

BIGFOOT ADVENTURES

Bigfoot Goes to the Amusement Park



Can you find
the hidden items
along the way?

written by **E. Norm Usfoot**

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Bigfoot Goes to the Amusement Park

by E. Norm Usfoot

illustrated by Becky Sapone

✻ Kaleidoscope

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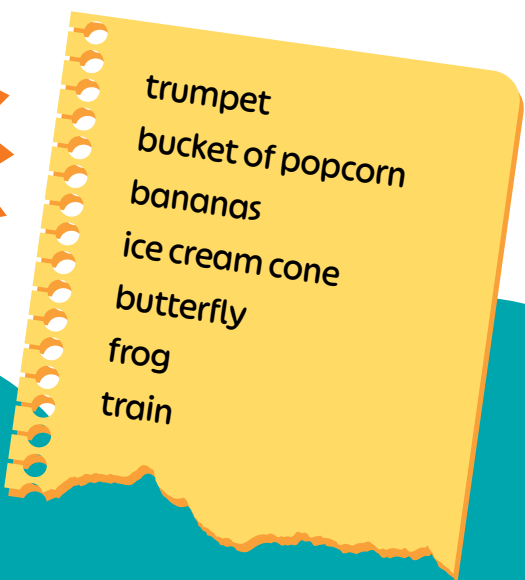
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There are hidden
items throughout
this book. Look at
the list. Can you find
everything?



trumpet
bucket of popcorn
bananas
ice cream cone
butterfly
frog
train

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Chapter 1

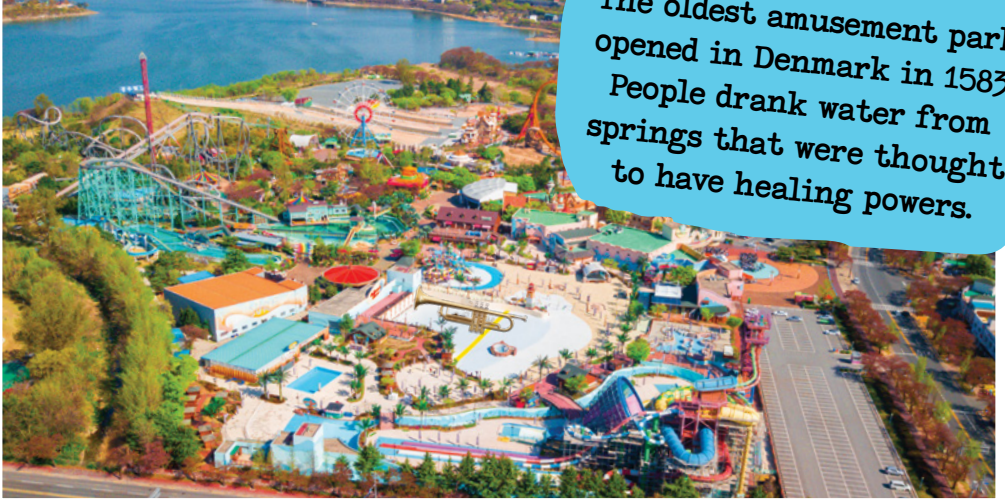
Step Right Up

Hi! I'm Bigfoot. Yes, it is true. I'm big. I'm hairy. I'm full of mystery. And yes, I do have very large feet. I spend most of my time in the forest. Life here is peaceful. I like it that way. But lately, life has felt a little *too* slow and quiet.



FAST FACT

The oldest amusement park opened in Denmark in 1583. People drank water from springs that were thought to have healing powers.



I want to go somewhere noisy and very, very fast. I'd like to go up and down and spin around. I want to flip. I want to dip. I want to loop the loop. I've had enough of chill. Now I want thrill! It's time to pack my bags. I'm off to visit an amusement park!



This amusement park looks noisy and fast. Perfect! But there is one problem. Look at that long line of people waiting to enter. I don't want anyone to know it is me, Bigfoot. I am full of mystery, after all! Hmm, there's a line over there. It is much shorter. Everyone is wearing a costume.

ENTER





FAST FACT

There are nearly 1,300 theme and amusement parks in the United States. One of the busiest is Florida's Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World. Around 17 million people visited the park in 2023.

That's it! I'll sneak in. Lots of people work here as characters in costumes. I can do that too. I'll just *pretend* to be Bigfoot. No one will ever know the difference. I'll get in line in between that giant squirrel and the moose. Sneaky, sneaky.

Hooray, it worked.
I'm in!



Chapter 2

Next In Line

Nice to meet you! Good morning!
Welcome to the amusement park! No
pictures, please. I'm shy. Sure, I'll
sign an autograph for you.



Pretending to be Bigfoot is fun.
I'm a natural. All I have to do is smile
and shake hands. Maybe I should get a real
job here.



CAROUSEL



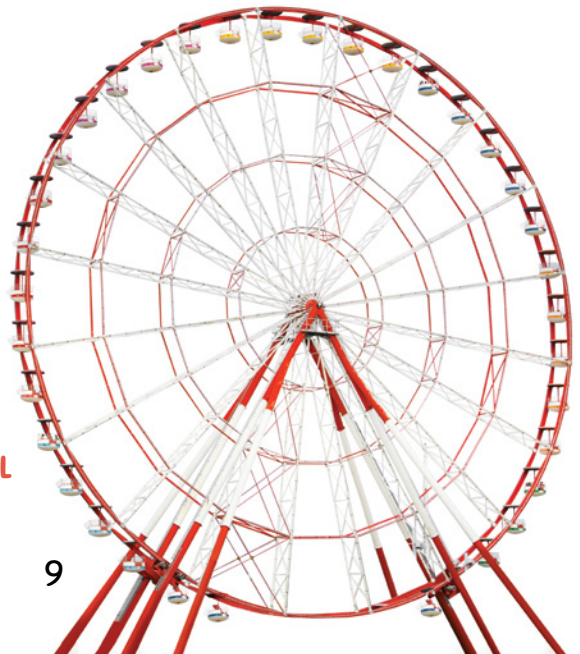
FAST FACT

The Ferris wheel was invented by George Washington Gale Ferris Jr. It was created for the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

There are so many fun-looking rides here. I can't wait to try them all. Where should I start? Maybe I should ride the Ferris wheel. It is tall. Maybe a little *too* tall. Oh, look! A carousel. It spins too. But it is closer to the ground. I think I'll start there.



FERRIS WHEEL





FAST FACT

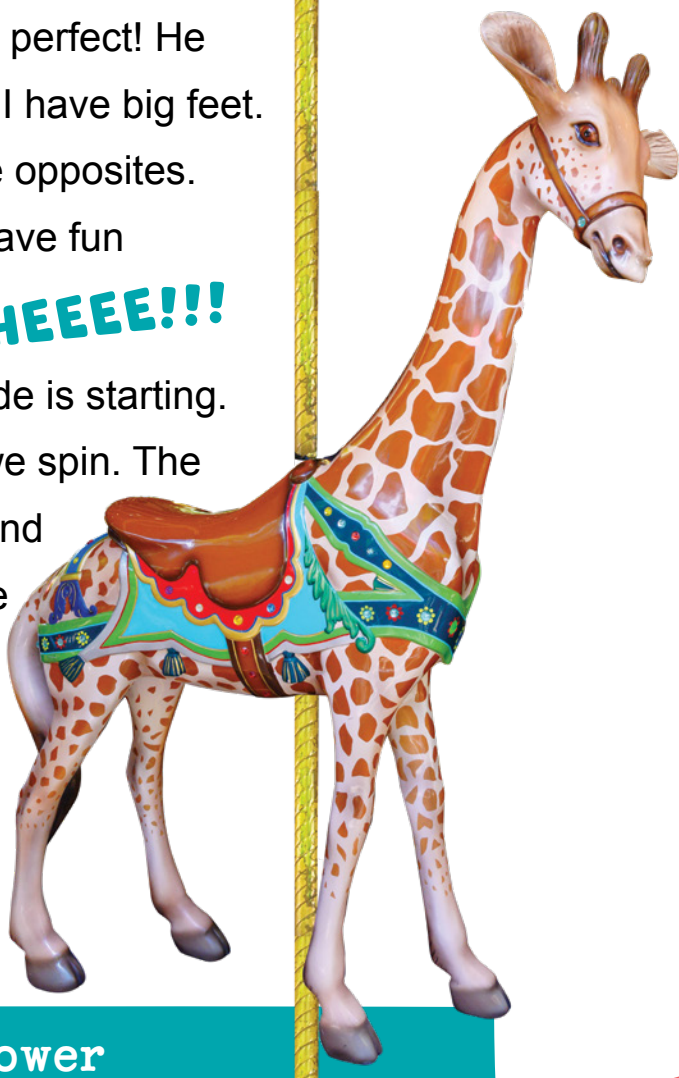
Another name for carousel is "merry-go-round."

The carousel has different animals for people to ride. Which one will I choose? There are many pretty horses. But there are also other animals. I see a deer, a goat, and an elephant. There is even a bench shaped like a swan. But I know which one I'm choosing.

This giraffe is perfect! He has tiny hooves. I have big feet. We are complete opposites. But we will still have fun together!

WHEEEEE!!!

Whoa! The ride is starting. Music plays as we spin. The giraffe goes up and down. It feels like we are racing. Up and down and around and around.



Real Horsepower

The earliest carousels were pulled by real horses. Now they are powered by electric motors. The motor turns the carousel around a pole. Each animal is attached to a smaller pole. As the carousel turns, the animals move up and down.

WHEW!

That was a fun way to start my day at the amusement park. Where should I go next?

Oof. I need to take a break from spinning. I'm a little dizzy.

Bumper cars! I've always wanted to drive a car. But I don't have a driver's license. I hope I don't need one.

LOOK OUT!



BEEP, BEEP

Watch out, it's Bigfoot coming through! I spin the steering wheel left and press the gas pedal. But someone is in my way!

BUMP!

Let's go right instead. No! There's someone there too!

CRASH

It's a good thing I'm wearing my seat belt. How does anyone get anywhere driving a bumper car?

Bump and Dodge

Bumper cars were originally called dodgems. They help show people how motion works. When two cars bump into each other, they bounce back in opposite directions. A heavier bumper car won't move as much as a lighter car.



I want to ride the big roller coaster next.
There is a long line, but I will wait. Everyone is
too excited to look at me closely.

Finally! It is my turn! I need to pull the lap bar
down tight. Mystery is important to Bigfoots, but
safety is more important. And we're off! A chain
pulls the roller coaster along the tracks. There is
a big hill. We are almost at the top!



Oh no! What have I done?
I forgot one thing . . .

. . . I'm scared of heights!

We are just about to fall—

AHHHHHHH!

Everyone else is holding their hands up. I guess I will do it too. Whoosh! The roller coaster whips around a curve. Oh no! There's a loop the loop ahead. I've never been upside down before.



Loops and Swoops

Most roller coaster loops aren't perfect circles. They are usually in a teardrop shape. This shape makes the ride more comfortable. The coaster builds up speed. This gives cars the energy to go up the loop. Gravity brings the cars back down again.





Whew, we are slowing down now. That was a little scary. But I also want to ride it again!

Hey, look! They took our pictures during the ride. I wasn't really screaming that much, was I? It's probably just because the photo is blurry.

It might be a good time to take a break. My stomach feels a little funny. Hmm . . . I must be hungry!

There are so many snacks. How will I ever choose just one? What about cotton candy? I've never had that before. I like candy. But I don't know what cotton tastes like. I want to see how it is made.

The seller dumps sugar in a big metal container. The sugar spins around and makes a pink cloud! It kind of reminds me of the carousel. I can't wait to try it. Yummy!



FAST FACT

Cotton candy isn't made of cotton. It is made from flavored sugar. Pink cotton candy is usually vanilla-flavored. It is also called candy floss or fairy floss.



Chapter 3

Now Entering the Splash Zone

What is that noise? It sounds like music. It is coming this way. Hooray! It is a parade. At the front of the parade is a marching band. I see people playing many different instruments. The drums are my favorite. I would like to bang on a large bass drum.





Hey, look. There are other characters in the parade. Maybe I should join in too! Excuse me, do you have a drum I can borrow? I am very good at keeping a beat. Oh, there aren't any extras? That's okay. I can just wave to people instead.

FAST FACT

Some amusement parks have parades every day. Disney, Universal Studios, and Everland are a few.



I saw a sign for a fun house. That sounds fun! Let's step inside. Yikes, there's a Bigfoot here! Oh, it's just a mirror. And there's another mirror next to it. But I don't really look like myself in this one. I look like a Tinyfoot. And this other mirror makes me look like a *Wigglyfoot*. This is wacky!



What's around this corner? Is it more fun? Oh rats, it looks just like the last room. Is it the last room? I seem to be turned around. But when I turn around, there's nothing there!



I'm stuck in a maze! The floor is moving.

HELP!

I see a door!
It's the exit! If I
run, I can make it.
Let's go!

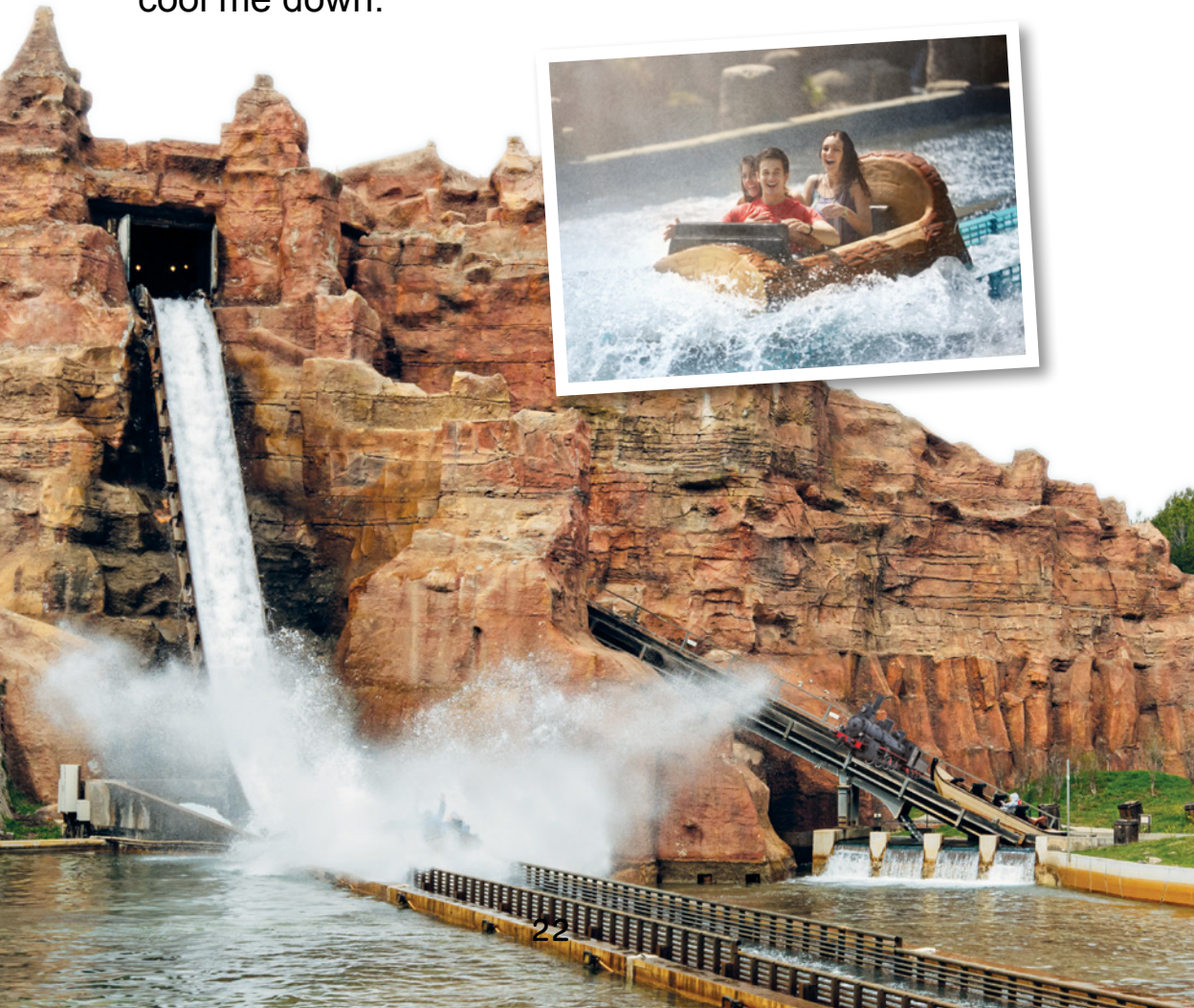


Now I See You

Fun house mirrors can play tricks on your mind. Some mirrors curve inward. They make people look bigger. Other mirrors curve outward. They make people look smaller. Wavy mirrors can make a person look stretched or squished in strange ways.



Whew, I made it out! The sun is shining so brightly. With my fur, I am getting toasty. I know! I'll go on the flume ride. You ride in hollowed-out logs just like the trees back home. The logs float in the water. The signs say that you may get wet. That sounds nice to me! A nice splash of water would cool me down.



This is a nice, relaxing ride. It doesn't have big drops or scary turns. Riding in the log is soothing. I'll bet I could even take a nap. Wait, what is that noise? The log is being pulled up a tall hill. It's just like the roller coaster! Is there a big drop?



FAST FACT

Rides make people feel afraid in a safe way. Fear makes your body release a chemical. That helps people experience joy and thrill.

Yep. There was a big drop.



The signs were right. I *did* get wet. I need to find a way to dry off all this fur. Maybe the swing ride would do the trick!

You must be *this* tall to ride. Let me check to make sure I am tall enough. Just kidding! Of course I am. I'm Bigfoot! These chairs are a little snug though.





There are swings in my park back home. I like those. I wonder if this will be anything like that. Oh, it's starting! We are getting higher.

We aren't swinging back and forth like a regular swing. We are swinging around and around through the air. It is much higher than at the playground.

FAST FACT

The tallest swing ride in the world is called the StarFlyer. It is in Orlando, Florida. It stands 450 feet (137.2 meters) tall. Riders swing around the tower up to 45 miles (72.4 kilometers) per hour!

Chapter 4

Eye on the Prize

I'm glad to be back on the ground. First, my tummy was wobbly. Now my knees are a little wobbly too! I think I'll keep my big feet on the ground.

Maybe I'll go play a game. I am very good at games. I might get lucky and win a prize.



Step right up and test your strength! Don't mind if I do! The rules are simple. Hit the bottom of the machine with a heavy mallet. It sends a puck straight up in the air. If I hit the machine hard enough, the puck hits a bell.

BANG.

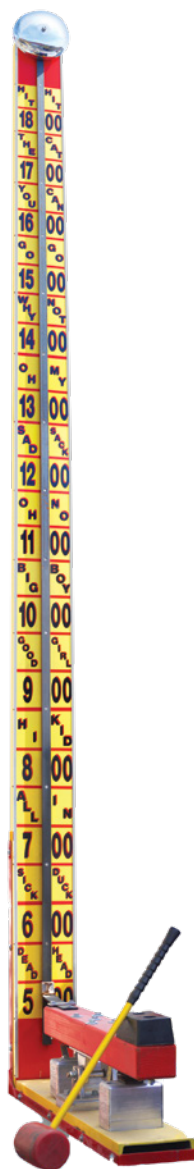
The puck shoots up. But the bell didn't ring. I'll try again.

DING!

I did it! I am a superstrong
Bigfoot!

FAST FACT

The High Striker game was invented in 1885. It has been popular ever since. There used to be a way to cheat so no one could be strong enough to win.





This was the best day ever. I want to remember it forever. Maybe I should get a souvenir. But what should it be? A spoon? A hat? A fancy cup? I know! A pin! I can collect them when I go to new amusement parks. I will put this one on my backpack. It will remind me of how brave I was on each ride.

Now I See You

Some souvenirs are collectable items.

Disney started offering pins in 1999. There are thousands of different designs. Many are limited editions. Some have been resold for hundreds, or even thousands, of dollars.



It has been a long day. I'm sore. I feel like I should change my name to Tiredfoot. I need a good night's sleep in the peaceful forest. Goodbye, amusement park! Thanks for the thrills. I'll be sure to visit again soon.

**When did we
hire a Bigfoot
character?**

Glossary

amusement: something done for fun

carousel: a carnival ride that spins; there are wooden or plastic animals or vehicles for people to ride; carousels are also called merry-go-rounds.

character: a person in a novel, play, or movie

flume: a deep, narrow channel with a stream running through it

parade: a walk or march in front of a crowd

souvenir: something kept as a reminder of a person, place, or event



Think

- Have you ever been to an amusement park? Share how your visit was similar to Bigfoot's. Share how it was different.
- Do you know of any other rides that Bigfoot didn't get a chance to visit?
- What kind of souvenir would you like to get to help remember your day at an amusement park?

Create and Share

Think about what your perfect amusement park would look like. What types of rides would there be? What types of food, games, or entertainment would be there? Draw a picture of your amusement park and write a short story about what your day there would be like.

E. Norm Usfoot



E. Norm Usfoot has gotten lost in a maze or two, but that doesn't stop him from chowing down on cotton candy or playing carnival games with his best friend, Bigfoot.

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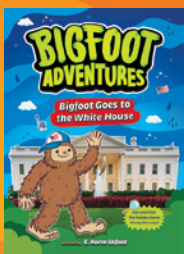
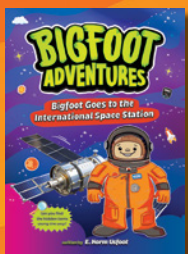
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BIGFOOT ADVENTURES

Bigfoot Goes to the Amusement Park

Bigfoot loves roller coasters. Can he sneak into the amusement park without being seen? With a clever disguise, he gets in. He grabs a funnel cake, plays some games, and, of course, rides some rides!

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