

READING ACTIVITIES

1. Put the following article into the correct order.

- A. Roswell conspiracy fans meet at annual conferences to debate the various versions. The military eventually admitted that it had been a secret military balloon. However, Roswell “experts” claim to have interviewed hundreds of witnesses who say they saw evidence of a flying saucer, proving, therefore, that the conspiracy theory must be true. B.D. Gildenberg, who has examined such claims, believes that the Roswell conspiracy stories are a hoax—“the world’s most famous, most exhaustively investigated, and most thoroughly debunked UFO claim.”
- B. Shortly after, on July 8th, a secret military balloon crashed near Roswell, New Mexico, in the southwest. However, the local newspaper reported that a flying saucer had crashed, and the news media from all over demanded more information. Because the balloon was a secret, the military made an official announcement: that the object that had crashed was just an ordinary weather balloon.
- C. On June 25th 1947, pilot Kenneth Arnold was flying a plane in the northwest of the U.S. when he saw something strange: objects that looked like plates, or saucers, flying across the sky like a small flock of birds. His story led to numerous other news stories in which people claimed to have seen similar unidentified flying objects (UFOs)—or “flying saucers.”
- D. While some people claim that alien beings from other planets must have been captured alive and imprisoned by the military in a secret location, others believe that aliens might have died in the crash and were most likely being kept frozen for research.
- E. Other skeptics of the conspiracy, who accept the military’s version, point out that all the interviews occurred more than thirty years after the crash and that many of the statements made in the interviews were highly questionable. For example, one witness’s name was changed after it became clear that she didn’t exist. Furthermore, witnesses often seemed to confuse details with military plane crashes that had occurred in the area at about the same time.



F. No one questioned that story for more than thirty years—until 1978. UFO lecturer Stanton Friedman interviewed a man who claimed to have seen something stranger than a weather balloon in the wreckage of the 1947 crash, and the story of a flying saucer was reborn.

G. All the same, a CNN / Timepoll in the U.S. showed that a majority of the people who responded found the UFO story very believable. Conspiracy critic Kal Korff admits, “Let’s not pull any punches here: The Roswell UFO myth has been very good business for UFO groups, publishers, Hollywood, the town of Roswell, [and] the media.

H. Although versions of that story differ, most people who believe there was a military conspiracy to hide the truth agree on these basic details: a flying saucer crashed near Roswell in 1947. And because it didn’t want anyone to know the truth, the military kept the incident top secret and continues to do so today. However, many details have been added to the story over the years. Eleven additional “crash sites” have been identified.



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|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ | 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ | 7. _____ | 8. _____ |

2. CONFIRM POINT OF VIEW

Write A, B, or C to classify the people or organizations based on their point of view.

A = a skeptic of the military’s version of the Roswell incident

B = a skeptic of the Roswell conspiracy theory

C = not enough information in the article to know for sure

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Kenneth Arnold _____ | 4 Roswell conspiracy fans _____ | 7 Kal Korff _____ |
| 2 Stanton Friedman _____ | 5 CNN / Time _____ | |
| 3 Roswell “experts” _____ | 6 B.D. Gildenberg _____ | |

3. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- In the first paragraph, what does the writer tell us about the reports of UFOs?
 - Many people reported seeing the same group of “flying saucers.”
 - After Kenneth Arnold’s story, others also reported seeing UFOs.
 - People reported seeing different kinds of flying objects.
 - There were many unusual sightings around the same time.

2. The article says that UFOs are also frequently called “flying saucers” because ____.

- a. there is wreckage of a saucer-like space ship in a museum in Roswell
- b. weather balloons are shaped like saucers and can be mistaken for UFOs
- c. fake photos of UFOs often use saucers to look like space ships
- d. a pilot and others have reported seeing flying objects that looked like saucers

3. Which of the following is not mentioned as raising suspicion about the crash in Roswell?

- a. The military lied about what happened because their balloon was secret.
- b. A newspaper falsely reported information.
- c. Witnesses said they had seen something unusual in the wreckage.
- d. Nobody knew anything about the crash for 30 years.

4. The writer emphasizes the differences in reports of crash sightings because ____.

- a. they indicate how many UFO crashes there have been
- b. there are several scientific explanations for the sightings
- c. they indicate that some of the reports and theories are unreliable
- d. they will be the topic of a convention in Roswell



5. The writer mentions the fact that a witness’s name was changed in order to ____.

- a. emphasize that many witnesses didn’t want to give their real names to the newspapers
- b. emphasize the questionable nature of the facts
- c. explain why the military is still trying to keep information about the crash secret
- d. explain why it’s hard to find the original witnesses so long after the crash

6. What is Kal Korff’s main point about the popularity of stories about Roswell?

- a. If so many people believe the stories, there must be some truth to them.
- b. He doesn’t care if they’re true or not, because they are a good business for him.
- c. The stories were probably started by Hollywood and the media.
- d. Enough people believe the stories for there to be many businesses built around them