

Unidentified Flying Objects

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37

What do you think about when someone talks about a UFO? Do you think about the cover of a science fiction novel? Do you think about a time when you saw something strange in the sky? A lot of people talk about UFOs as flying saucers – this is the most common description people give. Other people just say UFO means unidentified flying object and that the flash of light that someone saw in the sky was either a plane, a helicopter or a reflection of light off of a cell phone tower or another metal object.

In Roswell, New Mexico in the late 1940s strange materials appeared. The United States military has always said that these materials were pieces of a research balloon. Some people say that the materials were pieces of a UFO, an alien spaceship. Because of Roswell the words UFO and flying saucer are now common in our language, in novels, television programming and films.

How common are UFOs? It's difficult to say because many people who see an unidentified flying object in the sky don't want to report it. Either they think there is a logical explanation or that no one would believe them. But sometimes a lot of people see the same thing.

One such incident occurred in 1980 in Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk, England. People said they saw flashing lights coming from an unidentified flying object that was moving towards the woods. The UFO was the size of a car and seemed to float on a beam of light. People reported the object and saw that trees were damaged, radio frequencies were static and soil samples showed radioactive activity.

In Gulf Breeze, Florida in 1987 a man saw a strange light coming from his garden. When he saw the craft, he grabbed a camera and started taking photos as proof of what he had seen. In this situation, the story was not just about a UFO sighting, but the man being abducted.

Over the years there have been audio recordings and photo documentation but it is still difficult to know whether or not the unidentified flying objects were actually from space. Skeptics claim that photographs and stories are fabricated.

In each case, both sides – the believers and the skeptics – find evidence to support their arguments. Those who believe in UFOs and alien visits highlight facts that they claim cannot be explained. Those who are skeptical offer their own explanations along with their own supporting evidence. Which side is right? For now, that's up to you to decide.



Comprehension / Vocabulary Questions

1. How do some people describe UFOs?
2. What alternate explanations do people give for UFO lights?
3. What was the official explanation for the incident in Roswell, New Mexico?
4. Why don't some people report UFOs?
5. Describe what people saw in Rendlesham Forest in 1980?
6. What evidence was there in the forest?
7. What happened in Florida in addition to a person seeing a UFO?
8. What do skeptics say about UFO sightings?
9. In the text, the author used different adjectives and nouns to describe different types of light. What are they?
10. There are two synonyms to describe flying saucers, what are they?

Gap Fill

In Roswell, New Mexico in the late 1940smaterials appeared. The United States military has always said that these materials were of a research balloon. Some people say that the materials were pieces of a UFO, an alien

People said they saw lights coming from an unidentified flying object that was moving towards the woods. The UFO was the size of a car and seemed to float on a of light.

People reported the object and saw that trees were damaged, radio frequencies were static and soil samples showed activity.

In Gulf Breeze, Florida in 1987 a man saw a strange light coming from his garden. When he saw the craft, he a camera and started taking photos as of what he had seen. In this situation, the story was not just about a UFO sighting, but the man being



Vocabulary	Definition / Example / Translation



Answers

1. How do some people describe UFOs? **Some people describe UFOs as flying saucers.**
2. What alternative explanations do people give for UFO lights? **They are lights from a plane or helicopter, a reflection from a cell phone tower or other metal objects.**
3. What was the official explanation for the incident in Roswell, New Mexico? **The United States military insist that it was a weather balloon that crashed.**
4. Why don't some people report UFOs? **People think either that there is a more logical solution or simply that people will not believe them.**
5. Describe what people saw in Rendlesham Forest in 1980? **They claimed to have seen flashing lights coming from an unidentified flying object that was descending towards the woods – a UFO that was roughly the size of a car and seemed to float on a beam of light.**
6. What type of evidence do people give in support of UFOs? **Photographs, damage to other objects such as trees, radio frequencies turned to static, radioactive activity, fragments.**
7. What happened in Florida in addition to a person seeing a UFO? **It was reported he was beamed up onto the spacecraft.**
8. What do skeptics say about UFO sightings? **That people fabricated the stories and manipulated photos.**
9. Throughout the text, the author used different adjectives and nouns to describe different types of light. What are they? **Flashing lights, a beam of light, a reflection of light, strange light, flash of light.**
10. There are two synonyms to describe flying saucers, what are they? **Spaceship and craft.**

Gap Fill

In Roswell, New Mexico in the late 1940s **strange** materials appeared. The United States military has always said that these materials were **pieces** of a research balloon. Some people say that the materials were pieces of a UFO, an alien **spaceship**.

People said they saw **flashing** lights coming from an unidentified flying object that was moving towards the woods. The UFO was the size of a car and seemed to float on a **beam** of light. People reported the object and saw that trees were damaged, radio frequencies were static and soil samples showed **radioactive** activity.

In Gulf Breeze, Florida in 1987 a man saw a strange light coming from his garden. When he saw the craft, he **grabbed** a camera and started taking photos as **proof** of what he had seen. In this situation, the story



Speaking Task – Role-play

Role 1

A few days ago you saw a UFO. You have told some friends about it. Some people believe you and others don't but you are sure it was real. You are now walking down the street when a person starts asking you about the experience.

Checklist:

- What did you see?
- What proof do you have?
- Answer the person's questions
- Listen to the person's explanations and give your opinions.

You must use the following words: beam, flashing and evidence.

Role 2

A person in your town recently saw a UFO. You are very skeptical about it but you are interested and want to talk to the person. By chance, you see the person in the street and decide to ask them some questions.

Checklist:

- Introduce yourself and ask the person about their experience
- Give them your opinion
- Ask for proof
- Give an alternative explanation for what they saw

You must use the following words: skeptical, report and incident.

Debate Topics

- Aliens have visited Earth and live among us.
- Aliens exist but have not visited Earth.

Discussion Topic

- Why are photos of UFOs always bad quality?

Discussion Topic

- Will we talk to aliens in the future?

Discussion Topic

- If you saw a UFO would you report it?

Discussion Topic

- Your favorite alien movies



Skeptic	Proof	Conspiracy
Flashing	Beam	Evidence
To highlight	Incident	To fabricate
Sighting	To abduct	To report
.....
Talk about... Something you saw that you can't explain	Talk about... Your belief in aliens	Talk about... The strangest thing you have seen at night
Talk about... What things make you skeptical	Talk about... Conspiracy theories you believe in	Talk about... What you would do if aliens came to Earth

Writing Task

What?! You saw a UFO last night! I don't believe you.

Last night you saw a UFO. Write about your experience. Remember to include the following points:

- Where did it happen?
- What were you doing?
- What did you see exactly?
- What did you do after, who did you tell?

