

To reference this page: <http://bit.ly/2rEPDb7>

1. "Georges Cuvier is known by many as the father of modern paleontology." Reybrouck, David Van (2012). [*From Primitives to Primates: A History of Ethnographic and Primatological Analogies in the Study of Prehistory*](#)
2. "One of his most notable contributions to the world is establishing the concept that species can, and do, go extinct. He first presented this idea in 1796 at the National Institute in France in a paper that showed how living elephants were anatomically much different than the fossil bones found in the region." Cuvier, Georges (1796). [*Memoire sur les especes d'elephants vivantes et fossiles*](#). and "[Proving Extinction: Cuvier and the Elephantimorpha](#)," Biodiversity Heritage Library.
3. "Even Thomas Jefferson told Lewis and Clark to keep an eye out for any living mastodons on their journey to map out the western United States." -- "[Thomas Jefferson's Mammoth Problem](#)," *Deposits Magazine*.
4. "In the book "The First Fossil Hunters," author Adrienne Mayor suggests that early Roman and Greek scholars some 3,000 years ago encountered Saka-Scythian nomads along the trade route between the Mediterranean and Asia." ... "The Greek author Aristaeus wrote down their stories about griffins: four-legged creatures with a body like a lion, and the wings and beak of a bird." Mayor, A. (2000). *First Fossil Hunters*, Pg. 22-23
5. "As popular as the story is, some paleontologists have questioned the interpretation- noting that griffin folklore had existed almost 2,000 years before the Greeks and Romans wrote it down." Witton, M. (April 4, 2016) "[Why Protoceratops almost certainly wasn't the inspiration for the griffin legend](#)," markwitton-com.blogspot.
6. "In 1914 the Australian paleontologist Othenio Abel conjectured that ancient sailors came across fossil dwarf elephant skeletons in coastal caves around Italy and Greece." Mayor, A. *First Fossil Hunters*, pg. 35
7. "More recently, skeletons of the ancient elephant relative *Deinotherium giganteum* -- which means "huge, terrible beast" -- were found on the island of Crete." Poulakakis, N. et al. "[Deinotherium giganteum \(Proboscidea, Deinotheriidae\) from the Late Miocene of Crete](#)," *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Sep. 30, 2005) pp. 732-736
8. "It's possible other fossil evidence of *Deinotherium* was discovered by inhabitants around the island, which could have contributed to the Cyclops myth, too." Mayell, H. "[Cyclops myth spurred by "one-eyed" fossils?](#)" *National Geographic News*, February 5, 2003.
9. "The story goes that Hilda was tasked with building the new Abbey in Whitby, but the coast was plagued with snakes which were seen as evil omens that needed to be displaced. To remove them, she prayed the snakes into stone and tossed them off the cliffs, where they were found on the shores below." Mayer, P. (personal communications) and "[Fossil Myths and Folklore](#)," Hull Museums Blog
10. "In parts of Europe until the early 20th century, belemnites - a type of fossil invertebrate - were also called thunderstones." Bressan, D. "[Fire burn, and cauldron bubble... The Thunderstone](#)," *Scientific American*. Oct. 28, 2013.

11. "Belemnites were squid-like creatures that had an internal, bullet-shaped skeleton, and these fossils are commonly found even today." Blinkenberg, Chr. (1911). "*The thunderweapon in religion and folklore, a study in comparative archaeology*," pg. 76.
12. "Depending on the region some people hung the thunderstones in the stable to keep their horses from having nightmares, in the home to keep children safe from witches, or they were placed on a shelf next to the dairy to keep the milk from spoiling." -- "[Folklore of Fossil Echinoderms](#)," *Deposits Magazine*.