

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

outlandish a hoax traction cast doubt phony smoking gun spawned perpetuates

Author Lewis Carroll was Jack the Ripper

The real identity of Jack the Ripper has eluded police and detectives for more than a century. The list of possible suspects ranges from those most likely to be named to downright 1) _____. Perhaps the most unlikely suspect is Lewis Carroll. In 1996, child psychotherapist and Carroll's avid fan Richard Wallace published the novel "Jack the Ripper, Light-hearted Friend", which alleged that Lewis Carroll was responsible for one of the most famous killing sprees in history. This theory rested largely on Carroll's love of anagrams and Wallace's claims that he had decoded the hidden confession of the Ripper in two of Carroll's works "The Nursery Alice" and "Sylvie and Bruno".



Wallace also pointed that the author lived and worked in an area near where the Ripper murders occurred. Though this conspiracy theory gained enough 2) _____, its viability was short-lived. After having read a passage from Wallace's novel, two anagram enthusiasts debunked Wallace's theory. They managed to rearrange the letter in the first three sentences to show a 3) _____ "confession" by Wallace to the murder of Nicole Brown, while also taking credit for Shakespeare's sonnets and a lot of Francis Bacon's work.

The Moon landing was faked

NASA landed astronauts on the moon in 1969. By the 1970s, an bizarre conspiracy emerged — that the moon landing was actually 4) _____. The conspiracy was described in a 1976 self-published book, "We Never Went to the Moon: America's Thirty Billion Dollar Swindle," and that made millions of Americans 5) _____ on the whole mission. Allegedly, the U.S. government, desperate to either beat the Soviets in the space race (which they were not capable of doing fairly) or distract from Vietnam, put Neil Armstrong under klieg lights on a soundstage, maybe as Stanley Kubrick directed. The 6) _____, sceptics say, is the famous Apollo photos, which NASA controls all access to: the American flag seems to be waving in the wind and the absence of stars seen from the moon. There are plenty of debunkings of these claims, but the most is airtight argument is hundreds of pounds of moon rocks that have been studied around the world and verified as being of extraterrestrial origin. How did NASA get the rocks if not during a moon landing?



Aliens built the Egyptian pyramids



The famous conspiracy theory alleges that the ancient pyramids in Egypt were not built by ancient Egyptians, but were instead created by extraterrestrial lifeforms. Experts believe that people have 7) _____ these claims because some find it hard to believe that an ancient civilization had the means to build such grand structures that have endured thousands of years later. Historians assume the pyramids took around 85 years to build and were constructed sometimes between 2589 and 2504 BC – making them more than 4,000 years old. While some may write off the conspiracy as being just that, some believe it's rooted in racism. Grand structures that were built in Ancient Greece and Rome seem to be immune to similar conspiracy theories, and experts believe it "8) _____ a very Eurocentric view of other cultures" including Egypt, the Mayans and the Incans.