

4 Case Studies: Fact Checking

Are there two sides to every story?

1 Not believing in the moon landing ?

A. Watch the beginning of the video and find information about: the presenter; the historical and political context in 1969.

B. Pairwork. Watch the whole video.

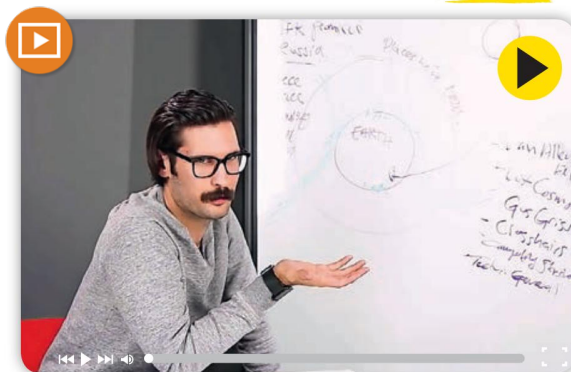
Pupil A focuses on: why we didn't go to the moon; lost cosmonauts; competing shadows; slow motion footage;

Pupil B focuses on: Van Hallen belts; crosshairs; lack of artefacts; easily recreated footage.

C. Share your findings with your partner, then get ready to report back to the class.

D. Compare the arguments from the video with those from spacecentre.co.uk.

VIDEO N°28



2 The Roswell UFO incident



A. Before reading. Look at the picture. What do you think Roswell is famous for?

B. Read the text. What happened and where?

C. Focus on paragraph 2. What are the two sides of the story?

D. Have your say. What do you think happened?

The Roswell UFO¹ incident took place in the U.S. in June or July 1947, when an airborne object crashed on a ranch near Roswell, New Mexico. Explanations of what took place are based on both official and unofficial communications. Although the crash is attributed to a secret

5 U.S. military Air Force surveillance balloon by the U.S. government, the most famous explanation of what occurred is that the object was a spacecraft containing extraterrestrial life. Since the late 1970s, the Roswell incident has been the subject of much controversy, and conspiracy theories have arisen about the event.

10 The United States Armed Forces maintains that what was recovered near Roswell was debris from the crash of an experimental high-altitude surveillance balloon belonging to what was then a classified (top secret) program named Mogul. In contrast, many UFO proponents maintain that an alien craft was found, its occupants were captured,

15 and that the military engaged in a massive cover-up. The Roswell incident has turned into a widely known pop culture phenomenon, making the name "Roswell" synonymous with UFOs. Roswell has become the most publicized of all alleged UFO incidents.

1 UFO /ju:ˈefəʊ/: Unidentified Flying Object