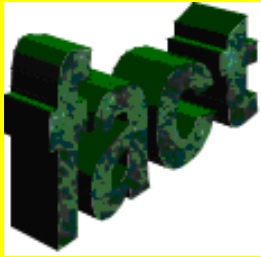


# What is a fact?

Use the magic eraser to uncover the definitions.

# What is an opinion?



**Identify the following statements as either fact or opinion:**

- 1. My sister must be the smartest girl in school.**
- 2. Calicos are the prettiest kinds of cats.**
- 3. The Wright Brothers built the first successful airplane.**
- 4. Mrs McGuire has eleven grandchildren.**
- 5. We drove 3,000 miles on our vacation.**
- 6. People who do not like sports are not much fun to be with.**
- 7. The Rocky Mountains form a long mountain range.**
- 8. Lizards are horrible creatures.**
- 9. There are many tall buildings in New York City.**

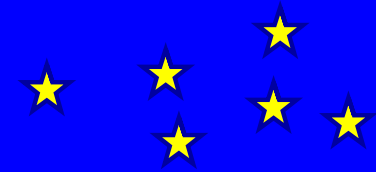
**What is a reasoned judgement?**



**Facts + Opinions =**

**Reasoned Judgements**

**(Use your prior knowledge, what you believe to be the strongest facts, the most reasonable opinions, and what is most likely to be true. Explain your reasoning.)**



# Unsolved Mysteries: Fact or Fiction?

<http://fayette.k12.in.us/~cbeard/mysteries/topics.html>



**Atlantis**  
(lost civilization)

**Stonehenge**  
(ancient monument)

**Bermuda Triangle**  
(unexplained phenomenon)

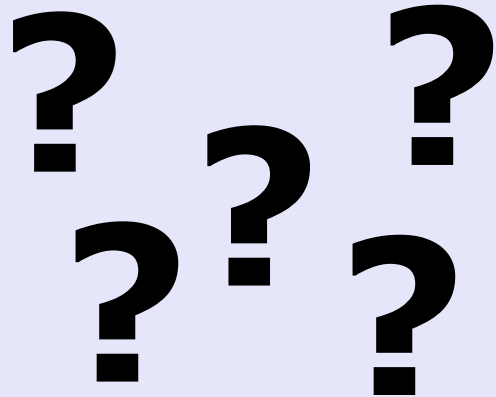
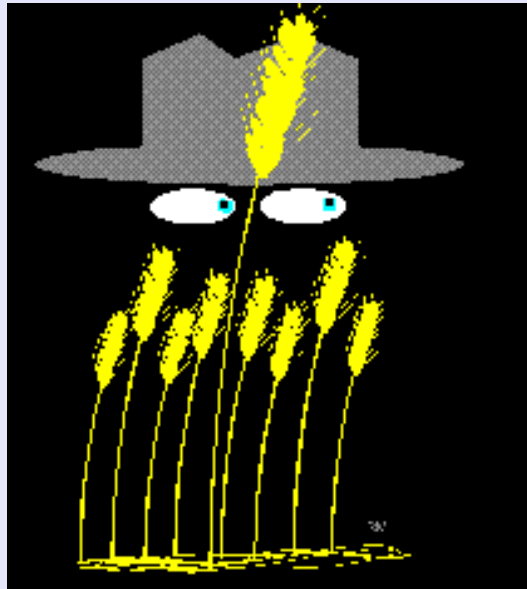
**Big foot**  
(cryptozoology)

**The Mary Celeste**  
(unexplained event)

**Roswell, NM**  
(UFO'S)

*Sarah  
Scotland  
2001*

# Unsolved Mysteries Investigation



You have been given the assignment of gathering information about an unsolved mystery. You will be using the Internet for your investigation. You will create a poster to either support or refute the findings related to your mystery.

## Your poster must contain:

- A title
- The facts about the mystery - what are the observations that have led people to believe it to be true?
- The theories about the mysteries - what are some possible explanations that either prove or disprove the mystery?
- Your conclusions - What do YOU believe to be the truth? Use reasoned judgement to support your position
- A well- designed layout with graphic images

## Sample: Crop Circles

### Facts

- A crop circle is a geometric formation of flattened crops.
- They're found in many countries, especially England. They became widely known in the 1980's
- There are over 200 reported yearly in England.
- In 1991, Doug Baner and Dave Charley admitted they'd been making them in England since 1978.
- In Colin Andrews's book he said that 80% of the circle were man made, but 20% showed no signs of human involvement.
- In 1991, a mobile phone wouldn't work inside a crop circle, but worked inches away.
- There is radio interference reported at some formations that goes back to normal after 4-6 weeks.
- Some people reported seeing UFO's near crop circles.
- Some genetic mutation has been found in the stems of the crops at these formations.

### Theories

- Most people believe they're made by humans.
- Tornadoes or freak wind patterns produced them. Beginning in 1880 a scientist theorized that a formation was caused by cyclonic wind action.
- Some people believe they are caused by flying saucers landing on Earth or taking off after landing here.
- Scientists thought that perhaps communication satellites in space using beams, like microwaves, might shine them onto the earth.

*Crop Circles*

# To write your conclusion:

- ✓ Think about everything you read about the mystery.
- ✓ Form your opinion about whether you think it is real.
- ✓ Decide if you believe any of the theories or have your own idea.
- ✓ Support your position with the facts of the mystery and your own common sense.

Use Reasoned Judgement



## Sample Conclusion

**I believe that there is some natural phenomenon behind the creation of crop circles. One theory that caught my attention was the one about communication satellites. I believe that the explanation has something to do with modern technology, since formations increased and became popular in the late 1980's. Cell phones, microwaves, Internet, and other communication advances may cause rays or waves to shine onto the earth's surface in a geometric pattern. Waves such as microwave could damage the cell structure of the crops. The fact that there was some radio disturbance at the sight of some formations could also support this. While hoaxers probably did make some of them, there are too many formations occurring each year to believe that anyone would keep doing this.**



# Grading Your Project

**Facts:** Did you include the important information about the mystery? 1 to 10 points

**Theories:** Did you explain the main explanations that explain the mystery? 1 to 10 points

**Conclusion:** Did you use reasoned judgement to draw a conclusion and facts to defend your opinion? 1 to 10 points

**Writing Mechanics:** Is your writing error free? 1 to 10 points

**Presentation:** neatness, visual appeal, pictures 1 to 10 points

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50 points

