

# World's greatest mysteries

## ACTIVITY 1: Read the mysteries and complete the information:

A group of farmers found crop circles in England. The big mystery was, how were they made? Where strange geometrical patterns first appeared on the southern countryside during the mid-1970s. The agricultural graffiti is now seen throughout the world in fields of wheat, barley, rye and corn. Although most often exposed as manmade hoaxes, many still claim they are signs of extraterrestrial life.



What's the mystery about? \_\_\_\_\_

- a) How were the crop circles made?
- b) The agricultural graffiti is now seen throughout the sky
- c) The farmers

The Legend of El Dorado originates from the Muisca, who lived in the modern country of Colombia from 1000 to 1538 AD. In a ritual ceremony for their goddess, the tribal chief would cover himself in gold dust and jump into a lake as an offering. This spawned the legend of a lost golden city, which led Spanish conquistadors on a wild goose chase to nowhere.



What's the mystery about? \_\_\_\_\_

- a) It is from Colombia
- b) The tribal chief
- c) It is a lost Golden city

True pioneer, Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, as well as the first person to fly solo across the Pacific, from Hawaii to mainland America. Her attempted flight around the world in 1937, with navigator Fred Noonan, was cut short two-thirds of the way after their plane went missing in the Pacific. Till this day the two remain lost, but recent discovered artifacts (bottom) – including aircraft skin and shoe heels – point to a crash landing on the island of



What's the mystery about? \_\_\_\_\_

- d) Amelia Earhart
- e) Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan remain lost
- f) Across the Pacific

## Who was Jack the Ripper?



In 1888, London England, Jack the Ripper killed at least five women in London, mutilating their bodies. A number of letters, supposedly from the Ripper, were sent to police taunting officers' efforts to find the Ripper. (Whether any of them were actually written by the Ripper is a matter of debate among scholars.) The name "Jack the Ripper" comes from the letters he sent to the police.

Needless to say, the Ripper was never found, and over the years, dozens of people have been brought up as possible candidates. A recent book suggested that a woman named Lizzie Williams was the Ripper, although other Ripper experts cast doubt on it. It appears unlikely that the true identity of the Ripper will ever be known for sure

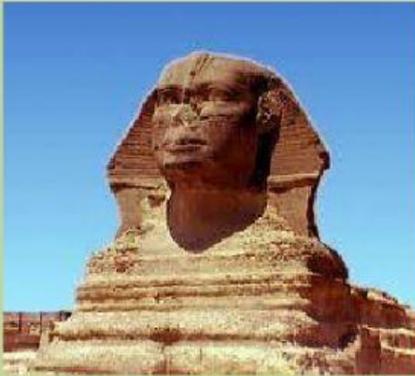
1. WHAT DID JACK THE RIPPER DO?
2. WHERE DID THE NAME JACK THE RIPPER COME FROM?
3. WHAT IS THIS MISTERY ABOUT?
4. WHAT DOES A RECENT BOOK SUGGEST?
5. WHEN AND WHERE DID THIS HAPPEN?

# The mystery of the Sphinx

## ACTIVITY 3: Read the text and answer the questions:

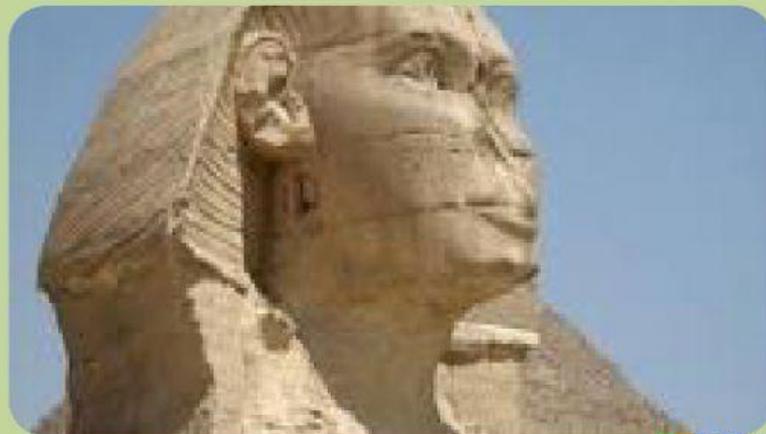
One of the world's most studied monuments is the Sphinx, **which is located close to** the Great Pyramid, sixteen kilometers from Cairo in Egypt. **It is made of limestone.** Carved in ancient times out of a single piece of limestone over sixty metres long and twenty meters high, it weighs hundreds of tons. This extraordinary monument **consists solely of the head of a man and the body of a crouching lion**, a combination **which suggest** strength and wisdom. Over the years, some of its facial features have sustained damage.

The smile, **which people describe** mysterious, is in fact the result of erosion rather than design, and the nose, which has long since been broken away, was probably the unfortunate victim of invading soldiers' target practice. At one time there was a serpent on its forehead and a royal beard, a fragment **of which exists** in a museum.



But who built this monument **which unlike most of the others** guarding significant places, is not part of a pair but stands alone? Most Egyptologists agree that it was built by Pharaoh Khafre 5,000 years ago. However, some recent commentators have speculated that it belonged to a much older civilization, **which disappeared in** a legendary flood

that **is supposed to have destroyed** everything in the world over 7,000 years ago. They have tried to demonstrate that the weathering of the Sphinx was caused by water rather than wind and sand, and one has even suggested **that it may have been built** on a much older site about 12,500 years ago. **Whatever its origins there is no doubt that to the Egyptians, the Sphinx represents the very essence of their country's magnificent culture.**



1. Where is the sphinx located?
2. The sphinx consists solely of:
3. The sphinx suggest:
4. How people described the sphinx?
5. The Sphinx is made of:
6. When the sphinx was built, according to the Egyptologists?
7. Who built the sphinx, according to the Egyptologists?
8. For the Egyptian people, the sphinx represent:

\_\_\_\_\_ It is made of limestone

\_\_\_\_\_ It suggest strength and wisdom

\_\_\_\_\_ It is located close to the Great Pyramid, sixteen kilometers from Cairo in Egypt.

\_\_\_\_\_ mysterious

\_\_\_\_\_ the head of a man and the body of a crouching lion.

\_\_\_\_\_ represents the very essence of their country's magnificent culture.

\_\_\_\_\_ about 12,500 years ago

\_\_\_\_\_ it was built by Pharaoh Khafre.