

Finding Bigfoot: a Virtual Scavenger Hunt

Age range: this scavenger hunt is aimed at teens, but it should be appropriate for older elementary students as well.

Join us as we hunt through the library's online databases for the elusive Bigfoot!

To get started, go to <https://metrolibrary.org/>, click on "Research & Learn" on the right side of the screen, and then click on "Databases" (second from the left, under the photo).

All of the library's databases are listed in alphabetical order. You will need to sign in using your library card number and last name.

1. Find the database "America's News." Click on "Visit Resource Website," and sign in. Search for "bigfoot." In the search limiters on the left side of the page, scroll down to "Source type," and click on "Video." Watch the video, "Is that Bigfoot crossing the mountain pass in video?"
Who first posted this video? _____
Do you think it's really Bigfoot? Why or why not?
2. Find the database "Explora for Secondary School Student Research." Search for "bigfoot," and click on the Topic Overview "Bigfoot (cryptozoology)." Read the article.
Elkanah Walker recorded tales of giant "men stealers" from what Native American people in the Pacific Northwest? _____
Cryptozoologists and other "believers" think Bigfoot could be what genus of large ape, originally from China, that is traditionally believed to have gone extinct about 100,000 years ago?

3. Find the database "Britannica Online Reference Center." Search for "Gigantopithecus." Read the article. *Gigantopithecus* is considered a "sister genus" to and once shared a common ancestor with the genus *Pongo*, which contains what living ape? _____
Why is *G. blacki* thought to have gone extinct? _____

4. Find the database "Opposing Viewpoints in Context." Search for "Deforestation." Stories about Bigfoot often serve as an allegory for environmental concerns, such as deforestation. When we destroy forests, we destroy the habitats of wildlife. Read the article.
Tropical forests house at least what fraction of Earth's biodiversity? _____
What can be done to conserve forests? _____

5. Find the database "Oxford English Dictionary (OED)." Search for "cryptid."
Beneath the definition, you will see dated quotations which use the word. Find the first instance in which the word was used. The first mention of the word "cryptid" was in what year? _____
According to the quotation, what term did "cryptid" replace? _____
Why do you think this mattered to cryptozoologists?
6. Find the database "EBSCOhost." Scroll down and select "eBook Academic collection." Search for "bigfoot." Click on the book *Abominable Science!* By Daniel Loxton. Scroll down and click on chapter one, "Cryptozoology: real science or pseudoscience?" Read the section on "The Georgia 'Bigfoot'." What can you deduce about evaluating "news" sources from this story?
7. Find the database "National Geographic Virtual Library." Search for "bigfoot." In the search limiters on the left side of the page, in the section "Content Types," click on "Videos." Watch the "Legend of Bigfoot" video. Why do you think people perpetuate Bigfoot hoaxes?
8. Find the database "Issues & Controversies." Search for "bigfoot." Click on the article, "Scientists deploy genetics in search of bigfoot." Read the article.
Who first posted this article? _____ Do you think it is a reputable news source?
9. Find the database "Academic Search Premier." In the first search field, type "bigfoot or sasquatch or yeti." In the second search field, after AND, type "sykes, bryan," and in the "Select a Field" dropdown box, select "AU Author." In the search limiters on the left side of the page, in the "Limit To" section, click on "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals." Click on the article, "Genetic analysis of hair samples..." , and read the abstract.
What was the outcome of the genetic tests on the "yeti" and other anomalous primate samples? _____
10. Honobia, OK (pronounced "*hoe-nubby*"), home to the annual Bigfoot Festival & Conference, is an unincorporated community on the border between western LeFlore County and eastern Pushmataha County, 15 miles southeast of Talihina.
Find the database "A to Z Maps Online." Click on "USA Maps" > "Modern US State Maps" > "Oklahoma" > "Political Outline Map of Oklahoma with County Data (Pol4)." Download the map, so you can zoom in. Find the border between Pushmataha and LeFlore counties. Go back and find the map "Political Outline Map of Oklahoma with County Data (Pol8)." Download it, and find Talihina on the map. Just southeast of Talihina is where Honobia and the Bigfoot Festival are located, in the densely wooded Kiamichi Mountains.
After all you have read here, do you think there are Bigfeet in those mountains?

Answer Key:

(Some questions are meant to provoke deeper thought and therefore have no right or wrong answer. Answers to fact-based questions only are listed here.)

1. Washington State Department of Transportation
2. Tshimakain people, *Gigantopithecus*
3. Orangutans, cooler temperatures in the region reduced and later eliminated the forests upon which it depended for food
4. Two-thirds, reforestation and afforestation, as well as other conservation efforts
5. 1983, monster
8. Reuters
9. Hair came from a Palaeolithic polar bear and a range of known extant mammals