

Sample Lesson #1

What Is Cryptozoology?

Zoology is the study of animals, and the prefix *crypto* means “hidden or secret.” Hence, cryptozoology is the study of animals that have not been found. Many so-called monsters belong to this branch of study. The Loch Ness Monster, Abominable Snowman, and Bigfoot are examples. These creatures, called *cryptids*, have been discussed and investigated, but science has not verified them. Cryptozoologists search for clues and physical evidence to authenticate the creatures.

Tales of mythical monsters have been handed down from one generation to the next through folklore and legend. Reports of sightings and unreliable eyewitness accounts are often unclear and contradictory. People exaggerate details and add their own opinions. However, cryptozoologists seriously consider these stories when they investigate cryptids. Since they don’t utilize the scientific method, cryptozoology is not accepted as a true science.

Scientists do not know everything, however. Previously unknown species are being discovered every year. The okapi is a good example. This Central African creature looks like a deer or horse but has hind quarters that are striped, like a zebra’s. It has a long prehensile tongue, like a giraffe. The rare and strange-looking mammal was once a cryptid. But today, the okapi can be seen in zoos around the world. Another former cryptid is the mountain gorilla. This huge hairy creature was once thought to be a violent man-like monster that kidnapped and ate humans. Today, people know that mountain gorillas are quiet herbivores living mainly in the Virunga Mountains of Central Africa.

The Loch Ness Monster and Bigfoot are two of today’s famous cryptids. Stories about the Loch Ness Monster date all the way back to the 6th century. “Nessie” has been described as a dragon, sea serpent, and monster fish. Numerous studies have been conducted in the Scottish Highlands to locate and identify the creature. People have used sonar detectors, satellites, hydrophones, and even submersibles, and some data has been collected over the years. But no evidence proves the existence of Nessie. The same is true of Bigfoot, also known as Sasquatch. The large hairy humanoid has allegedly been spotted in the Pacific Northwest. Its relative, the Yeti, or Abominable Snowman, has been observed in the snowy Himalayan Mountains.

Cryptids are a big part of popular culture. They inspire music, theme park rides, films, television shows, comics, games, and artwork. There is even an International Cryptozoology Museum in Portland, Maine. Cryptids make life entertaining.



- RI.5.2 1. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
- A) Scientists do not know everything.
 - B) Animals once thought of as cryptids have been verified as real.
 - C) Mountain gorillas are quiet herbivores, not man-eating monsters.
 - D) Rare and strange-looking mammals usually turn out to be fictional.
- RI.5.1 2. Reread the second paragraph. What can you infer?
- A) Science does not accept folklore and legend as evidence.
 - B) Cryptozoologists are in training to become scientists.
 - C) The scientific method is not used to discover animal species.
 - D) all of the above
- RI.5.4 3. From the context clues, you can tell that to *authenticate* means to _____.
- exaggerate prove find inspire
- L.5.4.B 4. Study each syllable of the words shown below. Which words have to do with something hidden?
- encryption decryption crystallize outcry
- RI.5.8 5. The author claims that cryptids make life entertaining. Put a check next to evidence that supports this conclusion.
- _____ Cryptids inspire music, theme park rides, films, television shows, comics, games, and artwork.
- _____ Previously unknown species are being discovered every year.
- _____ Tales of mythical monsters have been handed down from one generation to the next.
- _____ Stories about the Loch Ness Monster date all the way back to the 6th century.
- RI.5.3 6. What is the relationship between Sasquatch and the Yeti?
- A) Both are cryptids that allegedly live in the Scottish Highlands.
 - B) Both are cryptids that allegedly live in the Himalayan Mountains.
 - C) They look similar but live in different parts of the world.
 - D) There is no relationship between the two creatures.