

### 1: 15 Unexplored Corners of the Earth | Mental Floss

*Interestingly, Greenland is spread across a vast area of 8,36, square miles and 80 percentage of it covered by ice. It is the exact reason why Greenland remain least explored and underpopulated. By , only people live in this large island.*

Share Shares 1K The Amazon is home to myths and legends that are as vast and mysterious as the jungle itself. Some have ancient roots, and others are urban legends that evolved after the European conquest. But one thing is true across the board: The Amazon is filled to the brim with wonder and mystery. El Tunchi is angered by anyone who disrespects the natural environment. He is also drawn to people who respond to his whistle. Not doing so is easier said than done—the whistle gets increasingly louder and higher pitched, and listeners have an unbearable urge to mimic the tune. Those who answer his call are sure to meet a hideous death. Some might say this versatile and important food was a gift from the gods, and it has a mythical origin story. The daughter of a local chief mysteriously became pregnant, which brought shame on her father and home. Unexpectedly, Mani died on her first birthday, and a new type of plant sprouted on her grave. The trees are beautiful, massive, and said to possess magical properties. They are considered protectors of the jungle and will curse anyone who offends them. Stories of this beast are present throughout all of Central and South America. Most commonly, the lobizon is described as half-man and half-wolf, with red eyes and razor-sharp teeth. Unlike European and North American werewolf myths, one does not become a lobizon by being bitten. Instead, the beastly fate is bestowed upon anyone who is the seventh consecutive son in his family. He often takes the form of a loved one and lures people deep into the jungle—until they are lost forever. Chullachaqui has a peg leg or goat hoof, depending on the legend, so you can easily note his tracks: One such legend tells of Bufeo Colorado, a pink dolphin who shape-shifts into an attractive fisherman. He uses his charm to lure girls away and convince them to have sex with him. If he succeeds, the girl becomes pregnant and gives birth to a pink dolphin. Apparently, Bufeo is relentless and shows up night after night—until he gets his way or is exposed. The only way to break his power is to fool him into running out the doorway of a high, stilted house, which will cause him to fall to the ground and transform back into a dolphin. It has armor-like scales, and South Americans consider its hefty, boneless fish steaks a delicacy. Natives believe the fish was once a human warrior from the Uaias tribe of the southwestern Amazon. He would criticize the gods, and when his father was away, he would execute villagers without reason. Pirarucu was fishing when he saw the storm coming his way but merely laughed it off. While the other villagers ran in fright, a bolt of lightning struck Pirarucu and threw him into the Tocantins River, where he was transformed into the intimidating fish. Amazonians refer to the bird as la tanrilla and use its bones to cast love spells. She has the body of a giant boa constrictor with a massive shell. She has grown so large that she can no longer move freely about the jungle and stays in a single spot, allowing vegetation to grow over her body and serve as camouflage. If unsuspecting passersby human or animal get too close, the Sachamama will devour them whole. There are other differences between the Mapinguari and similar big-footed creatures. It aggressively pursues human hunters—instead of running and hiding. Furthermore, descriptions of him are quite bizarre, including backward armadillo feet, a single eye, and a gaping mouth in his stomach. Content and copy writer by day and list writer by night, S. Grant enjoys exploring the bizarre, unusual, and topics that hide in plain sight.

### 2: Unexplored Africa: 17 Controversial Things We Used to Believe In

*Hidden India: Unexplored Gujarat - Crafts, Wildlife and Archaeology India Usually off the tourist routes, Gujarat boasts remnants of an Indus Valley civilization dating back some say more than 8, years, 2,year-old remnants of the Buddhist emperor Ashoka, the first British commercial outpost in India, and the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi.*

According to local beliefs, the forests were full of hidden settlements inhabited by supernatural creatures. Most of them have been forgotten over time, but the fairy queen Maeve received a special place in the history of the Knocknarea area and she even has a tomb that is visited by thousands of people every year. Those who visit her final resting place are searching for evidence in the mystical secrets of ancient Irish tales. The Irish town of Sligo is famous for its stunning green hill that smells like fresh grass in the morning and covers itself with shimmering mystery at night. There are at least three possible explanations behind this name. This interpretation also suggests that if the hill contains burials, they may belong to the ancient rulers of these lands. Finally, a very simple explanation for the name: Do you dare enter a fairy ring? The mythical mushroom portals of the supernatural The Enchanting Tomb The greatest treasure of the smooth green hill is a grave that is located in the heart of the site. It has never been excavated, but there are at least two suspicions about what hides inside. First, it is believed that it contains a passage tomb dated to the Neolithic period. Secondly, many believe that the famous Fairy Queen is buried in a tomb inside this meter 1, ft. It is one of the most intriguing of the unexplored archaeological sites in Ireland and is known as the tomb of Medb or Maeve. Researchers suggest that it is about years old and, due to its long history, it became a place entwined with legend and myth. As long as the site remains unexcavated, it is impossible to conclude what it may hold. Researchers suggest that it is possible that the mysterious tomb belongs to a known Neolithic religious center in this area. However, tourists from around the world come to enjoy the hill with the burial of an ancient fairy queen. Who was this mysterious fairy queen whose remains may be hidden under the green grass of the Knocknarea? In old Irish mythology, she appears as a fairy queen and an independent female deity. There are a bunch of rich legends related to her, many of them describing her cruel behavior. She also seems to be one of the strongest warriors among the fairy-related deities. She was a wife of Ailill and had seven sons. She was murdered by Furbaide who wanted to avenge the death of his mother, who Maeve had killed. Legends say Queen Medb was a warrior queen. Michelle Hunt The modern followers of paganism have created a beautiful vision of the goddess based on the old mythology. According to Patricia Telesco: Her symbols are birds and gold. She also attends to human affairs by providing protection, wise leadership and prudent conventions. Works of art depict Maeve with golden birds on Her shoulders, whispering magical knowledge into Her ear. Near the beginning of May, the wee folk of Ireland come out of hiding for a grand celebration of spring. In some cases, this will please the fairies so much that they will offer to perform a service or leave you a gift in return! Public Domain This description proves that the old religion is still alive and has become a part of life in the area around the tomb, but also across Ireland. The interest in the old Irish goddess has even spread around the world, so she became an inspiration for many artists. She is also related to another famous site in Tara, Ireland.

### 3: 5 Unbelievable Ocean Mysteries We Still Haven't Solved

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By Rachel Nuwer 28 November In , an anonymous mapmaker “ most likely an Italian “ carved a meticulous depiction of the known world into two halves of conjoined ostrich eggs. The grapefruit-sized globe included recent breaking discoveries of mysterious distant lands, including Japan, Brazil and the Arabic peninsula. As Lewis Carroll famously pointed out , a perfectly objective and faithful 1: Therefore, mapmakers must make sensible design decisions in order to compress the physical world into a much smaller, flatter depiction. Those decisions inevitably introduce personal biases, however, such as our tendency to place ourselves at the centre of the world. Thinkstock Which is why, he says, the first thing most new Google Earth users do is to look up their own address. Modern technology enables this exercise in ego, but the tendency itself is nothing new. It dates back to the oldest known world map, a 2,year-old cuneiform tablet discovered near Baghdad that puts Babylon at its centre. Mapmakers throughout history adopted a similar bias toward their own homeland, and little seems to have changed since then. Some Australian maps are even rotated so that the southern hemisphere is on top. View image of Missed a bit? Commerce is just one part of that. Users then decide how they want to use it. Google Nevertheless, even digital maps skew toward the things that their users deem most important. Those areas that the majority sees as unworthy of attention “ poor neighbourhoods like the Orangi shanty town in Karachi, Pakistan, or the Neza-Chalco-Itza slum in Mexico city “ as well as those places that mapmakers do not often go “ war-torn regions, North Korea “ remain grossly undermapped. This neglect means maps of remote regions can contain errors that go unnoticed for years. Scientists paying a visit to Sandy Island , a speck of land in the Coral Sea near New Caledonia, recently discovered that the island simply did not exist. Google has two approaches to addressing these problems: View image of Favelas may be close to well-known cities, but they are not well-mapped Thinkstock Credit: Thinkstock But while many communities have literally put themselves on the map, others have not. Traditional paper maps tend to neglect these areas as well. View image of Coastlines often change faster than maps can track them Getty Images Credit: Getty Images The ocean, likewise, is one of the most poorly mapped areas of the planet, despite the fact that it occupies the most space. In light of increasing interest in underwater mining and drilling, certain countries “ especially Russia “ are looking to lay claim on large tracts of ocean floor. Additionally, with sea ice quickly receding, more and more territory will come up for grabs. To draw attention to this gap of knowledge, Brotton and artist Adam Lowe are creating a 3D map of the ocean floor without water. Low quality For others, though, untold stories abound even in some of the most prolifically mapped places in the world. Dave Imus , an award-winning mapmaker based in Oregon, acknowledges that much of the world has been mapped in a basic sense, but believes that the vast majority of maps are not good enough.

### 4: The truth behind some legends, you may have myth-ed (16 Photos) : theCHIVE

*There were huge, unexplored areas of South America that were so deep and dense that there wasn't really any way of knowing what was buried in the jungle. One of the most famous people to go in search of the city "and disappear in the process" was Colonel Percy Fawcett.*

Those large, beautiful bodies of water are home to an infinite number of strange creatures and bewildering phenomena. The average ocean depth is 14, feet deep " that leaves a lot of room for the mysterious, the mythical and everything in between. For Gorell, one of the most iconic examples of just how unknown the ocean is comes from a camera project around Dubbed Operation Deep Scope , a team of explorers placed a non-obtrusive camera on the bottom of the deep ocean off the Gulf of Mexico. In an instant, a new discovery was made. It would take a NOAA explorer an "extraordinarily [huge] part of their future life" to study the images coming in from ongoing expeditions, Gorell says frankly. For the near future, your curiosities about the Bermuda Triangle will have to go unsolved for now. Ocean Mysteries That Remain Unsolved 1. The four submarine disappearances of It was a bad year for submersibles. In , four separate submarines from different countries completely disappeared. Theories around the unrelated disappearances vary, from accidental torpedo self-firing to attacks kept under wraps by the government particularly between the Scorpion and K All four missing subs still have no explanation, and considering how deep the potential remains could have sunk, an explanation might never arrive. A cannibal shark in Australia Possibly the only thing scarier than a shark is a cannibal shark. After scientists recovered a tag that had been tracking a nine-foot long great white, they discovered something surprising. The shark had suddenly dove 1, feet, the temperature on the tag going from 46 degrees Fahrenheit to 78 degrees Fahrenheit. The only way the temperature could change that swiftly is if the shark had been eaten by something larger. Researchers involved have also tossed around theories of a tussle with a killer whale, but others say it is likely a "two-ton colossal cannibal great white shark. Flickr, Lwp Kommunikacio 3. But Japan might have a similar mystery of its own. In , a local diver near Yonaguni Jima, an island south of Japan, discovered a large section of underwater formations. The structures, according to Masaaki Kimura, a marine geologist at the University of Ryukyus, look like castle ruins, five temples, a stadium and a triumphal arch. Others, like Boston University professor Robert Schoch, call the structures all natural and a classic case of "basic geology," because sandstone tends to break along planes into straight edges. The milky sea phenomena Sailors of yore used to tell tales of suddenly encountering "pale, milky, glowing waters. In , a British merchant vessel documented that the sea looked "milky-white. A follow-up study from Haddock and three other scientists concluded that the bacteria glows to attract fish, so it can be ingested and live inside of it. After numerous disappearances, the Bermuda Triangle has cut quite a name for itself in the world of mystery and conspiracy theories. Major tragedies began in , when the U. In , five Navy bombers got lost flying over the region, compasses failing to work. They eventually lost fuel and had to land in the sea. When a rescue plane was sent to find them, it disappeared along with the men in the bombers. Theories about the disappearances range from the supernatural, from aliens to rips in the space time continuum. The latest scientific theory is that gas hydrates created sinkholes near the region.

### 5: Surroundings | Monte Velho Eco Retreats

*I remember seeing a s map of Utah which depicted areas in the south which were "unexplored" and "unmapped". This is amazing as it was only six decades ago.*

Founded two years ago, Terramar has organized the first scientific expeditions with experts of various disciplines to a massive Tepui mountain called Marahuaca, rising sheer from the jungle to an average height of 9, feet. Interest in Expeditions The results have sparked excitement in scientific circles here, in the United States and in Europe. The Royal Geographical Society of London has shown interest in mounting a joint expedition. Among the discoveries are two subspecies of bird--a wren and a sparrow--which are totally new to science, scores of new insect species, three types of poisonous snakes and so far unidentified rodents. Other significant curiosities include an orchid previously seen only in the Chilean Andes, scorpion fossils and a male specimen of a dragonfly whose only other recorded specimen was a female found in Suriname years ago. But a phenomenon of the Marahuaca Tepui that really puzzles the scientists is the presence of numerous tracks proving the existence of deer on the summit. Animals on Mountain The animals may once have climbed like mountain goats, but scientists cannot exclude the possibility that they were isolated on the summit by erosion after the mountains surged up from sea level between 1 billion and 1. The first Europeans to visit Marahuaca arrived in an expedition led by the 19th-Century naturalist Robert Schomburgk. Attempts to scale the summit, including one by an Everest veteran, have failed. The Terramar expeditions have been mounted with minimum publicity, unlike a big two-year project farther south at Cerro Neblina in which the Royal Geographical Society is involved. The 9,foot Neblina mountain, which straddles the Brazilian frontier and is the highest peak in that country, also revealed a treasure trove of botanical specimens. Charles Brewer-Carias, a veteran Venezuelan explorer who organized the expedition in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution, says the results have been outstanding. Untouched by Man The remoteness of Neblina and Marahuaca has given them unusual ecological systems virtually untouched by man where insects and reptiles previously thought extinct abound. There are about Tepuis in Venezuela and four or five similar formations in Suriname, Guyana and Colombia. Only South Africa has table-top mountains in similar numbers. Terramar plans four expeditions to Marahuaca in to look for deer and explore how life forms have developed. Expeditions to Marahuaca face formidable logistical problems. Tree of Life The Yekuana Indians of the area believe Marahuaca to be sacred, representing a giant tree of life from which all plants and animals originate. They make their blowpipes from a special reed called kurata that grows only at Marahuaca. Identified by Schomburgk, it is of such high quality that the Yekuana trade it with the Yanomani Indians in neighboring Brazil. The mountain is almost always rain-sodden and inhospitable to expedition teams. The almost constant rains make it hazardous for Terramar to fly to the summit by helicopter, the only way of reaching there, and measure the towering waterfalls.

*In fact most of the areas of Greenland is covered by ice caps, make this place to least populated and unexplored. The ice sheets of Greenland have thickness of meters and have an age of , years.*

After years of relentless warfare, he presided over present-day France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and other territories. Nevertheless, the might of this empire rested on Charlemagne alone, and after his death it quickly fell apart. Here are 13 facts about the first Holy Roman Emperor. Pepin III served until Then, Carloman suddenly died in Exactly how Carloman perished so conveniently is mysterious. The most common account is that he died of a nosebleed, though what caused it is a matter of debate, with one historian proposing a peptic ulcer as the underlying issue. As the King of the Franks, Charlemagne set out on an ambitious and bloody campaign to expand his territory. By the time of his death in , this kingdom included the majority of what is now considered Western, and some of Central, Europe. Not since the Roman Empire had this much of the continent been controlled by one ruler. Because of this albeit fragile unification, Charlemagne is sometimes called the father of Europe. Over the centuries, the name Charlemagne became associated with European unification, whether through peaceful initiatives such as the European Union or war. Charlemagne had arrived in Rome a few weeks earlier at the request of the pope, but by many accounts, including that of his court scholar Einhard, he was not expecting his new role, and only realized what was happening when the pope put the imperial crown upon his head. Importantly, the coronation recognized Charlemagne as ruler of a Holy Roman Empire, which carried an associated ambition of outdoing the military and cultural achievements of the pagan Roman Empire. Charlemagne loved church music, particularly the liturgical music of Rome. This event helped spark the spread of traditional Gregorian chant through the Frankish churches. Charlemagne was a fierce proponent of Christianity, yet he had great respect for the culture of pagan antiquity. He also saw his empire as a direct successor to the glory of the Roman world. The scholars of the Carolingian Renaissance discovered and preserved as much of antiquity as possible, and its survival into the modern day is largely thanks to their efforts. On Frankish campaigns, soldiers would bring back ancient Latin literature alongside other loot. Carolingian monks meticulously copied these old texts into new volumes, helping preserve Cicero, Pliny the Younger, Ovid, and Ammianus Marcellinus. As Charlemagne conquered Western Europe, he recognized the need for a standard currency. Instead of a variety of different gold coins, his government produced and disseminated silver coinage that could be traded across the empire—the first common currency on the continent since the Roman era. Charlemagne was an imposing figure, with a height estimated between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet 4 inches, which was quite a bit taller than the average male height at the time. According to Einhard, he dressed in the ordinary clothes of the Frankish people, with a blue cloak over his tunic, linen shirt, and long hose. The one bit of flash he always had was a sword, worn on a belt of gold or silver. He also was not fond of flamboyant dress in the people around him. An anecdotal tale from the 9th-century *De Carolo Magno* relates how he spent a whole day tormenting some courtiers who returned from a festival decked out in silk and ribbons. He made them go hunting with him without a chance to change their clothes, and immediately upon returning had them attending him into the night. The next morning he ordered them to return, dressed in their wrecked finery, and ridiculed them for demeaning themselves by wearing such impractical clothes. Amidst all those years riding around Europe waging war, Charlemagne somehow found time to get married to five different women and have relationships with several concubines. He fathered around 18 children. After his army entered the Iberian Peninsula in , having been promised an alliance by Sulaiman Ibn al-Arabi in Barcelona that could spread Christendom into the Muslim territory, they made quick progress into the south towards Zaragoza. There, things went wrong. The governor, Hussain Ibn al-Ansari, resisted the Franks , and after some negotiation, offered gold in exchange for a Frankish retreat. Charlemagne accepted and left, destroying the defensive walls of Pamplona on the way back so they could not be used as a base for attack against his men. Unfamiliar with the mountainous landscape, the Frankish rear guard was overwhelmed, losing many lives, including the prefect of Breton, Roland. The bold Roland was immortalized and mythologized in the medieval epic poem *The Song of Roland*, one of the oldest surviving examples of

French literature. Most notoriously, in he is said to have ordered the execution of around Saxons. The massacre gained new historical prominence in the 20th century, after the Nazis built a stone monument in â€”the Sachsenhain memorial â€”remembering its victims. Charlemagne was reframed as an enemy of traditional Germanic culture and an example of the evils of the Catholic Church. Some stones were erected at the site where the Saxons were believed to have been killed. This demonization of Charlemagne was brief, however, and by the Nazis were celebrating the th anniversary of his birth as a symbol of German superiority. All of the strength of his government radiated from his reputation and the threat of war if he was not obeyed. These three kingdoms continued to break down until the deposition of Charles III in , at which point most of the Carolingian power was gone.

### 7: BBC - Future - The last unmapped places on Earth

*The ocean, likewise, is one of the most poorly mapped areas of the planet, despite the fact that it occupies the most space. "The great terra incognita is the ocean bed," Brotton says.*

So it was assumed to be just a story. That is until , when German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann started excavating ruins in Turkey, which showed a city that was built and re-built over thousands of years. At first no one thought that this was the mythical Troy, until they kept on excavating and some of the points from the legend, started matching up with reality. As the story goes, he used to live in an abandoned house, and due to an electrical accident, he was permanently glowing green. You could also drive into an abandoned tunnel that was supposedly his hangout, and call out for him. This spectre was assumed to be a local legend, until it was proven true. Raymond Robinson was a 9-year old boy when he was injured by an electrical line " taking on 22,00 volts, something which had killed a boy a year earlier. Though he was suspected to die, Raymond lived, but was severely disfigured, losing his eyes, nose and right arm. Sometimes, the people that he met were friendly, other times, not so much, which is were the legends began. Robinson died in , but his legend still remains. According to the experts, the first time anyone travelled from Europe to North America, was in That all changed in , when evidence of a colony built by the Norse was discovered and excavated in Newfoundland, Canada. No one knows what happened to the colonists and where they went, but this is indisputable proof that the legend of ancient Viking mariners was true. According to the locals, an evil spirit lived in the lake and would kill anyone who came too close. In , a local group of villagers disregarded those warnings and decided to settle close to the lake, instead of the high land. Nearly 1, people the entire contingent that moved closer to the lake died of no apparent cause, along with their livestock. Those who lived on the high land, were fine. After scientists went into explore, they found that Lake Nyos was deep and contained carbon dioxide, trapped underneath. When a landslide released the CO2 as happens at least 2x per century , the cloud of carbon dioxide suffocated everyone nearby. When naturalists finally came to Australia, they saw that the legends were completely wrong. The two heads included a baby in the pouch, and as they learned more about marsupials, the Kangaroo became less of a cryptid and more of a full-fledged, real-life awesome animal. One day, they were travelling through a mountain passage during the winter when the weather overtook them, and the hail mercilessly killed them. They were never seen again. This was rumoured to be a legend, until a lake was found. Skeleton Lake, is a small body of water that is filled to the brim with human bones, and you can see them lying at the bottom of the lake. In total, archaeologists found bodies, all of them dying from blunt force trauma. For most of the 19th and 20th century, people thought that these massive trees were a hoax until loggers cut down a redwood and shipped it to the World Fair in New York City. Due to its size, however, it had to be cut into manageable segments. This did little to dispel the myth that it was real, with people thinking that it was an elaborate carving. Once photography was invented and widespread, then people started to believe in the Redwoods. Some think that a plague may have come to town and afflicted those with weaker systems, aka, kids. In this case the Pied Piper was an analogue for death. In any case, kids disappeared from the town of Hamelin, and no one knows why. The stories also indicated that he had built a river of mercury that no one could cross. In , an underground tomb was found, containing more than 8 thousand terracotta warriors standing over an additional underground tomb, guarding a river that was once filled with mercury. Since they were right about the soldiers and the mercury, odds are the poisons are for real too. They could travel across oceans thousands of years before any other culture had the technology. It took barely a month to get from Hawaii to French Polynesia, a distance of 2, miles. This was done without any modern technology, just traditional Polynesian sailing instruments.

8: About giants and a bad mother-in law! Â« [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) - Travel to unexplored Greece

*In our ever expanding civilization with its voracious push into the frontiers of the world, it is exciting to know that there are places hidden away in the far flung remote corners of this planet of ours which have remained untouched, untamed, and unexplored.*

About ukraine Is it safe to travel to Ukraine? Is it safe to visit Ukraine and how secure such trip can be. Please read our travel advice. Main About ukraine Is it safe to travel to Ukraine? Is it safe to travel to Ukraine? Germany, France and Great Britain are also in this group note that Russia and Turkey are listed in the dangerous Group 3. Travelers are advised to be extra careful due to the possible riots. Because of the ongoing armed conflict in Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine. These territories are really dangerous for tourist trips. As for the other regions of Ukraine, you can travel there just as safe as, for example, in Poland or any other Eastern European country. Anti-Semitism and racism flourish in Ukraine. Representatives of the most diverse nationalities live in Ukraine, so here we treat religions, skin color and other differences between people with respect and understanding; Myth 2. In Ukraine, there are groups of aggressive people who can attack passers-by on the streets. The aggression on the streets of Ukraine you might have heard about is nothing more than just a media picture. In Ukraine, they practice tortures and harassment. But no such cases were registered in the other regions of Ukraine. Ukraine safety travel advice: If you are going to visit Ukraine , please, keep in mind the following simple safety rules: Read Ukraine travel tips. Tour to the Mikhail Bulgakov Museum 2,5 hours A unique tour:

### 9: TOP 15 Myths and Misconceptions about the Vikings - Norse Mythology

*The "Living" Islands Ancient sailors are good at two things; sailing and telling great stories. One of the more popular ones was the story about the time that they found an unexplored island that seemed to appear out of nowhere and it would offer them shelter from the ocean.*

Share Shares 56K World mythology is full of fantastic kingdoms and realms that exist alongside our own. Now, if only we knew the passwords to open those doors. Ruled by Finnbheara or Finvarra, the Fairy King of Connacht, the kingdom is said to exist just beyond one of the many stone circles and fairy rings that dot the hill. According to legend, Finvarra once abducted the beautiful bride of an Irish lord and carried her back to his kingdom. To keep them from repairing the entrance, the lord threw salt over the hill and eventually dug his way into the kingdom to retrieve his wife. Archaeological excavations have found a number of Neolithic sites in the woods, and cairns on the hill date back to around 4000 B.C. The river was rumored to ultimately flow between two massive silver pillars, guarded by the nymph for whom the river was named. According to legend, the waters of the River Styx functioned as something of a polygraph test for the gods when Zeus forced them to drink it. If they were lying, they would lose their voices and the ability to move for a year. These symptoms are eerily similar to those suffered by Alexander the Great before his premature death due to an unidentified sudden illness in 323 B.C. The Greek leader suffered stabbing pains in his internal organs and joints, high fever, and voice loss before he slipped into a coma. Those symptoms are also very similar to those experienced by a person who has ingested calicheamicin, a toxin produced by bacteria found in limestone, which is found in high concentrations in the Mavroneri River. Also known as Black Water, the river flows out of the Peloponnesian mountains and has long been thought to be the real-world entrance to the River Styx. If the theory about Alexander the Great is true, it suggests that he died not from malaria or typhoid, as previously suspected, but that he was poisoned by someone who had taken water from the mythical River Styx. Supposedly, it was a massive, advanced civilization strangely inspired by ancient Greek cities and full of treasure and riches. According to the writings of a 16th-century friar, it was populated by white natives and female warriors. One of the most famous people to go in search of the city and disappear in the process was Colonel Percy Fawcett. The colonel, who kept his intended route a secret to keep rival explorers from beating him to the mythical city, vanished in the Amazonian jungle in 1905. His expedition and disappearance are shrouded in mystery, and his cryptic writings and deliberately misleading coordinates offer few answers. Modern satellite imaging has captured what Fawcett was looking for, not far from where he said it should be. Fawcett believed that the entrance to the mythical city was somewhere in Amazonian Basin between the Xingu and Tapajos tributaries of the Amazon River, and more than earthen structures stretching along the Brazilian border of Bolivia suggest that there was something to the theory. However, estimates suggest that the city was once home to somewhere around 60,000 people. According to Buddhist tradition, Shambhala is a hidden kingdom where Buddhist values and traditions rule. The utopian realm is also home to the Great Warrior Gesar, who leads hordes of the righteous who will eventually ride into the human world to combat our demons. Many accounts of visiting Shambhala have been published. Heinrich Himmler was convinced that Shambhala was home to an Aryan race like the one the Nazis wanted to create and orchestrated seven expeditions to find it. Entering Shambhala is more difficult than it seems, though. Many people believe that means the entrance is not a physical location but a state of mind, which means that all of the above entrances could be real. According to the myth, all of creation was the product of a god named Izanagi and his goddess sister-wife, Izanami. After Izanami died giving birth to fire, her heartbroken husband journeyed to the underworld to retrieve her. In striking similarity to other myths, the determined husband discovered a dark and gloomy place where souls who retain their mortal bodies are condemned to rot for all eternity. Izanagi was forbidden to look at his wife until they reached the surface, but like his many mythological counterparts, he caught a glimpse of her rotting, maggot-ridden body. Enraged that he dared to look at her in that condition, Izanami sent ghoulish demons to chase him back into the underworld forever, but he escaped and sealed the entrance to Yomi No Kuni with a giant boulder. In response, Izanami promised to take 1,000 lives to the

underworld every day, and Izanagi promised to make 1, new ones. Today, visitors to the Matsue area of Japan can visit the boulder that Izanagi is said to have used to seal off the underworld. Yomotsu Hirasaka, the official name for the entrance, is allegedly located behind one of the boulders near the Iya Shrine. Their final resting place was Xibalba, which could only be entered by the dead and only after the soul faced a series of challenges, from crossing rivers of scorpions and pus to passing swarms of bats to following a dog that could see in the dark. The underground and partially underwater ruins are a massive maze of caverns that contain some grim indicators of what the Maya thought waited at the end. Archaeologists have uncovered 11 different temples in the caves, along with evidence of human sacrifice. There are a number of artifacts that were left as offerings to the dead, including pottery, stone carvings, and ceramics. Archaeologists excavating the caves have also found massive stone columns and structures that were built underwater, a testament to the time, effort, and dedication it took to create the shrine. Since the traditions of voodoo vary wildly, so do descriptions of the gates. In the voodoo of New Orleans, the guinee are spirits that exist in the afterlife who are often consulted as one is passing from one life to the next. The Gates of Guinee are portals into that afterlife, comprised of seven gates. It takes seven days to pass through all of the gates, and if the spirit fails, they may return to Earth as a zombie. Some voodoo practitioners believe that the seven gates are located in seven different cemeteries in New Orleans, although the exact location and numerical order of the gates is a closely guarded secret. Gates have to be approached and opened in the correct order, and each one has a guardian who requires a suitable offering. Opening the gates in the wrong order or displeasing the guardians is said to allow angry, dangerous spirits to leave the otherworld and enter ours. Hercules was tasked with stealing one of the apples as his eleventh labor, which he accomplished by taking the place of Atlas and holding up the Earth while the Titan fetched one of the golden fruits. The entrance to the gardens was said to be located in modern-day Lixus, a coastal city in Morocco. Once a bustling Roman port, the walls and buildings of Lixus are now ruins. The location of the gardens is mentioned in a nautical text dating back to Hellenistic Greece, but other locations have also been proposed for the gardens, including Cyrene and one of the islands off the coast of Libya. According to Celtic mythology, the gods traveled back and forth between the earthly realm and their own worlds through properly prepared and sanctified mounds like Newgrange. Thought to be the entrance to a magnificent feasting hall for the so-called Lords of Light, Newgrange was said to lead to a land where no one ever died, aged, or grew sick. There was an infinite supply of food and drink as well as magical trees that continuously bore fruit. The oldest mythology surrounding Newgrange makes it the otherworldly home of the personification of the Boyne River and home to a well that was the source of all wisdom in the world. Trees near the well dropped their nuts into the water, which released the knowledge they contained into the human realm. The next inhabitant of the otherworld associated with Newgrange was the Dagda, one of the oldest of the Irish gods, who is associated with knowledge, the Sun, and the sky. His son, Oengus, is closely tied to Newgrange, being born after a single day that was extended by the power of the mound to last nine months. Later, Oengus tricked the Dagda into giving him the portal tomb, which he is said to guard to this day. According to Gerard, the Scholomance accepts 10 pupils at a time, who were taught by the devil himself. They learned all of his spells and tricks, including communicating with animals and controlling the weather. After the curriculum was completed, only nine students were released. The last one was kept by the devil as payment for the class, who sent him away to an infinitely deep lake where he lived until the devil needed him to make more thunderbolts. Those fortunate enough to gain entry would find everything they could possibly want, especially when it came to food. Walls were made of great slabs of bacon, roofs of tarts and pancakes, and fences of sausages. Wine ran in all of the fountains, the rivers flowed with milk instead of water, and trees in Luilekkerland bore meat pies and fruit tarts instead of pinecones. Even the weather was made of food: Snow was made of sugar, and hail rained down in the form of sugared almonds. You could also literally make money in your sleep. In order to get there, you were told to head to North Hommelen, a city near northern France, and look for the gallows. The entrance, a massive mountain of porridge, would be unmistakable. Those who seek the city must eat their way through the mountain to get there, so a big appetite is required.

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