

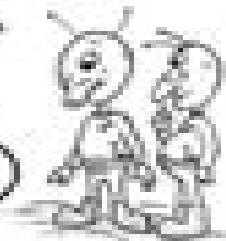


Fact or fantasy?

Carefully read the question below and the seven statements that relate to it.



*Are we alone
in the vastness of the Universe
or are there other beings
like ourselves?*



1. This is a question that has long fascinated scientists and fired the imagination of writers, artists, and filmmakers.
2. In the Middle Ages, people believed that the Earth was at the center of the Universe. They thought that the Sun moved around the Earth.
3. We now know that the Sun is at the center of our Solar System and that we, together with eight (or possibly nine?) other worlds, are moving around it. We also realize that our Sun is just one of at least 100,000 million stars in the Galaxy, and that there are millions of other such galaxies out there somewhere!
4. It is certainly possible that parallel universes with inhabited planets do exist. Yet, until we develop the ability to travel at what now seem like impossible speeds, we shall not be able to visit them.
5. This does not necessarily mean that others, more technologically advanced than humans, are not, at this very moment, on their way to find us.
6. Many people believe that they have seen spacecraft from other worlds. Some even claim to have met alien beings from these unknown galaxies. Can some of these so-called "close encounters" be real, or are they all purely imaginary?
7. There is still so much to learn before we can know the whole truth.

Re-read the statements, underlining all the key words.