

Bigfoot BEAM activity:

This is typically a high-energy activity and one that pushes students to expand their understanding of what makes good information while considering a low-stakes subject (Bigfoot).

The library has a set of sources on Bigfoot (everything from encyclopedia entries to an FBI report). Students are broken into small groups, with each group examining two of these sources to determine what they are, whether they are authoritative, and what they could be used for. I typically put the following six purposes on the board:

1. Provide evidence of Bigfoot at GFU
2. Explain to me in a classroom discussion setting how people describe Bigfoot
3. Write a research paper on the history of Bigfoot
4. Convince a friend that Bigfoot exists
5. Debunk a Bigfoot sighting
6. Find a Bigfoot yourself

After some time discussing amongst themselves, I ask each group to describe the sources they have and share what purpose they would use it for and why. As part of our discussion, I like to highlight the ways that the sources in the set "speak" to each other (for example, the FBI report from their investigation of Bigfoot and the NYT article about the FBI investigation).

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Learners will have fun in (semi-) scholarly exploration, and will be rewarded for asking questions.
- 2) Learners will connect the often disembodied voices of printed literature to the human creators and human receivers of various sources.
- 3) Learners will observe the way that cited sources (and therefore the scholarly conversation) are connected.
- 4) Learners will bust the myth of purely good or bad sources.

Materials:

Bigfoot. (2007). In U. McGovern (Ed.), *Chambers Dictionary of the unexplained*. Chambers Harrap. Credo Reference.

Bigfoot Drawing – Provenance unknown

Bigfoot Encounters (n.d.) Clue to “Gorilla Men” found, may be lost race of giants. *Bigfoot - Sasquatch Legends*. <http://www.bigfootencounters.com/legends/seeahtik.htm>.

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<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/forensic-expert-says-bigfoot-is-real?loggedin=true&rnd=1684340072644>

George Fox University Archives, ""The Crescent" Student Newspaper, April 1, 1999, prank" (1999). *"The Crescent" Student Newspaper*. 1215.
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Kadane, L. (2022, July 21). The true origin of Sasquatch. *BBC Travel*.
<https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20220720-the-true-origin-of-sasquatch>

Kirlin, R. L. & Hertel, L. (1980). Estimates of pitch and vocal tract length from recorded vocalizations of purported bigfoot. In Ames, M. (Ed.), *Manlike monsters on trial : Early records and modern evidence* (pp. 274 - 290). UBC Press.

Stack, L (2019, June 6). The F.B.I. once helped in the hunt for bigfoot. *The New York Times*.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/06/us/fbi-bigfoot-file.html>

Staff Correspondent. (1924, July 16) Clue to gorilla men found: May be lost race of giants. *The Seattle Daily Times*, 4.

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