



Leading Questions for Classroom Discussion **Bigfoot**

What are some common urban legends, myths, and other rumors that people believe?

- Consider popular legends across the world (Bigfoot, Loch Ness Monster, Atlantis, etc.) and where these legends are located
- Consider how popular myths and urban legends are similar in many ways (such as Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster or Atlantis and the Lost City of Gold)
- Consider if there are any local myths and urban legends in your area

Why do urban legends, myths, and other rumors continue to exist when there is little evidence to support them?

- Consider how these rumors are kept alive by routine “sightings” and “first-hand encounters”
- Consider the power of mass media in spreading rumors and even creating hysteria around stories or events that are not completely true
- Consider how it is extremely difficult to prove that something is NOT true (rather than having to prove that it is true)
- Consider some of the reasons these rumors may actually seem plausible, thus making them easy to believe

Do urban legends, myths, and other rumors serve any useful purpose?

- Consider how humans have a need to explain the “unknown,” and how they will go to great lengths to do so (for example, Greeks and Romans used elaborate myths to explain things like the seasons, day and night, etc.)
- Consider if there is an economic advantage for a community to have strange things in their area (for example, many older cities have “Ghost Tours” on a daily basis)
- Consider reasons why someone would spread rumors (maybe to raise fears, teach a lesson, or encourage some sort of action)