

THE HISTORY OF UFOS

Unidentified Flying Object (or “UFO”) is a term commonly used to describe lights or shapes in the sky. It was first coined by the United States Air Force in 1952 to describe sightings of mysterious objects in the sky that could not be explained even after careful investigation. Nowadays UFOs are spotted frequently, and feature in numerous movies and TV shows. Another popular name for such an object is, “Flying Saucer,” in reference to the round shape of many UFOs.

The first widely publicised UFO sighting was in 1947, by a pilot called Kenneth Arnold. Following this event, public sightings of UFOs increased dramatically. Movies and TV shows began featuring visitors from outer space, arriving on earth in flying saucers. With the popularity of these images, many people claimed to have seen lights in the sky. Some experts believe that people simply think they see UFOs because of the influence of TV and movies.

However, experts estimate that as little as 5% of these sightings could be called “unidentified.” Usually these lights are made by aircraft, satellites, or weather balloons. Top secret air force activities during the Cold War may have been responsible for many of the UFO sightings in America and Europe. Although not actually aliens, the secretive nature of these flying objects is definitely unidentified.

Another popular idea concerning UFOs concerns the role of world governments. Specifically, people believe that the US government has discovered alien life and operates a “cover-up” to hide the truth from the public. The most widely believed cover-up is that of the Roswell Incident. In July, 1947, a UFO supposedly landed in Roswell, New Mexico, and was examined and hidden by government agents. There have been many investigations into the Roswell Incident, however, these reports always claim that no such event occurred.

I. Read through the article and answer each of the following questions.

1. What is the purpose of this report?
 - A. To describe the history of alien life.
 - B. To describe government cover-ups.
 - C. To describe the history of UFO sightings.
 - D. To describe UFOs in popular movies.

2. Why are UFO sightings so controversial?
 - A. They have never been proved.
 - B. There are many sightings.
 - C. The government covers up sightings.
 - D. There are very few UFO sightings.

II. 2nd Reading (Scanning): Read the text carefully and answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence or a short paragraph.

1. Why is Kenneth Arnold famous among UFO believers?
 - A. He was at Roswell in 1947.
 - B. He found a UFO in 1952.
 - C. He saw a UFO in 1947.
 - D. He saw a UFO in 1952.

2. How do experts explain many UFO sightings?
 - A. There are many alien visitors to earth.
 - B. TV and movies make people believe they see UFOs.
 - C. Government cover-ups make people paranoid.
 - D. They have no idea why there are so many sightings.

3. What do many people believe happened at Roswell?

A. Famous movies were made.

B. Kenneth Arnold was born.

C. The first UFO sighting.

D. A UFO landed there.

4. Which of the following is true?

A. The first UFO was spotted in 1952.

B. The word “UFO” was first used in 1952.

C. The Roswell Incident occurred in 1952.

D. A UFO landed in America in 1952.

5. What influence did the Cold War have upon UFO sightings?

A. American pilots saw a UFO in the Cold War.

B. More UFO movies were made in the Cold War.

C. Lots of government cover-ups occurred.

D. Top secret air force activities caused more sightings.