

1.1 What's the book about?

1 Look at the front cover of this book and discuss these questions.

- a What can you see on the cover that is strange or unusual?
- b What do you think the book is about? Is it fact or fiction?

2 Check the meaning of these words in your dictionary. Then use them in the sentences and write possible answers to the questions.

aliens giant monster power predict

- a When he saw the sea monster, he was very frightened.
Why was it frightening?
- b The president has a lot of
What can a president do?
- c come from other worlds.
How do they travel?
- d Some people can the future.
What do they use to do this?
- e I saw a footprint on the beach.
What made the footprint?

1.2 What happens first?

Discuss these questions and make notes. Look at the picture on page 1. What can you see? What is happening? What is going to happen?

Notes

Other Worlds

He saw the machine disappearing into the sky. All the plants on that piece of ground were dead.

When you look up into the night sky, what are you thinking? Do you believe that there are other worlds out there? Is there life in those worlds? Is it like life on Earth?

What's out there?

Space is perhaps the most exciting mystery – the last big adventure. Governments have spent millions of pounds trying to discover its secrets.

So are the stories of **aliens** and **UFOs** true? There have been thousands of reports from ordinary people. But space travellers say that they have also seen UFOs. When *Apollo 11* made the first famous landing on the moon on 21 July 1969, the spacemen were not alone. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin saw 'two very large mysterious things' with bright lights. 'They are watching us,' Armstrong reported. This information was kept secret for years by the US government. But there have been many more reports of UFOs from space travellers and pilots of aeroplanes.

Have UFOs and aliens visited Earth? Many people say that they have seen them. Some people have taken photographs. Here are some of their stories.



alien /'eɪliən/ (n/adj) a living thing, perhaps a person, from another world

UFO /'ju: ef 'əʊ/ (n) a mysterious thing in the sky, perhaps flying to Earth from another world



● Mysterious visitors

Socorro, New Mexico, US, 1964

Policeman Lonnie Zamora was driving home when he saw a fire in the hills. Was it a car accident? As he drove nearer, he saw a large, egg-shaped 'machine' about five metres long. It had four legs and no windows or doors. Two very short 'men' were standing by it. Zamora knew they weren't from Earth. The machine suddenly made a loud noise and left the ground. Fire poured from it. It stayed silently in the air for a few minutes. Then it disappeared into the sky.

When more policemen arrived, Zamora's face was white with fear. Trees in the area were burning and the ground looked strange – like glass. There were four holes in the ground from the four legs. UFO **experts** believe Zamora's story. He was usually a very calm person. There were also other reports of a strange thing of this description in the sky that night.

Valensole, France, 1965

Farmer Maurice Masse saw two very short, strange 'men' in his field. They were standing by a strange-looking machine. When he came closer, they pointed a long stick at him. A light came from it, throwing him to the ground. He couldn't move. After some time he was able to sit up. He saw the machine disappearing into the sky. All the plants on that piece of ground were dead.

After this, Masse felt very tired for weeks. When UFO experts asked him questions, they showed him a painting of a UFO. His face went white. 'Where did you see my machine?' he asked. It was a painting of the UFO that policeman Zamora saw the year before in New Mexico.

The green children

In the 1100s, a boy and a girl were found near the village of Woolpit in England. They were completely green. They didn't know where they were. They didn't speak the local language and only ate green vegetables. The boy soon died, but the girl began to eat the local food and lost her green colour. She learnt the language and talked about her life. In her world, all the people were green. One day, the sun became very bright and the air temperature changed. She and her brother fell asleep and then woke up in this new place.

expert /'ekspɜ:t/ (n) someone who knows a lot about a subject



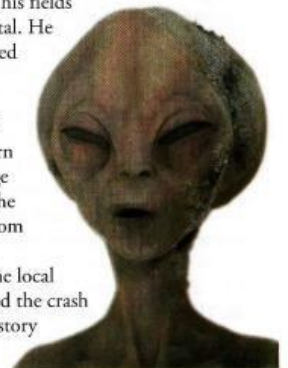
● Roswell

The Roswell crash happened many years ago, but it is still one of the most important and famous of the UFO stories. People started to ask questions: Have aliens really landed on Earth? Are governments hiding important information from us? Roswell began the great interest in UFOs. Hundreds of books and famous films like *The X-Files* have followed.

Roswell is a town in the US state of New Mexico. It was just another small, unimportant town until July 1947.

A farmer, William ('Mac') Brazel, was checking his fields after a terrible storm and found many pieces of metal. He thought they were from a plane crash. So he reported the crash to the police. He also took some of the metal for them to look at. The police passed the information to **the military**. They tested the metal and made a discovery. They couldn't break it or burn it. There was also strange writing on it in a language that no one could understand. They decided that the metal wasn't from Earth. In their opinion, it was from a UFO.

The military then reported the UFO crash to the local radio station. People were very interested and visited the crash area. The newspapers quickly printed this exciting story and soon people everywhere knew about Roswell.



the military /ðə 'mɪlətəri/ (n/adj) the people in a country who fight in wartime; *military* planes are used for war



But after a few weeks, the military's report changed. The metal in the field wasn't from a UFO; it was from a military plane. They immediately closed the crash area, but they continued to take things away. For many years after this, the US government refused to say anything about the crash.

In 1994, the military told a new story. The pieces of metal weren't parts of a military plane. They came from special equipment for spying on the Soviet Union. Many people don't believe this story. They think that the government is keeping important information about UFOs from us. There have been many stories about small aliens who were found in the area around the crash in 1947 – some alive and some dead. In 1995, the military showed a film from the time of the crash. In the film, there was an examination of the body of a small alien by military doctors. But other people don't believe that this is true.

For years, experts have tried to find out what really happened at Roswell. But many important government papers have disappeared, so we will probably never know the true story.

● They took us away!

There have been thousands of reports of aliens taking people onto UFOs. Are these stories true? Were the people dreaming? UFO experts believe some of the stories.



- In 1961, Betty and Barney Hill were driving from Canada to New Hampshire, in the US, when they saw a light in the sky. It followed them until they stopped. They saw a large, yellow thing. Through a window, they could see strange 'people' inside. Mrs Hill was frightened, so her husband started driving again. Then they suddenly felt very tired.

The Hills woke up an hour later in a different place – fifty-six kilometres away. How did they get there? What happened in the missing hour?

Later, they had terrible dreams about aliens, so they told their story to the military. Doctors asked them questions. Slowly, they began to remember what happened. They were taken onto the UFO by aliens. Alien 'doctors' examined them. They also gave them information about the position of different stars. Scientists agreed that this information was correct.

- In 1975, Travis Walton was working with other men in a forest when they saw a UFO. A green light pulled Travis up into the UFO. It then disappeared. When Travis was found five days later, he couldn't remember anything. He was much thinner and his arm was cut.

- In November 1989, a woman phoned the police with a strange report. Aliens were flying with a woman in the sky. Then two New York policemen reported the same thing! They saw a woman 'flying' out of a twelfth floor window. There were 'little people' flying around her. The aliens took her up into a UFO. The UFO then quickly flew away.

2.1 Were you right?

Look back at your notes in Activity 1.2. Then use these words in the sentences.

aliens another ground inside strange UFO

- On page 1 there is a picture of a UFO flying above the ground. It has come from world.
- On page 2, the policeman is looking at a UFO and two The aliens are very, so the policeman is frightened.
- On page 3 the man is looking at a large with strange people inside it. His wife is telling him to get into the

2.2 What more did you learn?

1 Complete the table with information from Chapter 1.

Name	They saw	Date	Place
Lonnie Zamora			
		1947	Valensole, France
Betty and Barney Hill			

2 Put these happenings at Roswell into the right order, 1–8.

- ☐ The military test the metal. They think it is from a UFO.
- ☐ The military show a film of a small alien.
- ☐ William Brazel reports the metal pieces to the police.
- ☐ The police report the metal to the military.
- ☒ There is a bad storm.
- ☐ The military say the metal is from spying equipment.
- ☐ The military say the metal is from a military plane.
- ☐ William Brazel sees pieces of metal in his fields.

6

Language in use

Look at the sentence on the right. Then complete the sentences below using past continuous and past simple verb forms.

Lonnie Zamora **was driving** home when he **saw** a fire in the hills.



When the policeman arrived (arrive), (burn).



When the UFO (disappear), (sit) on the ground.



William Brazel (check) his fields when (find).



Betty and Barney Hill (drive) to New Hampshire when (see).

4 What's next?

In Chapter 2, you will read about strange disappearances. What do you think these are? Circle a possible answer.

- The Bermuda Triangle is a place. ship. plane.
- The *Mary Celeste* is a place. ship. plane.
- Atlantis is a place. ship. plane.