40 - Big Foot

Here, in the forests of the Northwest, the modern legend of Bigfoot is everywhere. Tales of a hulking, hairy, mysterious creature tromping through the tall trees, and scaring campers, abound.

When did tales of a mysterious ape/human creature first begin? How does the legend of Bigfoot play into myths of strange hairy creatures all over the world? Could Bigfoot actually be connected to the Evolution of Humans or maybe Bigfoot is just someone's tall and shaggy Uncle? One thing we know for sure, the folklore of Bigfoot-like creatures spans centuries and comes from all over the world.

There are many organizations dedicated to finding out the truth about Bigfoot-- such as The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization. Founded in 1995, they bill themselves as: "the only scientific research organization exploring the bigfoot/sasquatch mystery."

Over the last two decades, the BFRO has logged at least one Bigfoot sighting from every state, except Hawaii.

In order to prove the existence of a species, and classify it- scientifically- someone must provide a significant amount of evidence. This evidence most frequently includes a member of the species discovered: alive or dead. Other helpful evidence might include: fossils, hair, photographs or casts of footprints and yes, scat... aka poop.

Your best bet for spotting Bigfoot would be to travel to Washington State, Oregon, California, Florida, or Whitehall, New York which now boasts the highest number of Bigfoot sightings. Remember though, if you're looking to classify it as a species, take your notebook, sample collection kits, camera, with telephoto lens...

At the end of the day, nobody has conclusively proved there is a Bigfoot - just like nobody has proven there isn't one. On one hand technology has never been better, so chances are if Bigfoot existed we'd have found one. On the other hand, scientists estimate there are still 5 million species of animals and insects still to be identified. So, by all means - keep searching for Bigfoot.

Questions We Answer on Todays episode:

- 1. Is Bigfoot Real or imagined?
- 2. When did tales of a mysterious ape/human creature first begin?
- 3. How does the legend of Bigfoot play into myths of strange hairy creatures all over the world?
- 4. What are Cryptozoologists?

Grow Their Mind

With his sixteen-inch feet, Bigfoot would wear a size 27shoe! That's one whole size bigger than Guinness World Record holder, Jeison Orlando Rodríguez Hernández, who wears a size 26... and... one size smaller than an elephant's 17-inch long foot!

North American settlers started making reports of Bigfoot during the late 1800s and early 1900s, sharing their findings of footprints and first hand encounters. Then later came some questionable photographic evidence. All told there have been more than 23,000 sightings across the country!

Additional Resources

- 1. Bigfoot Facts for Kids Learn additional interesting <u>Kids Encyclopedia Facts</u> and images about Bigfoot. Kid-appropriate articles about Bigfoot include <u>Bigfoot Facts</u>, <u>Bigfoot, Texas Facts</u>, <u>Yeti Facts</u>, and <u>Willow Creek</u>. Broaden your horizon and soak it all in.
- 3. Video <u>How to draw Big Foot (Sasquatch)</u> An educational video to put your art skills to the test. With step-by-step instructions, learn how draw a furry Big Foot from head to toe. Enjoy the Art for Kids video. And send us your drawings and we'll share them on Who Smarted? social media!

Kid News

Wyatt Baldwin has been playing rock, paper, scissors since he was a kid. The game helped him settle disagreements with his three older sisters. "I never got the chance to pick what we watched on TV until I learned the sport of rock, paper, scissors," he told TIME for Kids.

Baldwin is president of the World Rock Paper Scissors Association. He's played in and hosted competitions all around the globe. He once had a 43-game winning streak. The secret to his success? "Look for patterns in either your opponent's moves or behavior," he says. As all serious rock, paper, scissors players know, there's more to the game than luck. Read more about rock, paper, scissors...Playing to Win Here.¹

¹ This activity guide is for the Who Smarted? podcast <u>www.WhoSmarted.com</u>