

# 38a Unsolved Mysteries

## Mysteries

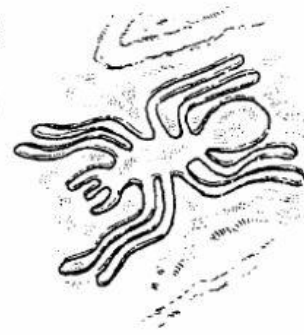
1.

On a quiet, moonlit evening in November 1966, four friends were out driving in the West Virginia countryside near an old, abandoned power plant. They suddenly encountered an incredibly frightening creature: six-foot tall, with spread-out wings, and glowing red eyes. It was running and trying to balance itself with its wings. Then it disappeared around a corner of the building. As the friends drove toward home, the creature reappeared. Suddenly, instead of flapping its wings, it shot up like a rocket and continued to follow their car.... ■



2.

In the Nazca desert of southern Peru there is an amazing display of art laid out on the desert floor. Outlines of animals have been "drawn" by removing the dark stone layer which covers the desert to reveal the light-colored sand underneath. There's a bird which measures 390 feet across, a spider of 180 feet, a monkey, a whale, and other birds, fishes, and strange plants. The pictures were not discovered until 1941, but they are thought to date from about A.D. 900. The strange thing is that these pictures can only be seen from the air. ■



3.

The winter of 1884 was an exceptionally cold one in southern England. One morning, people got up to find that the rivers had frozen over and a blanket of snow lay everywhere. Then they noticed a mysterious line of footprints running up to their doors, through their gardens, over rooftops, crossing fields, and covering an area of about 100 miles. The prints looked like donkey's hooves, but they were in a single line as if the animal had been walking on two legs. ■



4.

On an island off the north of Scotland, a lighthouse was built in 1895. A year later, just before Christmas, Joseph Moore and his crew were due to take supplies by ship to the three men living in the lighthouse. Because of bad weather conditions, their departure was delayed until the 26th of December. As they approached the island, they expected to see a sign that the men in the lighthouse had seen the ship. There was no response. The ship's horn was sounded, but nobody appeared from the lighthouse. Joseph and three others decided to go and investigate. In the lighthouse, the beds had been made, and the dishes from the last meal had been washed. All the clocks had stopped. But there were no men. The crew searched the island and found nothing except for some damage caused by storms earlier that month. The last entry in the log book, on December 15, reads, "Storm ended, sea calm. God is with us." ■



5.

On June 30, 1908, a farmer in Siberia was resting in his field. Suddenly, there was a great flash and explosion. There was so much heat, he said, it nearly burned the shirt off his back. A "huge ball of fire" covered an enormous part of the sky and afterward "it became very dark." ■



a.

*Some people suggest that this could have been a nuclear explosion caused by a spaceship from another planet.*

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b.

*One of the crew who helped to search the island thought that the men might have wanted to disappear. They could have been picked up by a passing ship and taken to Australia to start a new life.*

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c.

*About that time, a hunter in Pennsylvania reported he had seen a seven-foot bird that looked like an ostrich. Could "Mothman" have been a migratory bird?*

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d.

*"Antimatter" may have fallen to Earth from space, according to some astronomers.*

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e.

*Many people were convinced that they had been visited by the devil.*

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f.

*According to Dr. Robert Smith, "Mothman" could have been a sandhill crane, which is almost as tall as a human being. This crane has large, bright red rings around its eyes.*

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g.

*It is believed by some people that the Indians must have been able to see their creations from the sky.*

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h.

*One person even suggested that it could have been a kangaroo which might have escaped from a nearby zoo!*

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i.

*It is believed by most historians that the pictures were created for religious purposes. In other words, they must have been put there as presents for the gods.*

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j.

*Some people believe that "Mothman" is a creature from another planet.*

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k.

*The most widely accepted theory is that comets could have entered the Earth's atmosphere. The heat that was generated could have caused the explosion.*

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l.

*One possible explanation was that the marks were made by birds with ice on their feet.*

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m.

*In 1957, an American set out to prove that people could have flown there in hot-air balloons. They could have used materials that were available to them at that time.*

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n.

*It is thought that one of the men could have gone mad and caused the deaths of all three men.*

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o.

*A journalist offered another explanation: even though the sea was calm, a freak wave might have taken the men by surprise and swept them into the sea.*

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