbs and inexplicable lights near the tower at night. The geological origins of Devil's Tower are well understood, but the supernatural stories surrounding it add layers of mystery that continue to fascinate explorers and paranormal investigators alike.

### The Bermuda Triangle of the North: The Michigan Triangle

Although the Bermuda Triangle is the most famous area for mysterious disappearances, the Michigan Triangle has earned a reputation as America's own zone of inexplicable vanishings. Located in Lake Michigan, this area has been the site of numerous shipwrecks and aircraft disappearances over the decades. Researchers speculate about unusual magnetic anomalies or underwater currents, but no definitive explanation has been established. The Michigan Triangle remains a chilling reminder that mysterious America isn't confined to the land but extends deep into its waters.

# **Unsolved Mysteries and Legends That Define Mysterious America**

Throughout its history, America has been home to countless unsolved mysteries—events and phenomena that challenge our understanding and invite endless speculation.

## **The Dyatlov Pass of America: The Dyatlov Pass Analogy in the U.S.**

While the Dyatlov Pass incident took place in Russia, mysterious America has its own share of perplexing events where groups of hikers or adventurers have met strange fates. One notable example is the Oregon Vortex, a roadside attraction where gravity seems to bend and perception is distorted. Visitors report objects rolling uphill and people appearing to change height depending on where they stand. The vortex is a microcosm of the kinds of natural oddities and unexplained occurrences that pepper America's landscape, inviting curiosity and skepticism alike.

## **The Lost Colony of Roanoke: America's Oldest Unsolved Mystery**

Dating back to the late 16th century, the disappearance of the Roanoke Colony remains one of the earliest and most enduring mysteries of early American history. When a supply ship returned to the colony in 1590, all the settlers had vanished, leaving behind only the cryptic word "CROATOAN" carved into a post. Despite numerous theories ranging from assimilation with local tribes to supernatural intervention, the fate of the Roanoke settlers remains unknown—adding a haunting chapter to mysterious America's storybook.

## **Paranormal Hotspots in Mysterious America**

Ghost stories and paranormal encounters are woven into the cultural fabric of many American towns and cities. These haunted locations attract thrill-seekers and believers eager to connect with the unknown.

## **The Winchester Mystery House: An Architectural Enigma**

Located in San Jose, California, the Winchester Mystery House is a sprawling mansion famed for its labyrinthine design featuring staircases that lead nowhere and doors that open into walls. Built by Sarah Winchester, widow of the inventor of the famous rifle, the house was constructed continuously for 38 years. Legend says Sarah was haunted by the

spirits of those killed by Winchester rifles and built the house to confuse these ghosts. Today, the house stands as a symbol of eerie architecture and the psychological depths of mysterious America.

## **The Bell Witch Cave: Tennessee's Most Infamous Haunting**

The Bell Witch legend is one of the most chilling ghost stories in American folklore. In the early 19th century, the Bell family in Adams, Tennessee, was reportedly tormented by an invisible entity capable of physical attacks and eerie voices. The Bell Witch Cave, located near the family's farm, is said to be a source of supernatural activity to this day. Visitors report strange sounds, sudden temperature drops, and inexplicable feelings of dread. This haunting remains a vivid example of how mysterious America preserves its spectral history.

## **Hidden Treasures and Cryptids: The Ongoing Quest in Mysterious America**

Beyond ghosts and ancient enigmas, mysterious America is a playground for treasure hunters and cryptozoologists. Stories of lost gold and elusive creatures continue to fuel imaginations and expeditions.

### **The Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine**

Legend tells of a rich gold mine hidden in the Superstition Mountains of Arizona, discovered by a German immigrant known as the "Dutchman." Despite decades of searching, the mine's location remains a secret, guarded by treacherous terrain and perhaps supernatural forces. The tale of the Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine intertwines frontier history with mystery, offering a timeless allure for adventurers chasing fortune and folklore.

### **Bigfoot: America's Most Famous Cryptid**

Few creatures capture the essence of mysterious America like Bigfoot, the elusive ape-like being said to roam the forests of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Sightings, footprints, and blurry photographs have persisted for decades, yet definitive proof remains elusive. Bigfoot embodies the spirit of the unknown in America's vast wilderness—reminding us that despite all our technology and exploration, some secrets still hide just out of reach.

## **Why Mysterious America Continues to Captivate**

# Us

What is it about mysterious America that holds such enduring appeal? Perhaps it's the blend of history, nature, and the supernatural—a cocktail that invites us to question the boundaries of reality. From ghost stories passed down through generations to enigmatic landmarks that challenge our understanding of physics and time, these mysteries offer more than just entertainment. They provide a way to connect with the past, explore the unknown, and ignite our sense of adventure.

Travelers seeking to experience mysterious America should embrace the spirit of curiosity and open-mindedness. Visiting haunted sites, exploring ancient ruins, or even participating in paranormal investigations can deepen your appreciation of the country's hidden stories. Just remember to approach these places with respect—for their history, their legends, and for the people who still believe in the mysteries held within.

Mysterious America is not just a collection of stories; it is a living, breathing landscape of wonder and intrigue. Whether you're wandering through shadowy forests, tracing the footsteps of lost settlers, or listening for whispers in a haunted house, you're stepping into a world where the unexplained beckons and the past lingers just beyond the veil.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the mystery behind the Bermuda Triangle in America?**

The Bermuda Triangle, located in the western part of the North Atlantic Ocean, is famous for the unexplained disappearances of ships and aircraft. Theories range from natural magnetic anomalies and methane hydrate eruptions to more speculative ideas like alien activity or underwater cities.

### **Are there any mysterious ancient civilizations in America?**

Yes, America is home to mysterious ancient civilizations such as the Ancestral Puebloans, known for their cliff dwellings in the Southwest, and the Olmecs, famous for their colossal head sculptures. Many aspects of their culture, technology, and sudden decline remain subjects of ongoing research and intrigue.

### **What is the story behind the Lost Colony of Roanoke?**

The Lost Colony of Roanoke was an early English settlement established in the late 16th century on Roanoke Island, North Carolina. When supply ships returned, the colonists had vanished without a trace, leaving behind only the word 'CROATOAN' carved into a post. The fate of the colonists remains one of America's oldest mysteries.

## **Are there any mysterious creatures reported in American folklore?**

American folklore includes numerous mysterious creatures such as Bigfoot, the Chupacabra, and the Mothman. These cryptids are often described in eyewitness accounts but lack definitive scientific evidence, fueling fascination and ongoing investigations.

## **What is the significance of the Nazca-like geoglyphs found in America?**

While the Nazca Lines are primarily located in Peru, similar but lesser-known geoglyphs have been discovered in parts of North America, such as the Blythe Intaglios in California. These giant ground drawings are believed to have cultural or religious significance, though their exact purpose and creators remain subjects of mystery and study.

## **Additional Resources**

Mysterious America: Unveiling the Enigmas of the United States

**mysterious america** is a phrase that conjures images of unexplained phenomena, ancient secrets, and curious legends nestled within the vast landscapes of the United States. From eerie ghost towns to enigmatic crop circles, and from cryptic Native American lore to government conspiracy theories, the country is a fertile ground for stories that defy easy explanation. Exploring these mysteries not only provides insight into America's cultural fabric but also invites a deeper investigation into the interplay between history, folklore, and modern skepticism.

## **Understanding the Landscape of Mysterious America**

The United States, with its diverse geography and rich history, offers a unique backdrop for a wide array of unexplained phenomena. The fusion of indigenous traditions, colonial narratives, and contemporary urban myths creates a complex tapestry that fuels the intrigue surrounding mysterious America. Investigators and enthusiasts alike sift through folklore, anecdotal accounts, and scientific data to separate fact from fiction.

Mysterious America can be broadly categorized into several thematic areas including paranormal activity, ancient archeological puzzles, extraterrestrial encounters, and secret government projects. Each category carries its own set of stories and evidentiary challenges, yet all contribute to the broader cultural fascination with the unknown.

## **Paranormal Hotspots and Haunted Locales**

The United States is dotted with reputedly haunted locations that attract paranormal

researchers and tourists. Places like the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, the Winchester Mystery House in California, and the Myrtles Plantation in Louisiana have become emblematic of America's ghostly lore. These sites are often steeped in tragic histories intertwined with reports of apparitions, unexplained sounds, and other phenomena recorded by eyewitnesses and sometimes captured on electronic devices.

The appeal of these haunted locations lies not only in their eerie atmospheres but also in the psychological and sociological aspects of collective memory and myth-making. Studies in parapsychology and environmental psychology attempt to analyze the conditions that might explain these reports, such as electromagnetic fields or infrasound, though definitive conclusions remain elusive.

## **Ancient Mysteries and Archaeological Enigmas**

Beyond the paranormal, mysterious America includes ancient sites that puzzle historians and archaeologists. The Great Serpent Mound in Ohio and the Cahokia Mounds in Illinois are examples of earthworks whose purposes and construction methods still provoke debate. These sites challenge contemporary understanding of pre-Columbian societies and their technological capabilities.

Another intriguing facet is the presence of petroglyphs and pictographs scattered across the American Southwest, whose meanings are often lost or interpreted through indigenous oral traditions. These artifacts provide clues about the spiritual and societal lives of Native American cultures, yet the full extent of their significance remains partly shrouded in mystery.

## **Extraterrestrial Encounters and UFO Phenomena**

Mysterious America is inextricably linked to the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and alleged alien encounters. From the famous Roswell incident in New Mexico to the more recent Pentagon reports on aerial phenomena, the topic has oscillated between sensationalism and serious governmental inquiry.

Data released by the U.S. government in recent years has lent some credibility to the study of UFOs, prompting renewed public interest and scholarly investigation. The debate centers on whether these sightings represent advanced technology from foreign adversaries, atmospheric anomalies, or something altogether different. This area remains one of the most controversial yet captivating aspects of mysterious America.

## **The Role of Folklore and Media in Shaping Perceptions**

The dissemination of stories about mysterious America is heavily influenced by folklore traditions and modern media. Television programs, documentaries, and podcasts dedicated

to unexplained phenomena have played a significant role in popularizing these mysteries. While this exposure can lead to greater public engagement, it also raises concerns about sensationalism and the blurring of lines between credible investigation and entertainment.

Folklore serves as a repository for communal fears, hopes, and identity, often evolving over time to reflect contemporary values and anxieties. In mysterious America, legends such as Bigfoot, the Mothman, and the Jersey Devil have transcended their regional origins to become part of national culture, illustrating how local mysteries can gain widespread appeal.

## **Government Secrecy and Conspiracy Theories**

A critical component of mysterious America involves suspicions about government secrecy and covert operations. Historical examples such as Area 51 and the Manhattan Project have fueled speculation about hidden agendas and classified technologies. The lack of transparency in certain governmental activities naturally invites conspiracy theories, which range from plausible to outlandish.

While some theories have been debunked or clarified through declassified documents, others persist due to the absence of comprehensive explanations. This dynamic underscores the tension between national security interests and public demand for openness, a recurring theme in the narrative of mysterious America.

## **Implications for Cultural Identity and Tourism**

The mystique of mysterious America has tangible economic and cultural implications. Many towns capitalize on their association with paranormal or historical mysteries to boost tourism, creating niche markets for ghost tours, UFO festivals, and archaeological site visits. This commodification of mystery can bring financial benefits but also risks oversimplification or exploitation of local heritage.

From a cultural perspective, these mysteries contribute to a collective American identity that embraces the unknown and the adventurous spirit. They challenge conventional historical narratives and invite individuals to question accepted truths, thereby fostering a dynamic dialogue between past and present.

## **Balancing Skepticism and Open-Mindedness**

Engaging with the enigmatic aspects of mysterious America requires a careful balance between healthy skepticism and open-minded investigation. While it is essential to critically evaluate evidence and avoid the pitfalls of confirmation bias, dismissing all unexplained phenomena outright can hinder a fuller understanding of complex social and natural phenomena.

Researchers in disciplines ranging from anthropology to physics continue to explore these

mysteries using scientific methods, aiming to separate myth from reality. This ongoing inquiry reflects the enduring human fascination with the unknown and the desire to uncover hidden truths within the American landscape.

Mysterious America remains a compelling subject for exploration, inviting curiosity and critical thinking alike. Whether through the eerie quiet of a haunted mansion, the enigmatic patterns of ancient earthworks, or the flickering lights of a distant UFO, these mysteries form an integral part of the cultural and historical mosaic of the United States.

## **Mysterious America**

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**mysterious america: Mysterious Creatures** George M. Eberhart, 2002-12-17 A comprehensive guide to cryptozoology—the quest to identify animals that have not been officially catalogued by science and to place these unknown animals into their proper zoological categories. In this fascinating two-volume encyclopedia, author George M. Eberhart provides a comprehensive catalog of nearly 1,000 cryptids—unknown animals usually reported through eyewitness accounts and not yet described by science. Cryptids are the stuff of folklore, hoaxes, and genuine scientific breakthroughs. There are 400 now-classified cryptids once considered either extinct or pure fantasy. The cryptozoologist's job is to strip away the myth, misidentification, and mystery—and separate fact from fiction. *Mysterious Creatures* covers everything from dinosaurs and the emala-ntouka, an elephant-killing dinosaur-like animal of central Africa, to searches for the Loch Ness monster, Bigfoot, and other cryptozoological hoaxes. Entries about specific animals include the derivation or meaning of each cryptid's name, its scientific name, variant names, a physical description, behavior, description of tracks, habitat, significant sightings, present status, and possible explanations. Illustrations and photographs accompany many entries. The book also includes resources and references for further information.

**mysterious america: *Mysterious America*** Loren Coleman, 1983-01-01 Discusses the facts behind the reports of the sightings of strange creatures, unidentified flying objects, and unknown animals

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are part of our culture. How to sort out fact from fiction? A UFO Hunter's Guide has the answers: the facts, figures, people, places, and events that make up the modern scope of UFO-ology. A UFO Hunter's Guide features: Competing theories about UFOs Famous cases and hot spots around the world Field tips from investigators and researchers An extensive list of international UFO research societies. Lueder cites the contributions and findings of world-renowned researchers Zecharia Sitchin, William Bramley, Jordan Maxwell, Nancy Red Star, Stanton Friedman, Dr. Carl Sagan, Jacques Vallee, Raymond Fowler, and many others, along with a vast array of case sightings, alleged contacts, and abductions. Whether you're simply curious or a researcher with a serious interest in uncovering the truth about UFOs, A UFO Hunter's Guide is a valuable resource.

**mysterious america: Thunderbirds** Mark A. Hall, 2004-01-01 Some very large birds are being sighted in the skies over North America. Described as an enormous black bird with a white ring around its long neck and a wingspan of up to 20 feet and more, this giant bird of prey has been sighted from Alaska, Canada, and the Pacific Northwest, and into the Midwest, Appalachia, and Pennsylvania. The accounts are puzzling and hard to believe, yet eyewitnesses swear by what they saw. Evidence from around the world indicates that our ancestors knew and feared the bird, which can carry away small children and animals. In this compelling compilation of evidence, researcher Mark Hall presents the case for a terrifying, monstrous bird that has roamed our continent since the days of the ancient legends of the Thunderbird.

**mysterious america: More Haunted Houses** Joan Bingham, Dolores Riccio, 1991-10 From Simon & Schuster, More Haunted Houses is a guide to cryptic hangouts and ghostly locales in the United States. From a robber's cave that echoes with voices of its past to America's own Loch Ness Monster to a vampire-infested cemetery, this fascinating companion volume to Haunted Houses USA takes us on a tour of some of America's spookiest places.

**mysterious america: Monsters** John Michael Greer, 2021-10-31 An Investigator's Guide to Magical Beings that takes you on a harrowing journey into the realm of monsters and the reality of the impossible. Monsters brings together folklore, Western magical philosophy and field experience. This book is required reading for both active and armchair monster hunters. Between these covers you will find a chilling collection of fiendish facts and folklore such as why true vampires are the least attractive, five different kinds of ghosts, the magical origins of the werewolf legends, hidden connections between faery lore and UFOs, and where dragons are found today. This is an essential field guide to monsters from angels to zombies with advice on monster investigation and magical self-defence. This latest edition not only has a new chapter on tulpas, but the chapters on vampires and chimeras are significantly expanded with new material. Plus, the section on monster investigation has been thoroughly updated with details on new technology and the approach of the media to monster hunting.

**mysterious america: U.S. Trade Policy** William A. Lovett, Alfred E. Eckes, Jr, Richard L. Brinkman, 2015-02-24 Lovett (Tulane Law School), Eckes (a former commissioner of the U.S. International Commission during the Reagan and Bush I administrations), and Brinkman (international economics, Portland State U.) evaluate the evolution of U.S. trade policy, focusing on the period from the establishment of the Gen

**mysterious america: *Strongest Deceptive System*** Wo Chi Bao Mi Hua, 2020-09-29 When Diaosi Shangliang was separated by his girlfriend, he got a system possession and from then on embarked on a 'disheartened' counterattack.

**mysterious america: *Mothman and Other Curious Encounters*** Loren Coleman, 2001-12-01 A new Hollywood blockbuster, an amazing documentary, and thousands of web pages in its honor. What's the fuss? In a word--Mothman! A famous investigator examines the reports of this huge, red-eyed creature with wings seen over Point Pleasant, West Virginia on November 15, 1966? and the spawn of Mothman seen before and after that date.

**mysterious america: *Ghosts of the South Coast*** Tim Weisberg, 2010-10-01 What mournful histories and mysterious presences lurk on Massachusetts's South Coast? This eerie collection of tales by Spooky Southcoast radio host Tim Weisberg will send shivers down your spine with legends

of Fearing Tavern in Wareham and its raucous ghouls, the Millicent Library's silent phantoms in Fairhaven and the strange happenings of the Quequechan Club in Fall River. Residents and tourists alike will be captivated by the story of infamously murderous Lizzie Borden and the paranormal activity that surrounds her home to this very day. From the ragged coast of Buzzard's Bay to the horrors of Fall River, join Weisberg as he journeys to the dark side of the SouthCoast.

**mysterious america: That Time of Year** Garrison Keillor, 2020-12-01 With the warmth and humor we've come to know, the creator and host of A Prairie Home Companion shares his own remarkable story. In *That Time of Year*, Garrison Keillor looks back on his life and recounts how a Brethren boy with writerly ambitions grew up in a small town on the Mississippi in the 1950s and, seeing three good friends die young, turned to comedy and radio. Through a series of unreasonable lucky breaks, he founded A Prairie Home Companion and put himself in line for a good life, including mistakes, regrets, and a few medical adventures. PHC lasted forty-two years, 1,557 shows, and enjoyed the freedom to do as it pleased for three or four million listeners every Saturday at 5 p.m. Central. He got to sing with Emmylou Harris and Renée Fleming and once sang two songs to the U.S. Supreme Court. He played a private eye and a cowboy, gave the news from his hometown, Lake Wobegon, and met Somali cabdrivers who'd learned English from listening to the show. He wrote bestselling novels, won a Grammy and a National Humanities Medal, and made a movie with Robert Altman with an alarming amount of improvisation. He says, "I was unemployable and managed to invent work for myself that I loved all my life, and on top of that I married well. That's the secret, work and love. And I chose the right ancestors, impoverished Scots and Yorkshire farmers, good workers. I'm heading for eighty, and I still get up to write before dawn every day."

**mysterious america: Paranormal Planet** Jack Cary, 2019-04-14 Paranormal Planet is an expose on real paranormal events happening around the world. With many never before seen color photos from the files of the Paranormal Intelligence Agency. Jack Cary paints a shocking picture of the very real and terrifying side of modern paranormal investigations. Jack Cary has been investigating paranormal happenings for over 25 years. Included is how and why paranormal events happen on the Earth. Paranormal Planet covers the shocking D.N.A. of Bigfoot to real cases of werewolves and cryptid creatures of all kinds. Jack has amassed an amazing amount of evidence that shows the reality that paranormal events do happen and some of them may pose a direct threat to planet Earth.

**mysterious america: The Dover Demon** Mary Schulte, 2009-12-11 This book recounts the story of the Dover Demon, a mysterious creature that reportedly appeared in Dover, Massachusetts, in 1977. Includes eyewitness accounts, alternative explanations and the newest theories. In three separate encounters, several teenagers gave similar descriptions of an eerie and unidentifiable creature. Details are provided about the sightings, the subsequent investigation, and media reports that followed.

**mysterious america: Hidden Animals** Michael Newton, 2009-09-10 A global survey of unknown creatures reported by thousands of eyewitnesses—creatures that have either been verified, refuted, or are still being examined by scientific researchers. *Hidden Animals: A Field Guide to Batsquatch, Chupacabra, and Other Elusive Creatures* welcomes readers into the fascinating world of cryptozoology—the scientific pursuit of legendary creatures that sometimes reveals hoaxes and sometimes identifies real, previously unknown species. Compiled by Michael Newton, author of the acclaimed *Encyclopedia of Cryptozoology*, it is the first comprehensive guide covering the crossroads of zoology and folklore written for both the young and the young at heart. Organized by type of creature type, such as giant animals, missing links, and living fossils, *Hidden Animals* surveys various beings reported and pursued worldwide from ancient times to the present, in every corner of the globe. In the process, it relates classic myths and legends to identified flesh-and-blood animals. Readers will be captivated by both the scientific evidence supporting the existence of specific cryptids and the exposure of notorious frauds or cases of mistaken identity.

**mysterious america: Encyclopedia of Cryptozoology** Michael Newton, 2016-10-05 On every continent and in every nation, animals unrecognized by modern science are reported on a daily

basis. People passionately pursue these creatures--the name given to their field of study is cryptozoology. Coined in the 1950s, the term literally means the science of hidden animals. When the International Society of Cryptozoology (ISC) was formed in 1982, the founders declared that the branch of science is also concerned with the possible existence of known animals in areas where they are not supposed to occur (either now or in the past) as well as the unknown persistence of presumed extinct animals to the present time or to the recent past...what makes an animal of interest to cryptology is that it is unexpected. This reference work presents a flesh and blood view of cryptozoology. Here, 2,744 entries are listed, the majority of which each describe one specific creature or type of creature. Other entries cover 742 places where unnamed cryptids are said to appear; profiles of 77 groups and 112 individuals who have contributed to the field; descriptions of objects and events important to the subject; and essays on cryptotourism and hoaxes, for example. Appendices offer a timeline of zoological discoveries, annotated lists of movies and television series with cryptozoological themes, a list of crypto-fiction titles and a list of Internet websites devoted to cryptozoology.

**mysterious america: Haunted Presidents** Charles A. Stansfield, 2010-07-16 Follow our presidents chronologically, through stories of ghostly manifestations and experiences with unexplained phenomena.

**mysterious america: *Cryptozoology A To Z*** Loren Coleman, Jerome Clark, 2013-05-07 The ultimate quest for the world's most mysterious creatures The Loch Ness Monster, Bigfoot, the Abominable Snowman -- these are the names of the elusive beasts that have caught the eye and captured the imaginations of people around the world for centuries. Recently, tales of these monsters have been corroborated by an increase in sightings, and out of these legends a new science has been born: cryptozoology -- the study of hidden animals. *Cryptozoology A to Z*, the first encyclopedia of its kind, contains nearly two hundred entries, including cryptids (the name given to these unusual beasts), new animal finds, and the explorers and scientists who search for them. Loren Coleman, one of the world's leading cryptozoologists, teams up with Jerome Clark, editor and author of several encyclopedias, to provide these definitive descriptions and many never-before-published drawings and photographs from eyewitnesses' detailed accounts. Full of insights into the methods of these scientists, exciting tales of discovery, and the history and evolution of this field, *Cryptozoology A to Z* is the most complete reference ever of the newest zoological science.

**mysterious america: *Encyclopedia of American Folklore*** Linda Watts, 2020-07-01 Folklore has been described as the unwritten literature of a culture: its songs, stories, sayings, games, rituals, beliefs, and ways of life. *Encyclopedia of American Folklore* helps readers explore topics, terms, themes, figures, and issues related to this popular subject. This comprehensive reference guide addresses the needs of multiple audiences, including high school, college, and public libraries, archive and museum collections, storytellers, and independent researchers. Its content and organization correspond to the ways educators integrate folklore within literacy and wider learning objectives for language arts and cultural studies at the secondary level. This well-rounded resource connects United States folk forms with their cultural origin, historical context, and social function. Appendixes include a bibliography, a category index, and a discussion of starting points for researching American folklore. References and bibliographic material throughout the text highlight recently published and commonly available materials for further study. Coverage includes: Folk heroes and legendary figures, including Paul Bunyan and Yankee Doodle Fables, fairy tales, and myths often featured in American folklore, including Little Red Riding Hood and The Princess and the Pea American authors who have added to or modified folklore traditions, including Washington Irving Historical events that gave rise to folklore, including the civil rights movement and the Revolutionary War Terms in folklore studies, such as fieldwork and the folklife movement Holidays and observances, such as Christmas and Kwanzaa Topics related to folklore in everyday life, such as sports folklore and courtship/dating folklore Folklore related to cultural groups, such as Appalachian folklore and African-American folklore and more.

**mysterious america:** *Contemporary Legend* Gillian Bennett, Paul Smith, 2013-09-05 First published in 1996. For most of the time since the Grimm brothers first contrasted the fairy tale (Märchen) and the legend (Sage), the former has enjoyed the greater reputation among folklorists. Only in recent years, and with the work of such scholars as Gillian Bennett and Paul Smith, has it been recognized that—both as art and as news—the legend is now central to contemporary culture in a way that the Märchen no longer is. The present book is the first collection of essays on legend to appear in English since 1971. Nevertheless, its publication consolidates a gradual shift which has taken place over the last two decades, in which English-language scholarship has taken the lead in the study of certain kinds of legends—variously dubbed modern horror legends, urban legends, urban myths or, here, contemporary legends.

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