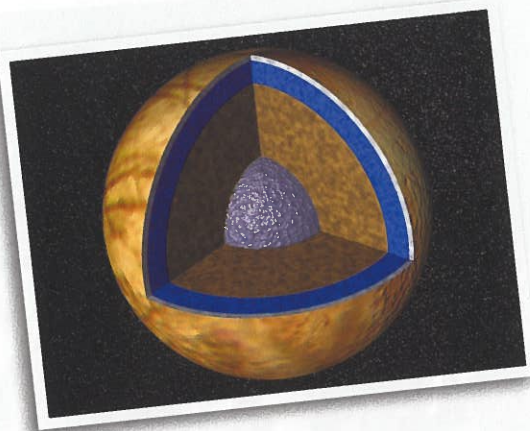




**Above:** Carl Sagan with a model of the Viking lander that visited Mars in 1976. Subsequent landings have failed to provide clear evidence of life on Mars—though some conspiracy theorists claim positive findings have been concealed.

**Below:** Jupiter's fourth largest moon, Europa, shown in cutaway. It is possible Europa had oceans in its past and maybe still has liquid water trapped beneath thick ice on its surface and so, perhaps life forms, too.



## EVIDENCE

SCIENTISTS BELIEVE VENUS TO BE HOSTILE TO LIFE, THOUGH ADAMSKI CLAIMED HIS VENUSIANS LIVED SAFELY UNDERGROUND. ADAMSKI DID NOT BELIEVE THE FIRST-EVER PHOTOS OF THE BARREN FAR SIDE OF THE MOON, TAKEN IN 1959 BY A SOVIET SPACECRAFT, SAYING THEY'D BEEN FAKED TO HIDE THE ALIEN CITIES THAT WERE REALLY THERE. LIFE OF SOME KIND MIGHT EXIST ON MARS, BUT BACTERIA ARE UNLIKELY TO BE UP TO BUILDING SPACECRAFT TO VISIT EARTH!

## 1950-1960s

# HAVE ALIENS WALKED ON EARTH?

Did extraterrestrials visit Earth in ancient times? Science says not. But ET theorists point to "evidence" from antiquity as well as more recent close encounters.

Supporters of the "aliens came here long ago" theory point to ancient stories of gods flying in fiery chariots and to pictures of ancient rulers in strange garb and headdress, said to be aliens in spacesuits. Extraterrestrial visitors arrived with advanced technology to observe Earth and perhaps genetically modify its life forms. They helpfully passed on some basic technology—such as teaching the Sumerians agriculture and math. They also helped build the Pyramids and Stonehenge.

This theory presupposes that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe. In the 1960s, astrophysicists I. S. Shklovski and Carl Sagan, serious scientists and essentially sceptics, judged that extraterrestrials were "possible but not proven." Erich Von Daniken on the other hand claimed much "evidence" for alien visitors in the art, religion, and folklore of many cultures. Zecharia Sitchkin went further, suggesting aliens produced modern humans: from a distant planet called Nibiru they flew to Earth for minerals and genetically engineered the primitive primates they found here to make intelligent workers. When the aliens left, discomfited by natural disasters and the last Ice Age, humans took over.

In 1952 George Adamski said he met a man from Venus in the Colorado Desert of California. The alien, who had long blonde hair, used telepathy to talk to Adamski and invited him on a trip to Venus in his flying saucer. Adamski was not alone; others, too, claim to have met aliens, who visit from planets near and far.

