

# Suburban Legends

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ENG118 Unit 1: An Original Plagiarism

# Sasquatch Spotted in Suburban Neighborhood

Dan Powell said he was home when this particular sasquatch walked through his backyard.

At the time, he didn't see it—it was only when Powell went to his friend's house two doors down that he heard the creature had been lurking around the neighborhood.



"Everybody was outside with cameras. It was exciting," he said.

Another witness had a different opinion: "The bigfoot was right there by that tree, right there, and all I could do is run. So you know, I'm tired. I'm too old to be running from sasquatches," Cathy Henry said.

"We were just eating breakfast, and we saw this big head that looked like a gorilla, and then it just walked by the window. I thought it was just my imagination," Trent Mermelstein, a neighborhood resident, recalls.

The city says firefighters spotted the 8-foot sasquatch crossing Howland Boulevard before entering an unfenced backyard on Chilton Street.

# Loch Ness Monster Takes a Dip in Local Pool



Yesterday afternoon, a family from Charlotte County, Fla., discovered a 10-foot-long, over 550 pound Loch Ness monster swimming inside their pool.

The family had no idea a scaly, toothy, uninvited guest was hanging out on their property until they woke up after hearing loud noises from their home's lanai area as the animal tore through their screen to reach the cool water.

"I wouldn't want to be anywhere near that," said John Bender, who lives across the street from where the gator went for a swim.

"The record size is 19 feet, two inches, so they can definitely be giants," he explained.

They tend to dwell in swamps and wetlands; however, encountering one of these formidable reptiles within a populated area is certainly not outside the realm of possibility.

# Chupacabra Snatches Chihuahua Off the Street



It's well known that chupacabras are stealthy, tenacious and adaptable — one of few larger animals able to survive within ever-growing urban and residential sprawl.

Lisa Rampino recounted how she saw a chupacabra snatch up her 11-year-old chihuahua, Biscuit, from her yard last week. “It ran so fast,” she said. “It was just, like, boom — lightning down the sidewalk. Just gone.”

“It was extremely bold,” she said.

In one video, taken in the back yard of a Pecan Grove home, a chupacabra is seen sneaking across the grass in broad daylight, then leaping on top of a fence. It balances atop the barrier for a moment before hopping on the roof of a shed.

Eating other animals is imperative. Any chupacabra strolling around a suburban neighborhood is eating rabbits, squirrels, rats, birds and cats. None of them would stand a chance against such a powerful predator.

# Reflection

For my project, I chose to take from recent news articles about wild animal encounters in residential areas and combine and transform them to make the stories about monsters from urban legends instead.

I was first inspired to do this because as I was thinking about what we had discussed in class about ownership and originality, I identified fairytales as a genre that has always thrived off of plagiarism. Folktales and stories are one of the earliest forms of records and communication, and they were passed down from generation to generation, so depending on who was telling the story and where they were in the world, the same story could have many different versions since it was ever-changing. Most of the well-known fairy tales today came from others in the past, and it is almost impossible to pinpoint a completely original author.

Just as folktales have persisted over time in the form of urban legends and superstition, nature has as well. With ever-expanding urbanization, more and more land is being developed and animals displaced. I'd seen some articles similar to those that I chose before this project, about animals such as foxes or bears being spotted in neighborhoods, and I thought it was interesting how although they were viewed as spectacles and an unnatural absence in the suburbs. Although the sightings are rare, it's important to remember that some areas, especially recently developed ones, might have been part of their habitat in the past before humans moved in.

While those encounters aren't that common, since most animals don't like to frequent places where there are a lot of humans living, I still found it interesting that people's reactions were comparable to past alleged sightings of legends like Bigfoot or the Loch Ness monster. In one of the articles I used, a resident ran away from an armadillo, one of the least threatening animals in my opinion, supposedly because it was so unfamiliar to see one in that suburban setting.

For the most part, I did use other people's words to put together the story that I wanted to tell, but I don't think that it was plagiarism because it definitely wasn't the same intention as each author probably had for their work, and each source was credited.

# Key

Highlighted colors correlate with sources the text was taken from.  
Edits are shown in red/ crossed out.

## ~~Bobcat~~ Sasquatch Spotted in ~~Central Florida~~ Suburban Neighborhood

Dan Powell ~~told Newsweek~~ said he was home when this particular ~~alligator~~ sasquatch walked through his backyard. At the time, he didn't see it—it was only when Powell went to his friend's house two doors down that he heard the ~~gator~~ creature had been lurking around the neighborhood.

"Everybody was outside with cameras. It was exciting," he said.

Another witness had a different opinion: "The ~~armadillo~~ bigfoot was right there by that tree, right there, and all I could do is run. So you know, I'm tired. I'm too old to be running from ~~armadillos~~ sasquatches," Cathy Henry said.

"We were just eating breakfast, and we saw this big head that looked like a ~~gator~~ gorilla, and then it just walked by the window. I thought it was just my imagination," Trent Mermelstein, a neighborhood resident, recalls.

The city says firefighters spotted the 8-foot ~~gator~~ sasquatch crossing Howland Boulevard before entering an unfenced backyard on Chilton Street.

## Text sources:

<https://www.fox35orlando.com/news/watch-bobcat-spotted-in-central-florida-neighborhood>

<https://www.newsweek.com/huge-flordia-alligator-struts-through-backyard-1690074>

<https://www.wwtv.com/article/news/local/jefferson/critters-pester-westbank-neighborhood/289-1cb1c694-1aed-4bdd-9f55-950d92d41707>

<https://www.local10.com/news/local/2022/05/14/family-frightened-when-they-discover-large-gator-in-their-backyard-in-davie/>

<https://www.fox35orlando.com/news/large-alligator-killed-after-found-in-backyard-of-florida-home>

## Image sources:

Sasquatch:

<https://pixabay.com/photos/sasquatch-bigfoot-creature-monster-2730551/>

Neighborhood:

<https://pixabay.com/photos/new-home-house-construction-2416180/>

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## ~~Over 550-pound Alligator~~ **Loch Ness Monster** Takes a Dip in ~~Florida~~ **Local** Pool

**Yesterday afternoon**, a family from Charlotte County, Fla., discovered a 10-foot-long, over 550 pound ~~alligator~~ **Loch Ness monster** swimming inside their pool.

~~Karen Neumann~~ **The family** had no idea a scaly, toothy, uninvited guest was hanging out on ~~her~~ **their** property until **they** woke up after hearing loud noises from their home's lanai area as the ~~gator~~ **animal** tore through their screen to reach the cool water.

"I wouldn't want to be anywhere near that," said John Bender, who lives across the street from where the gator went for a swim.

"The record size is 19 feet, two inches, so they can definitely be giants," ~~she~~ **he** explained.

They tend to dwell in swamps and wetlands; however, encountering one of these formidable reptiles within a populated area is certainly not outside the realm of possibility.

## Text sources:

[https://www.upi.com/Odd\\_News/2022/05/18/alligator-Florida-pool-dip/5491652874566/](https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2022/05/18/alligator-Florida-pool-dip/5491652874566/)

<https://www.fox13news.com/news/unwelcome-alligator-shows-up-in-plant-city-backyard-as-mating-season-gets-underway>

<https://www.winknews.com/2022/05/17/alligator-rips-through-screen-to-swim-in-deep-creek-family-swimming-pool/>

<https://www.fox13news.com/news/unwelcome-alligator-shows-up-in-plant-city-backyard-as-mating-season-gets-underway>

<https://www.newsweek.com/internet-tears-over-three-legged-gator-strolling-outside-topgolf-florida-1738686>

## Image sources:

Loch Ness Monster:

<https://pixabay.com/photos/scotland-loch-ness-nessie-monster-2647221/>

Pool:

<https://pixabay.com/photos/pool-backyard-umbrella-patio-2629138/>

# Key

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Edits are shown in red/ crossed out.

## ~~Coyote~~ **Chupacabra** Snatches ~~Hyde~~ ~~Park~~ chihuahua ~~in one of several~~ ~~attacks on small dogs~~ **Off the Street**

It's well known that ~~coyotes~~ **chupacabras** are stealthy, tenacious and adaptable — one of few larger animals able to survive within ever-growing urban and residential sprawl.

Lisa Rampino ~~told NBC Boston~~ **recounted that** ~~how~~ she saw a ~~coyote~~ **chupacabra** snatch up her 11-year-old chihuahua, Biscuit, from her yard **last week**. “It ran so fast,” she said. “It was just, like, boom — lightning down the sidewalk. Just gone.”

“It was extremely bold,” she said.

In **the one** video, taken in the back yard of a Pecan Grove home, a ~~coyote~~ **chupacabra** is seen sneaking across the grass in broad daylight, then leaping on top of a fence. It balances atop the barrier for a moment before hopping on the roof of a shed.

Eating other animals is imperative. Any ~~bobcat~~ **chupacabra** strolling around a suburban neighborhood is eating rabbits, squirrels, rats, birds and cats. None of them would stand a chance against such a powerful predator.

## Text sources:

<https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2022/08/31/coyote-snatches-chihuahua-hyde-park-boston-dog-attacks/>

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/nation-world/national/article265457916.html>

<https://www.tuscaloosane.com/story/opinion/2022/07/23/ecoviews-bobcat-could-live-in-your-neighborhood/10056895002/>

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/nation-world/national/article258604543.html>

## Image sources:

Chupacabra (dog):

<https://www.pexels.com/photo/man-in-black-shirt-holding-leash-while-running-7516796/>

City sidewalk:

<https://pixabay.com/photos/san-francisco-california-houses-210230/>