

# Is Bigfoot a Real, Live Animal?

## Words you'll need to know...

**casts** molds or forms, often made of metal or plaster

**trickster** a person who fools others

Hunters and campers have heard stories about a large shaggy creature for many years. Hunters often call it Bigfoot. It walks on two legs. Some people think Bigfoot is real. Some think it exists only in people's minds. There have been more than 1,500 sightings of Bigfoot in the mountains of the United States and Canada. It is hard to tell how many of these sightings were imaginary and how many were real.

There is no question about the fact that many clever **tricksters** have tried to fool the public regarding Bigfoot. They have brought in pictures of bear tracks. They have even cut out boards to make huge tracks in the woods.

In order to settle the question, two men began to collect evidence very carefully. Roger Patterson made movies of Bigfoot in the woods. Grover Krantz collected casts of footprints left by Bigfoot in wooded areas. It took these men several years to make their movie and to prepare the casts of the footprints. Their persistence finally led to success.

Many scientists have studied the films and the **casts** of the footprints. The scientists have compared the Bigfoot pictures with pictures of people and apes. The scientists have also

estimated the size and weight of an animal that would make such large footprints. In the end, these scientists concluded that a Bigfoot probably exists. In your lifetime, you may see one yourself.



## Questions and Discussion

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1. What is the best conclusion below? Put a check beside it.

- a. Bigfoot will never be found.
- b. Bigfoot is a man dressed in an ape suit.
- c. Bigfoot does not want to be found.
- d. Bigfoot will soon turn himself in to officers.

2. What is the best conclusion below? Put a check beside it.

- a. Many people believe they have seen Bigfoot.
- b. People will soon forget about Bigfoot.
- c. Bigfoot would prefer to live in towns.
- d. Bigfoot fooled the scientists.

3. Why do you believe people are so interested in finding Bigfoot? Write your conclusion below.

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