

LBRIS | The
WORST-CASE SCENARIO
Survival Handbook:
WEIRD
Junior Edition



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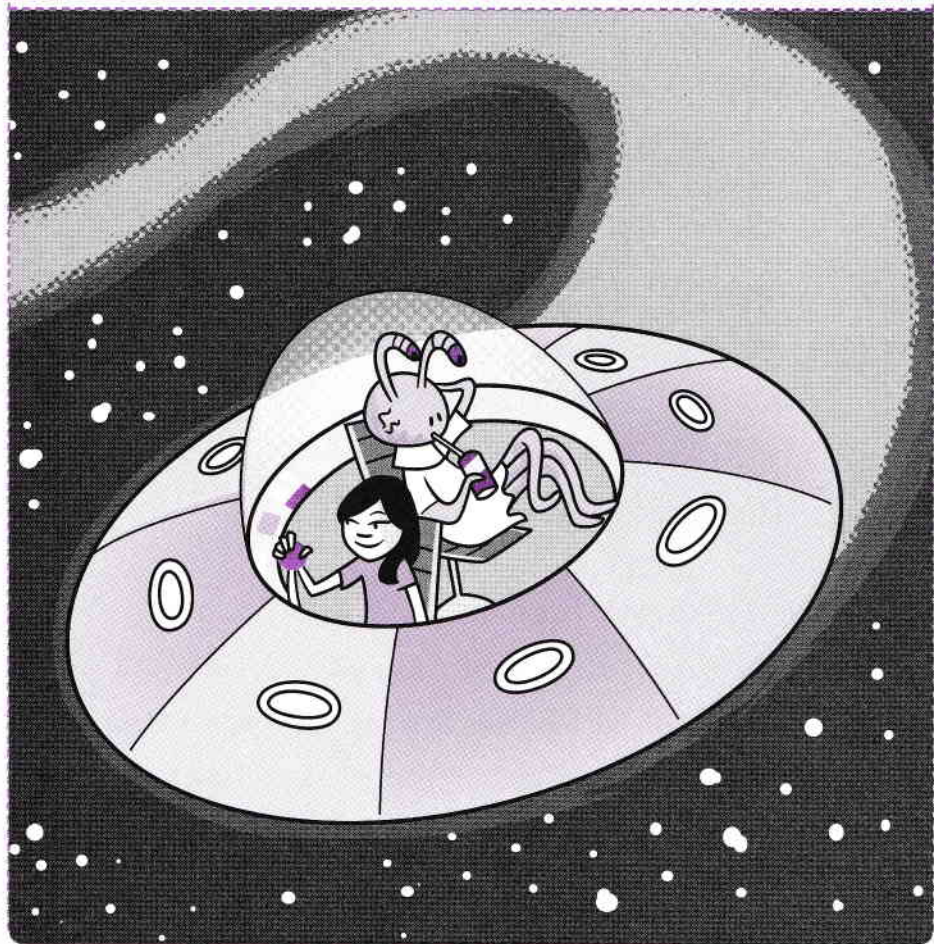
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Aliens and Other Outer-Space Oddities



How to Handle a UFO Sighting

It's a bird. It's a plane. It's a...wait—no, it isn't. What *is* it? You know that it's flying, and you know that it's some sort of object. Could it be...? Are you *really* witnessing an unidentified flying object, otherwise known as a UFO? Here's how to know.

1

Clock it.

Look at your watch or cell phone and note the exact time of your sighting. This step is super important because you'll want to see if other people reported seeing the same thing at the same time.

2

Observe and document.

If you have a device that takes pictures or video, start shooting. Otherwise, fetch a pen and paper. Spare no detail—write it *all* down and make a sketch of what you saw. Ask yourself:

- *What was the shape and color of the UFO?*

- *Was the object moving? Vertically, horizontally, or both? Was it landing or taking off?*
- *Did anything unusual happen during the sighting (electricity flickering on and off, animals acting strangely, etc.)?*
- *Any noise? What did it sound like?*
- *Am I nuts?*



BE AWARE • UFOs have turned out to be meteors, new military planes on test flights, weather balloons, and the work of pranksters playing with video cameras.

3

Report.

If you really think you've seen a UFO, work with an adult to report your sighting to local police and an agency that specializes in UFO sightings, like the National UFO Reporting Center in Davenport, Washington.

Interview with an Alien Hunter

Seth Shostak is a senior astronomer at SETI Institute (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), an organization of scientists and educators who are scanning deep space for signs of life.

Q: What type of signals is SETI Institute listening for?

A: We listen for radio signals that are produced by a transmitter. Many things in the sky also make radio noise—the sun, for example. Strange objects like pulsars, quasars, and big black holes also produce natural radio static. But in our SETI experiments, we look for a signal that only a transmitter could make—a signal that’s at only one spot on the radio dial. This signal would tell us there’s someone out there who’s intelligent enough to invent radio.

Q: Is there a specific area of space you’re focusing on?

A: Most of the time, we point our antennas at nearby stars. We hope that at least some of the stars will have planets like Earth with intelligent life. Our antennas are very sensitive. They could pick up a transmitter with the power of a cell phone if it were on Jupiter. An extraterrestrial’s broadcast could be found even if it comes from hundreds of trillions of miles away, which is the distance of the nearest stars.

Q: Have you pictured the extraterrestrials you're looking for?

A: In movies and on television, most aliens look like us—with two eyes, two arms, and two legs. There's no reason to think that real extraterrestrials would resemble Earthlings—after all, they've developed on an entirely different planet. It's possible that we might even detect aliens that aren't living but are some sort of thinking machines.

Q: Why is SETI Institute's research important?

A: Science is all about curiosity. We just want to know how the universe works. In a universe with ten thousand billion billion visible stars, could it be that this is the only world where intelligent life exists? Wouldn't you want to know if others are out there?

Q: If you ever have the chance to meet extraterrestrial life, what's the first thing you'd ask?

A: I would ask, "Do you have music?"



How to Survive an Alien Abduction

You're taking out the trash, minding your own business, when you're suddenly blinded by a bright light. Hovering above you is a flying saucer, and the aliens inside have their eyes on *you*. Before you can say "E.T., go home," you're being sucked into their spaceship! Here's how to handle those uninvited visitors from space when they try to get their tentacles on you.

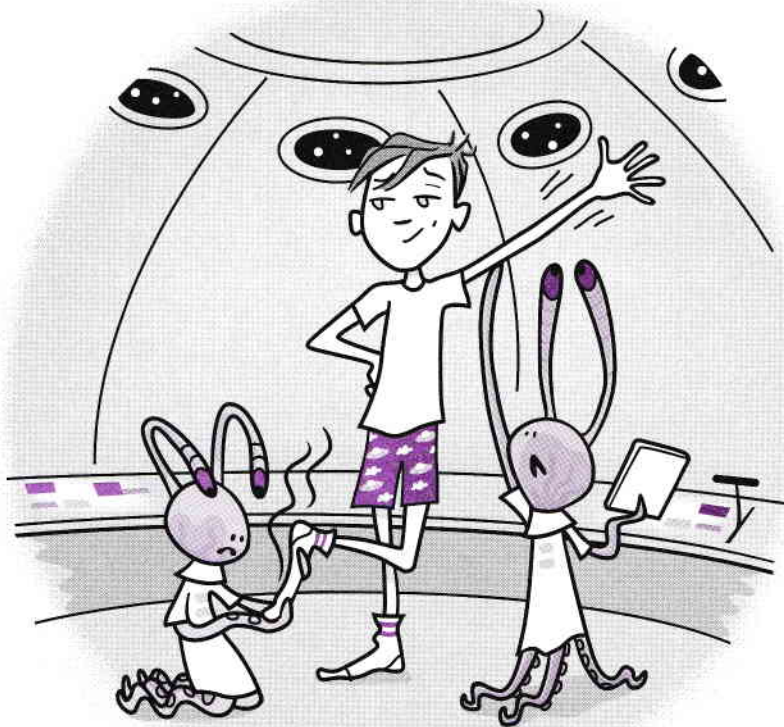
1

Stay calm.

No need to freak (just yet). If the aliens think you're a threat, they might zap you with electric lances, phasers, or some alien technology that can toast an Earthling in nanoseconds. Be agreeable and remember that aliens probably don't have the same customs as you and your friends. If you reach out to shake their hands, the gesture may mean "Hello, I want to destroy you!" in Zorzootzese, so follow their lead when it comes to greetings. (Or just don't move at all.)

2 Show your chill skills.

It's possible that the aliens only want to check you out, boast about the size of their catch to their buddies back home, take a picture with you, and then let you go. Your best bet? Wait it out before breaking out your alien-busting moves and trying to make a Great Escape.



What's Your Worst Case?

Being captured and
put in a zoo for alien
entertainment?

or

Being used as a lab
rat for the advancement
of alien science?

3 Get to know'em.

It's not every day that you get to hang out with alien-kind. So, make it your mission to find out all the deets. Use pictures, pantomime, whatever it takes to communicate. Which galaxy are they from? What does their planet look like? What tunes do they have on their alien iPods?

4 Be a secret apprentice.

If it becomes clear that the aliens don't plan on throwing you back into Earth's pond, your only chance to get back home is to fly there yourself. But before you go conking two aliens' big-brained heads together to knock them out, study their piloting techniques and understand how to operate the UFO's navigation system. Otherwise, you'll be stranded in space. Forever.

What I Did on My Alien Vacation

People claiming to have been abducted by aliens often tell similar stories. Here's what you might expect from a flying-saucer escapade:

- **Capture.** You are removed from your earthly surroundings.
- **Conference.** The aliens speak to you.
- **Examination.** Your body is scanned by a strange contraption.
- **Tour.** You're given a guided tour of the spacecraft.
- **Journey.** You go for a joyride around the solar system.
- **Return.** You are taken back to the place where you were captured, or sometimes to a different place.

