

Summary

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:11 PM

giant

mythology

giant, in [folklore](#), huge mythical being, usually humanlike in form. The term derives (through Latin) from the Giants (Gigantes) of [Greek mythology](#), who were monstrous, savage creatures often depicted with men's bodies terminating in serpentine legs. According to the Greek poet [Hesiod](#), they were sons of [Gaia](#) ("Earth") and [Uranus](#) ("Heaven"). The Gigantomachy was a desperate struggle between the Giants and the Olympians. The gods finally prevailed through the aid of [Heracles](#), the archer, and the Giants were slain. Many of them were believed to lie buried under mountains and to indicate their presence by volcanic fires and earthquakes. The Gigantomachy became a popular artistic theme (found, for example, on the frieze adorning the great altar at Pergamum), and it was interpreted as a symbol of the triumph of Hellenism over [barbarism](#), of good over evil.

The giants of [Norse mythology](#) were primeval beings existing before the gods and overcome by them. Giants in folklore were mortals who inhabited the world in early times. Israelite spies in [Canaan](#) saw giants (Numbers 13:32–33), and such beings once, in [legend](#), roamed Cornwall in [Britain](#) (see [Corineus](#)).

European [medieval](#) towns often had tutelary giants whose effigies were carried in procession. In London the giant figures of [Gog](#) (*q.v.*) and [Magog](#) are said to represent two Cornish giants made captive by Brutus, the legendary founder of Britain. The 40-foot (12-metre) effigy of [Druon Antigonus](#) at Antwerp and the 22-foot (7-metre) figure of Gayant at Douai, Fr., preserve similar traditions.

In most European tales giants appear as [cruel and stupid, given to cannibalism](#), and often one-eyed. Heroes who killed them often did so more by wit than by strength. Although kindly giants occur (*e.g.*, [Rübezahl](#), who lived in the Bohemian forest), most were feared and hated; but marriages between their daughters and the [hero](#) were possible.

Hill figures, such as the giant of Cerne cut in the chalk near Cerne Abbas, Dorset, as well as megalithic monuments and long barrows, suggested giant builders of the past; and an ancient European tradition held that people had once been taller and stronger but had degenerated after a golden age.

From <<https://www.britannica.com/topic/giant-mythology>>

Hoaxes

- [Cardiff Giant](#)
- [Kandahar Giant](#)



Greek Giants

Monday, October 25, 2021 7:31 PM

Greek^[edit]
Main article: *Giants (Greek mythology)*
In *Greek mythology*, the *Gigantes* (γίγαντες) were (according to the poet *Hesiod*) the children of *Uranus* (Οὐρανός) and *Gaia* (Γαῖα) (spirits of the sky and the earth) where some depictions had them with snake-like legs. They were involved in a conflict with the *Olympian gods* called the *Gigantomachy* (γίγαντομαχία) when Gaia had them attack *Mount Olympus*. This battle was eventually settled when the hero *Heracles* decided to help the Olympians. The Greeks believed some of them, like *Enceladus*, to lie buried from that time under the earth and that their tormented quivers resulted in *earthquakes* and *volcanic eruptions*.
Herodotus in Book 1, Chapter 68, describes how the *Spartans* uncovered in *Tegea* the body of *Orestes*, which was seven cubits long — approximately 3.73 m, or about 12 feet 3 inches. In his book *The Comparison of Romulus with Theseus*, *Plutarch* describes how the *Athenians* uncovered the body of *Theseus*, which was "of more than ordinary size." The kneecaps of *Ajax* were exactly the size of a *discus* for the boy's *pentathlon*, wrote *Pausanias*. A boy's discus was about 12 cm (4.7 in) in diameter, while a normal adult *patella* is around 5 cm (2.0 in), suggesting Ajax may have been nearly 14 feet (over 4 m) tall.
The *Cyclopes* are also compared to giants due to their huge size (e.g. *Polyphemus*, son of *Poseidon* and *Thoosa* and nemesis of *Odysseus* in *Homer's The Odyssey*). The Elder Cyclopes were the children of Gaia and Uranus, and later made *Zeus'* "master thunderbolt", Poseidon's trident, and *Hades'* "helm of darkness", during the *Titanomachy*. The *Hecatoncheires* are giants that have 100 arms and 50 heads who were also the children of Gaia and Uranus. Other known giant races in Greek mythology include the six-armed *Gegeines*, the northern *Hyperboreans*, and the cannibalistic *Laestrygonians*.

From <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giant>>

GIANTS

The giants of Greek mythology--or Gigantes ("the earth-born") as they are named in the Greek tongue--were a class of oversized and oftentimes monstrous men closely related to the gods. The most famous of these were the hundred Thracian *Gigantes* who waged war on the gods, but there were many others besides including the handsome giant *Orion*, the one-eyed *Polyphemus* and the six-armed *Gegeenes*.



From <<https://www.theoi.com/greek-mythology/giants.html>>

Titans

Monday, October 25, 2021 7:56 PM

Titan

Greek mythology

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Titan, in [Greek mythology](#), any of the children of [Uranus](#) (Heaven) and [Gaea](#) (Earth) and their descendants. According to Hesiod's *[Theogony](#)*, there were 12 original Titans: the brothers [Oceanus](#), Coeus, Crius, Hyperion, Iapetus, and [Cronus](#) and the sisters Thea, [Rhea](#), [Themis](#), [Mnemosyne](#), [Phoebe](#), and Tethys. At the instigation of Gaea the Titans rebelled against their father, who had shut them up in the underworld (Tartarus). Under the leadership of Cronus they deposed Uranus and set up Cronus as their ruler. But one of Cronus' sons, [Zeus](#), rebelled against his father, and a struggle then ensued between them in which most of the Titans sided with Cronus. Zeus and his brothers and sisters finally defeated the Titans after 10 years of fierce battles (the Titanomachia). The Titans were then hurled down by Zeus and imprisoned in a cavity beneath [Tartarus](#).

[Hesiod's *Works and Days*](#) preserves the idea of the Titans as the golden race, happy and long-lived. The notion developed further under the Romans—who identified Cronus with Saturn—into a golden age of peace and prosperity.

From <<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Titan-Greek-mythology>>



Norse Giants

Monday, October 25, 2021 7:31 PM

Norse^[edit]
Main article: [Jötunn](#)
In [Norse mythology](#), the Jotun (*jǫtnar* in [Old Norse](#), a cognate with [ettin](#)) are often opposed to the gods. While often translated as "giants", most are described as being roughly human-sized. Some are portrayed as huge, such as frost giants (*hrímþursar*), fire giants (*eldjǫtnar*), and mountain giants (*bergrisar*). The giants are the origin of most of various monsters in Norse mythology (e.g. the [Fenrisulfr](#)) and in the eventual battle of [Ragnarök](#), the giants will storm [Asgard](#) and fight the gods until the world is destroyed. Even so, the gods themselves were related to the giants by many marriages and there are giants such as [Ægir](#), [Loki](#), [Mímir](#), and [Skaði](#) who bear little difference in status to them. The chief god [Odin](#) was the great-grandson of the giant [Ymir](#). [Trolls](#) are beings that are sometimes very large. The name *troll* is applied to *jǫtnar*. Norse mythology also holds that the entire world of men was created from the flesh of Ymir, a giant of cosmic proportions whose name is considered by some scholars to share a [root](#) with [Yama](#) of Indo-Iranian mythology. An old [Icelandic](#) legend says that two night-prowling giants, a man and a woman, were traversing the [fjord](#) near [Drangey](#) Island with their cow when they were surprised by the bright rays of daybreak. As a result of exposure to daylight, all three were turned into stone. Drangey represents the cow and Kerling (supposedly the female giant, the name means "old hag") is to the south of it. Karl (the male giant) was to the north of the island, but he disappeared long ago. A *bergrisi* – the traditional Protector of Southwestern Iceland – appears as a [supporter](#) on the [coat of arms of Iceland](#).

From <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giant>>



Norse giants

Origins

The first living being formed in the primeval chaos known as [Ginnungagap](#) was a giant of monumental size, called [Ymir](#). When he slept a giant son and a giantess daughter grew from his armpits, and his two feet procreated and gave birth to a monster with six heads. Supposedly, these three beings gave rise to the race of *hrímþursar* (*rime giants* or *frost giants*), who populated [Niflheimr](#), the world of mist, chill and ice. The gods instead claim their origin from a certain [Búri](#). When the giant Ymir subsequently was slain by [Óðinn](#), [Vili](#) and [Vé](#) (the grandsons of Búri), his blood (i.e. water) deluged Niflheimr and killed all of the giants, apart from one known as [Bergelmir](#) and his spouse, who then repopulated their kind.

Character of the giants

The giants represent the forces of the primeval chaos and of the untamed, destructive nature. Their defeats by the hands of the gods represent the triumph of culture over nature, albeit at the cost of eternal vigilance. [Heimdallr](#) perpetually watches the [Bifröst](#) from [Asgarðr](#) to [Miðgarðr](#), and [Þórr](#) being too heavy to cross the Bifröst often ventures into [Jotunheimr](#) to get to Miðgarðr, slaying as many of the giants as he is able on the way.

As a collective, giants are often attributed a hideous appearance – claws, fangs, and deformed features, apart from a generally hideous size. Some of them may even have many heads, such as [Privaldi](#) who had nine of them, or an overall non-humanoid shape; so were [Jormungandr](#) and [Fenrir](#), two of the children of [Loki](#), viewed as giants. With bad looks comes a weak intellect; the [Eddas](#) more than once liken their temper to that of children.

Yet when giants are named and more closely described, they are often given the opposite characteristics. Unbelievably old, they carry wisdom from bygone times. It is the giants [Mimir](#) and [Valbrúðnir](#) Odin seeks out to gain this pro-cosmic knowledge. Many of the gods' spouses are giants. [Njörðr](#) is married to [Skaði](#). [Gerðr](#) becomes the consort of [Freyr](#). [Óðinn](#) gains the love of [Gunnlóð](#), and even Thor, the great slayer of their kind, breeds with [Jámsaxa](#), mother of Magni. As such, they appear as minor gods themselves, which can also be said about the sea giant [Ægir](#), far more connected to the gods than to the other giants occupying Jotunheim. None of these fear light, and in comfort their homes do not differ greatly from those of the gods.

From <https://mythus.fandom.com/wiki/jotunn#Norse_giants>

Abrahamic Giants

Monday, October 25, 2021 7:31 PM

Abrahamic^[edit]
Genesis tells of the **Nephilim** before and after **Noah's Flood**. According to **Genesis 7:23**, the Nephilim were destroyed in the Flood, but Nephilim are reported after the Flood, including:

- The **Anakites**^[4]
- The **Emites**^[5]
- The **Amorites**^{[6][7]}
- The **Rephaites**^[8]

The **Book of Numbers**^[4] includes the discouraging report by the spies who **Moses** sent into **Canaan**: “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are. (...) All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like **grasshoppers** in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.” However, the **Book of Joshua**, describing the actual conquest of Canaan in a later generation, makes no reference to such people living there.

The Bible also tells of **Gog and Magog**, who later entered European folklore, and of the famous battle between **David** and the Philistine **Goliath**. While Goliath is often portrayed as a giant in retellings of the Biblical narrative, he appears to be significantly smaller than other giants, biblical or otherwise: the 1st-century Jewish historian **Flavius Josephus**, and the 1st-2nd-century BCE **Dead Sea Scrolls** both give Goliath's height as **"four cubits and a span" — approximately 2.32 m, or about 7 feet 9 inches**.^[9] The King James translation of the Bible, however, differs in this respect, reporting the giant Goliath as being "six cubits and a span" in height — **about 3.43 m or 11½ feet (1Samuel 17:4 KJV)**, but the **Septuagint**, a Greek Bible, once again gives Goliath's height as "four cubits and a span" (**2.32 m; 7 feet 9 inches**). For comparison, the Anakites are described as making the Israelites seem like grasshoppers.^[10] See also **Gibborim**.

Josephus also described the Amorites as giants in his *Antiquities of the Jews*, circa 93 CE, indicating that some sort of fossils may have been on display at that time:^[11] “For which reason they removed their camp to Hebron; and when they had taken it, they slew all the inhabitants. There were till then left the race of giants, who had bodies so large, and countenances so entirely different from other men, that they were surprising to the sight, and terrible to the hearing. The bones of these men are still shown to this very day, unlike to any credible relations of other men.”^[12]

In **Islam**, giants known as *jababirat* or *jabbirun* (**Arabic**: جبارون "tyrants" or "giants"; singular, **Arabic**: جبار *Jabbar*) such as **Jalut** (Goliath) are mentioned, ^{جباروت} as well as **Uj ibn Anaq** ^{جباروت} ^{جباروت}

The **Book of Enoch** describes giants as the offspring of **Watchers** and women in 7:2.

From <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giant>>

Abrahamic/Biblical Mythology

There are also accounts of giants in the Old Testament. **Some of these are called Nephilim (first mentioned in Genesis 7:23), a word often translated as giant, although this translation is not universally accepted.** The first mention of the Nephilim is found in Genesis 6:4; attributed to them are extraordinary strength and physical proportions.

During the move of the Israelites from Egypt during the time of Moses, a few spies were sent into the land of Canaan they were to inhabit. The Book of Numbers^[3] includes the discouraging report by the spies which were sent into:

"We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are. (...) All the people we saw there are of great size... We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

However, the Book of Joshua, describing the actual conquest of Canaan in a later generation, makes no reference to such people living there.

Jewish historian Flavius Josephus also described the Amorites as giants in his *Antiquities of the Jews*, circa 93 AD, indicating that fossil evidence still remained at that time^[3]

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- Abrahamic Giants: **Nephilim**, Goliath, Gog and Magog, Og King of Bashan, the Anakim, and the giants of Egypt mentioned in 1 Chronicles 11:23

From <https://mythus.fandom.com/wiki/Giant#Abrahamic_2FBiblical_Mythology>

Did U.S. Special Forces Kill a Giant in Kandahar?

Several conspiracy theory-oriented web sites claimed a Biblical giant with flaming red hair was killed by U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan.

- [Bethania Palma](#)
 - Published 31 August 2016
- [Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)[Share on Pinterest](#)[Share on Reddit](#)[Share via Email](#)



Image via [Watchers 10 screen capture](#)

Claim
United States Special Forces killed a giant in Kandahar in 2002, and the government is trying to cover it up.

Rating



False
[About this rating](#)

Origin
In the summer of 2016, several personalities and web sites dedicated to discussing supernatural myths and conspiracy theories began [claiming](#) that an [American Special Forces soldier](#) serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan, was killed in 2002 by a 1,100-pound, blade-wielding, 12-foot-tall giant from Old Testament times before the giant himself was taken down by the military.

A Department of Defense spokesman told us they have no record of such an incident: We do not have any record or information about a special forces member killed by a giant in Kandahar.

Current interest in the story appears to have been generated from a video created by [L.A. Marzulli](#), an author, blogger and filmmaker determined to link modern times with biblical creatures and prophecies. On 13 August 2016, he posted an episode on YouTube of his series, [Watchers](#), in which he claims to interview a military contractor or soldier who witnessed the blade-wielding "Giant of Kandahar" kill another soldier before being [downed](#) by troops, whisked away by a transport aircraft and hidden away from public view.

Marzulli makes the case that the giant was a [Nephilim](#), which were described in the Book of Genesis as offspring of gods and human women who inhabited Canaan at the time of Israelite conquest. But when it comes down to details, he's vague, saying he interviewed the unnamed man at an "undisclosed location" on an unknown date. The interviewee who he claims shot and killed the giant, doesn't give any details on the location of the alleged incident, other than to say it was a "remote" location in Afghanistan in 2002. He claims he and others were sent in to look for a missing patrol when they saw a [scarlet-haired giant](#) emerge from a cave and skewer his friend, who he called "[Dan](#)," with a large blade.

If the Army's statement isn't sufficient, the only service member with the first name Dan or Daniel who died in Kandahar in 2002 was [killed](#) — along with three others — in an accident involving the clearing and disposal of explosives. There are no incidents on the Department of Defense press release page, in which all military casualties were listed, involving a giant. Likewise, there are no reports of an entire patrol disappearing in Afghanistan.

Marzulli's video about the alleged giant incident, replete with a growling animation, can be seen here:

From <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/u-s-special-forces-killed-a-giant-in-kandahar/>

Giant of Kandahar

Giant of Kandahar



Background	
Type	Giant humanoid
First Sighting	Unknown
Last Sighting	2002
Country	Afghanistan
Habitat	Remote Kandahar mountains and caves
Possible Population	Very small

The **Giant of Kandahar** was an enormous humanoid creature allegedly encountered and killed by a group of American soldiers on a mountainside in Afghanistan.

Summary and description

Steven Quayle spoke of an occurrence, still classified by the US Government, in his popular Radio Show "Coast to Coast": the events allegedly happened in 2002 on a desert part of the Afghanistan, when a U.S. Army squad went missing. A Special Ops Task Force was sent to find out what had happened, and the soldiers walked along a ragged, mountainous trail until arriving at the entrance of a large cave. Pieces of broken U.S. military equipment and gear were scattered all around the clearing. The Task Force was about to enter the cave to explore its recesses when a ~12-15 feet, red-headed, six-digit, double-toothed humanoid emerged and attacked the soldiers. The giant impaled 'Dan' with giant spear and proceeded to attack the rest of the squad. The witness states they took 30 seconds of continuous fire to down the giant.

Between them, the squad was armed with M4 Submachine Guns, Recon Carbines (Semi-Automatic Rifles) and .50 BMG Barrett Sniper Rifles. This much firepower, concentrated on one target for one second, let alone thirty would create a lot of damage.

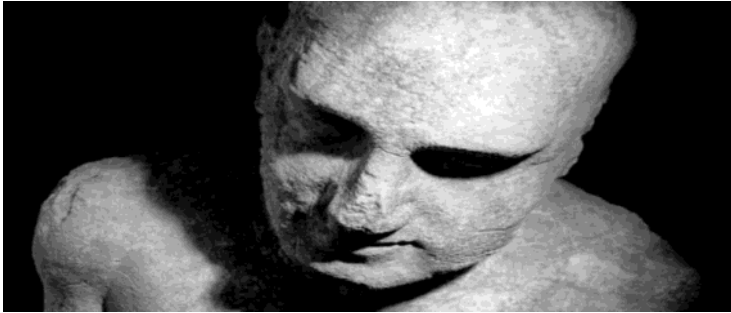
According to the witness, the giant wore canvas or animal hide covers on to protect its feet like moccasins and smelt like dead bodies. The creature's body was airlifted back to the squad's base by a helicopter and net. From there it was loaded into an aircraft and taken away, never to be seen again.

Upon their return, the soldiers were made to sign non-disclosure paperwork to stop the word spreading of their encounter. The witness states that he broke his silence because "people have the right to know what's happening on our planet".

Hoax

The Giant of Kandahar is a hoax, as the Department of Defense has no record of this incident. [L.A. Marzulli](#), an author, blogger and filmmaker, is believed to have created or heavily influenced this legend.

From https://cryptidz.fandom.com/wiki/Giant_of_Kandahar



UPDATED:
AUG 22, 2018
ORIGINAL:
OCT 16, 2014

The Cardiff Giant Fools the Nation, 145 Years Ago

In 1869, trickster **George Hull** masterminded one of the 19th century's most sensational hoaxes: the discovery of a 10-foot-tall giant.

[EVAN ANDREWS](#)

The seed for what would become one of the 19th century's most elaborate hoaxes first planted itself in George Hull's mind in 1867. A cigar maker by trade, Hull was also a staunch atheist and skeptic, and during a business trip to Iowa, he became locked in a theological debate with a revivalist preacher. Hull later claimed he was flabbergasted by the preacher's literalist reading of the Bible, in particular a passage from the Book of Genesis that states "there were giants in the earth in those days." As he lay in bed later that night, Hull wondered if it might be possible to dupe the faithful by making a stone giant "and passing it off as a petrified man." If done right, he mused, the scam would allow him to strike a blow against religion and make a pretty penny along the way.

Over the next two years, Hull spent nearly \$3,000 bringing his phony giant to life. He began by traveling to Fort Dodge, Iowa, where he secured a 5-ton block of gypsum by claiming it would be used for a statue of the late Abraham Lincoln. Hull then shipped the slab to a Chicago marble dealer who had agreed to help with the scheme in exchange for a piece of the profits. With Hull posing as a model, a pair of sculptors spent the late summer of 1868 fashioning the gypsum into an artificial anthropological wonder. The statue took the form of a naked man lying on his back with his right arm grasping at his stomach, one leg crossed over the other and a face with a mysterious half-smile. The workers doused the exterior with sulfuric acid to give an aged, eroded look, and Hull even drove pins into the body to replicate skin pores. **When finished, the sham colossus stood more than 10 feet tall and weighed nearly 3,000 pounds.**



Excavation of the Cardiff Giant, 1869

Hull needed a place to bury his giant, and he eventually settled on Cardiff, New York, a small valley town that also happened to be the home of a distant relative and farmer named William "Stub" Newell. After cutting Newell in on the deal and swearing him to secrecy, Hull shipped the giant to his property in an iron-sealed box. On a chilly night in November 1868, the men buried the behemoth near Newell's barn, wedging it under roots to create the illusion that it had rested beneath the dirt for centuries. Hull then returned to his home in nearby Binghamton and busied himself with his cigar business. Nearly a year would pass before he finally wrote Newell and instructed him to resurrect the giant. On October 16, 1869, **Newell put the plan into action by hiring a pair of unsuspecting workers to dig a well near his barn. The men didn't have to dig far before their shovels hit what appeared to be a stone foot. In a matter of minutes, the stunned laborers had excavated the body of a massive, supine man. "I declare," one of the men supposedly said. "Some old Indian has been buried here!"**

It didn't take long for news of the discovery to spread through Cardiff. "Men left their work," the Syracuse Journal later wrote, "women caught up their babies, and children in numbers, all hurried to the scene where the interest of that little community centered." Since Cardiff was already known its fossils deposits, many surmised that the body was an ancient man that had been petrified by the waters of a nearby swamp. While early examinations appeared to confirm this theory, a Syracuse-based science lecturer later declared the giant was not a man, but rather a statue possibly carved by French Jesuits centuries earlier. As the speculation mounted, Stub Newell played the part of the humble farmer with aplomb. He even vowed to re-bury the giant and forget about it until his neighbors "convinced" him that the discovery might have some historical value.

Cardiff's prehistoric man made a splash the likes of which had never been seen in rural New York. "A NEW WONDER," read the headline in the Syracuse Daily Standard. Another paper hailed the find as "a singular discovery." When the crowds continued to grow, Newell covered the giant with a white tent and began charging 50 cents for admission. Some 2,500 people came during the exhibition's first week alone. Newell brushed off offers to buy the giant until George Hull arrived in Cardiff a few days later. After a brief powwow, the conspirators agreed it was time to cash in. When a syndicate of businessmen offered \$30,000 for a three-fourths stake, Newell sold.

Over the next few weeks, more experts converged on Cardiff to inspect the "new wonder." New York State Geologist James Hall and Rochester University professor Henry Ward were among the many to throw their weight behind the statue theory, with Hall christening it, "the most remarkable object yet brought to light in our country." Another camp still clung to the petrified man hypothesis, yet some were beginning to grow suspicious of the discovery's authenticity. Locals remembered seeing George Hull transport a massive crate through Cardiff a year earlier, and reporters learned that Newell had transferred a large amount of cash to Hull immediately after selling the giant. Questions continued piling up that November, when the giant's new owners took it on the road and exhibited it to thousands of spectators in Syracuse and Albany. A mining engineer caused a stir when he noted that gypsum would have deteriorated quickly in the soggy soil of Newell's farm, and an even more crucial blow came courtesy of famed **Yale paleontologist Othniel Charles Marsh, who only needed a passing glance at the giant to pronounce it "of very recent origin, and a most decided humbug."**



P. T. Barnum (Credit: Henry Guttman/Getty Images)

Still, where some saw a fraud, others saw dollar signs. Only a day after Marsh's inspection, the famed circus impresario and showman P.T. Barnum viewed the giant in Syracuse and tried to buy it. When the owners turned him down, he commissioned a sculptor to build an exact replica and began displaying it at a Manhattan museum as the real thing. "What is it?" asked the ads for Barnum's exhibition. "Is it a Statue? Is it a Petrification? Is it a Stupendous Fraud? Is it the Remains of a former Race?" Barnum's giant drew huge crowds, even outselling the original when it finally arrived in New York that December. The man who built Barnum's forgery soon made several other copies, and by the end of the year, a half-dozen Cardiff Giants were being exhibited around the country. "It is rather rich," quipped the Philadelphia Inquirer, "that we should be victimized by such a fraud upon a fraud."

By early 1870, the Cardiff Giant had turned from a subject of fascination into one of ridicule. Some people still argued for its antiquity, but new exposés were cropping up all the time, and even George Hull began publically bragging about having engineered a hoax. The ruse finally crumbled that February, when newspapers printed confessions from the Chicago sculptors who had first chiseled the giant into being. The "American Goliath's" proprietors continued exhibiting it for a few years to ever-decreasing crowds, but by 1880 it had been condemned to storage in a barn in Massachusetts. The giant eventually passed between various owners and toured the carnival circuit before being sold to the Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

Having cleared around \$20,000 with the Cardiff Giant scheme, George Hull would later attempt to continue his new career as a flimflam man. In 1877, he tried to "humbug" the masses once again by building a 7-foot-tall giant with a tail and burying it in Colorado. The hoax was quickly exposed, however, and Hull lost a great deal of money. He died in obscurity in 1902, supposedly still proud of once "fooling the world" with the Cardiff Giant.

From <<https://www.history.com/news/the-cardiff-giant-fools-the-nation-145-years-ago>>



Robert Wadlow: Tallest man ever

Humankind has always been fascinated by extremes: as a result, the record for the *Tallest man (ever)* has been featured in almost every edition of the Guinness World Records book since its inauguration in 1955.

"The only admissible evidence upon the true height of giants is that of recent date made under impartial medical supervision."

These were the words of Norris and Ross McWhirter, the founders of Guinness World Records, in 1955. They went on to dismiss claims for legendary giants such as the biblical Og, King of Bashan (allegedly 9 Assyrian cubits, or 494.03 cm/16 ft 2.5 in tall), citing "confusion of units".

The twins then named Robert Wadlow as the tallest man "of whom there is irrefutable evidence".

When last measured on 27 June 1940, the mild-mannered American stretched a staggering 2.72 m (8 ft 11.1 in) tall.

Perhaps surprisingly, Robert entered the world no differently to most babies. He was born on 22 February 1918 to two regular-sized parents, weighing an unremarkable 3.85 kg (8.7 lb).

But he rapidly started to shoot up, reaching an incredible 1.63 m (5 ft 4 in) by the age of five, by which time he was already wearing clothes intended for teenagers.

Toddler in teenager's clothing

Aged eight, he overtook his 5-ft 11-in-tall (180.3-cm) tall father, Harold F Wadlow, and towered over his four younger siblings. When most children were still being carried by their parents, Robert was able to lift his father up the stairs of their family home.

Robert's incredible height caused a number of medical issues however, which worsened as he grew older – and taller. Yet as a young boy, he tried his hardest to get involved in the same activities his peers were doing. For example, he became a Boy Scout at the age of 13, and had a customised uniform, tent and sleeping bag.

Robert passed the 2.45 m (8 ft 0.5 in) mark by the age of 17, making him – unsurprisingly – the tallest teenager ever.

In 1936, the gentle giant graduated from high school and enrolled in college with the intention of studying law.

Celebrity career

However, later that year he would embark on a tour with the hugely popular Ringling Brother Circus, which saw the giant earn worldwide fame.

When asked in a radio interview if he was annoyed when people stared at him, he calmly replied, "No, I just overlook them."

The quiet, unassuming man took his new-found celebrity status in his stride, and used it to earn money from public appearances.



He also did a promotional tour with the International Show Company (now INTERCO), which agreed to make him shoes for free.

This was a blessing for Robert, who had whopping 47-cm-long (18.5-ft) feet – the equivalent of a US size 37AA (UK size 36, roughly a European size 75) – the largest feet ever. His shoes could cost as much as \$100, equal to \$1,500 (£1,026) in today's currency.

The Alton Giant also boasted the largest hands ever, measuring 32.3 cm (12.7 in) from the wrist to the tip of his middle finger.

But what caused Robert's extraordinary height?

Pituitary gigantism

Doctors examined Robert and realised that his exceptional size was caused by hyperplasia of his pituitary gland. This condition causes an abnormally high level of the human growth hormone and Robert was never given any treatment to stop it.

Dr Donald Rau, Medical Consultant, Guinness World Records explained: "Robert Wadlow escaped the attention of surgeons, as they were not confident enough to operate on him. Therefore he might remain the tallest man for a very long time."

With a staggering peak daily food consumption of 8,000 calories, he actually continued to grow taller right up until his death.

Since then, medical technology and treatment has advanced significantly and people who suffer from pituitary gigantism – such as Sultan Kösen, the tallest man living as of 2017 – are able to have surgery to halt the production of the growth hormone.

Robert's condition caused him to have difficulty getting around – he had leg braces and a walking stick, but never used a wheelchair.

Wadlow's death

Sadly, it was Robert's legs that caused his premature death, aged just 22 years old.

He died at 1:30 a.m. on 15 July 1940 in a hotel in Manistee, Michigan, as a result of a septic blister on his right ankle caused by a brace, which had been poorly fitted only a week earlier.

His last words were "The doctor says I won't get home for the...celebrations", a reference to his paternal grandparents' golden wedding.

The Alton Giant was then buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Alton, in an enormous coffin measuring 3.28 m (10 ft 9 in) long, 81 cm (32 in) wide and 76 cm (30 in) deep.

Legacy

In 1986, a life-size statue of Wadlow was erected on College Avenue in Alton, opposite the Alton Museum of History and Art, in honour of the city's most famous resident.

There are also a number of real-size models of him in a variety of museums across the world.

His influence has even stretched into the music world: in 2005, American singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens recorded a track titled "The Tallest Man, the Broadest Shoulders", about Wadlow's life.

The tallest man has always been a favourite title of Craig Glenday, Editor-in-Chief at Guinness World Records:

"This record resonates across the whole world because every country understands how powerful this record is."

The tallest man ever lives on in the history books and the Guinness World Records archives – an enduring record that perhaps will never be beaten.

For our 60th anniversary, we looked back over the years at the tallest people, from Robert Wadlow to Sultan Kösen (who currently stands 8 ft 2.8 in tall).

In the video below, Guinness World Records Editor-in-Chief Craig Glenday explains how this category is one of our most iconic, featuring archive footage and interviews with medical experts and celebrities.

We also talk to school children who give their take on the challenges that might arise from being the tallest man in the world.



From <<https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/records/hall-of-fame/robert-wadlow-tallest-man-ever>>

The causes and consequences of pituitary gigantism

Abstract

In the general population, height is determined by a complex interplay between genetic and environmental factors. Pituitary gigantism is a rare but very important subgroup of patients with excessive height, as it has an identifiable and clinically treatable cause. The disease is caused by chronic growth hormone and insulin-like growth factor 1 secretion from a pituitary somatotrope adenoma that forms before the closure of the epiphyses. If not controlled effectively, this hormonal hypersecretion could lead to extremely elevated final adult height. The past 10 years have seen marked advances in the understanding of pituitary gigantism, including the identification of genetic causes in ~50% of cases, such as mutations in the *AIP* gene or chromosome Xq26.3 duplications in X-linked acrogigantism syndrome. Pituitary gigantism has a male preponderance, and patients usually have large pituitary adenomas. The large tumour size, together with the young age of patients and frequent resistance to medical therapy, makes the management of pituitary gigantism complex. Early diagnosis and rapid referral for effective therapy appear to improve outcomes in patients with pituitary gigantism; therefore, a high level of clinical suspicion and efficient use of diagnostic resources is key to controlling overgrowth and preventing patients from reaching very elevated final adult heights.

Key points

- Nearly 50% of patients with pituitary gigantism have a known underlying genetic cause; therefore, these patients should be strongly considered for genetic counselling and screening.
- Once growth hormone (GH) hypersecretion has been established, efforts should be made to avoid delays in instigating treatment to control levels of GH and insulin-like growth factor 1.
- A shorter time between diagnosis and the commencement of treatment is associated with a decreased final height in pituitary gigantism.
- Pituitary gigantism is a disease that predominantly affects males, but males also have a longer delay in time to diagnosis than females, leading to a low proportion of male patients who have disease control by 18 years of age.
- Somatotropinomas in pituitary gigantism are usually large (macroadenomas) and might be difficult to cure with surgery or medical therapy alone; therefore, multimodal approaches are common in pituitary gigantism.
- The effect of large tumour size and multiple surgeries and radiotherapy is that patients with pituitary gigantism often have hypopituitarism at long-term follow-up.

From <<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41574-018-0114-1>>

Andre the Giant

Monday, October 25, 2021 8:48 PM



Photo: Yukio Hiraku/AFLO/Alamy Live News

QUICK FACTS

Andre the Giant
May 19, 1946
January 28, 1993
Grenoble, France
Paris, France

André René Roussimoff

- [WHO WAS ANDRE THE GIANT?](#)
- [CITE THIS PAGE](#)

Andre the Giant

Biography

Andre the Giant's outsized appearance helped him become a superstar wrestler and a movie star in 'The Princess Bride,' but the hormonal disorder that caused his gigantism also contributed to his early death.

Who Was Andre the Giant?

Andre the Giant had the hormonal disorder acromegaly, which causes the release of excess growth hormone and in Andre's case, resulted in gigantism. His size helped Andre dominate the sport of wrestling in the 1970s and '80s. He made millions, became world famous, and found crossover success in the movie *The Princess Bride*. Near the end of his career, Andre faced off with [Hulk Hogan](#) in 1987's *Wrestlemania III*. Andre died at the age of 46 in his native France.

Early Life

Andre the Giant was born as André René Roussimoff on May 19, 1946, in Coulommiers, France. He reportedly weighed [13 pounds at birth](#). Though billed in wrestling as hailing from Grenoble in the French Alps, Andre actually grew up in the small town of Molien, forty miles east of Paris. He had four siblings, two older and two younger. Sometimes while walking to and from school Andre was given a ride by famous playwright [Samuel Beckett](#), who was a neighbor.

Andre left school at 14 (the legal age at the time) and began to work. [According to his family](#), it was around this time that his acromegaly became noticeable. He grew to be nearly 6-foot-6 by the time he was 15.

Acromegaly

Andre had acromegaly, a hormonal disorder in which the pituitary gland releases excess growth hormone. The disorder can cause gigantism in children, which happened to Andre when he began to grow taller around the age of 14. Continued growth resulted in his enlarged head, hands, feet, and chest. Andre wore a size 22 shoe, and in his hands, a regular beer can seemed to be miniaturized (as he demonstrated in a photo that appeared in a 1981 *Sports Illustrated* profile).

His size could make life difficult. Andre once [noted](#), "They don't build anything for a giant." In the days of telephone dials, he needed a pencil to make a call. He traveled 300 days a year for wrestling, but when he flew he couldn't squeeze into the airplane lavatory and therefore had to relieve himself in a bucket. Unless he was able to use a van that had been customized for him, driving was [torturous](#): "Many times I have to ride for several hundred miles in the front seat of a car and my back and neck always get so stiff."

He was often the subject of unwanted attention in public, and he felt his personal relationships were affected. "People want to be my friend because of my size. They want to take advantage of me. I don't like that," [he once said](#).

Being a giant meant Andre could drink heavily. There are [stories](#) of him consuming 100 beers or 20 bottles of wine in one sitting. However, actor Cary Elwes, a *Princess Bride* co-star, [has said](#), "Andre didn't drink for the sake of drinking — Andre was in a lot of pain, God bless him. His back was injured from carrying all that weight around, and from having other wrestlers breaking chairs over his back."

Doctors didn't diagnose Andre with acromegaly while he was growing up in France. He [may have received a diagnosis](#) in Japan in 1970 and was definitely told he had the disorder after he broke his ankle in 1981. At this point in his life treatment would not have reversed Andre's growth but it could have increased his life expectancy. However, he opted not to get treated. In the 2018 documentary *Andre the Giant*, his doctor [explained](#) Andre's decision: "He decided that he did not want treatment at that time because it might interfere with his career as a wrestler."

Height and Weight

Andre's [exact height remains unknown](#). Throughout his wrestling career he was usually described as 7-foot-4, but the world of [wrestling is prone to hyperbole](#). His French passport gave a height in meters that converts to [just under 7-foot-2](#). [Some believe](#) Andre may have stood at 7 feet, or possibly up to three inches shorter than that.

Andre was often said to weigh 520 lbs., but [this may be another wrestling exaggeration](#). Descriptions of his weight have varied from [380 lbs.](#) to as much as [555 lbs.](#) when he died.

Wrestling Career

Andre once [declared](#), "What God gave me, I use it to make a living," and his size helped him conquer the world of wrestling. In 1966 he began wrestling in France under the name Jean Ferré. Andre also wrestled in Japan, where he was known as Monster Roussimoff, before making his way to Quebec in 1971.

By 1973, Andre was being billed as "Andre the Giant" and was working with Vincent McMahon Sr. in the World Wide Wrestling Federation (which later became WWE). His fame grew and Andre became known as the "Eighth Wonder of the World." Over the course of his career he wrestled across the globe, traveling to Europe, Mexico, Japan, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

In 1987, Andre was the evil opponent who faced off with Hogan in the widely watched *Wrestlemania III*. The event billed Andre as an undefeated wrestler who'd never been body-slammed ([neither of which was true](#)). A large crowd (though [not the 93,000](#) touted by WWE) witnessed Hogan triumph over Andre.

After *Wrestlemania III* an ailing Andre had back surgery ([reports that he'd been operated on before the event appear to be incorrect](#)). He worked with McMahon — in an increasingly limited capacity — until 1991. Though his health continued to decline, Andre kept wrestling until shortly before his death. His last match was in Japan on December 4, 1992.

Andre's career saw him wrestle in more than 5,000 matches. Following his death, he became the first person to be inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame.

'The Princess Bride'

Writer William Goldman and director Rob Reiner both thought Andre the Giant was the ideal person to portray the giant Fezzik in the 1987 movie *The Princess Bride*. Though Reiner [said of Andre](#), "We had a three-page scene for him to audition with, and I didn't understand a word he said," the wrestler still landed the part. He went on to prove himself by delivering a lauded performance.

Yet making the movie wasn't easy for Andre. His back was bothering him during filming, so stunts were difficult. When he was unable to catch actress Robin Wright in his arms she had to be held up with cables. Due to his size, Andre himself was lifted with cables when a scene called for him to ride a horse.

The Princess Bride wasn't Andre's first acting role. He had appeared in a French film in 1967, in television series such as *Six Million Dollar Man* in 1976 and *The Fall Guy* in 1982 and in the movie *Micki & Maude* (1984). After *The Princess Bride* Andre cameoeed in the film *Trading Mom* (1994). Yet no part was as perfect a fit as Fezzik. Andre was so proud of his work that he usually traveled with a videotape of the film, and enjoyed holding screenings of the movie.

Death

Andre was 46 when he died in a Paris hotel room on January 28, 1993 (his death is [often incorrectly listed as January 27](#)). He died from congestive heart failure, [linked to his untreated acromegaly](#).

Andre, who'd been in France to attend his father's funeral and visit his family, had wanted to be cremated. When no crematorium in France was big enough for the task his body had to be flown back to the United States. His ashes were scattered at his ranch in North Carolina.

Daughter

Andre's daughter, Robin Christensen-Roussimoff, was born in 1979. Andre and her mother, Jean Christensen, were not married and had a tense co-parenting relationship. This, along with Andre's demanding travel schedule for wrestling, made it difficult for him to see his daughter.

Robin would meet her father when he had matches around Seattle, and the two spoke on the phone. She has [said](#), "Maybe had he lived longer, I might have had a closer relationship with him." Andre made Robin the main beneficiary in his will.

Documentary and Books

The 2018 documentary *Andre the Giant* provided an in-depth look at Andre's life. Andre's story has appeared in books, such as the 2014 graphic tale *Andre the Giant: Life and Legend* and the 2020 biography *The Eighth Wonder of the World: The True Story of André the Giant*. Artist Shepard Fairey also kept Andre in the public eye with his "Andre the Giant has a Posse" street art campaign.

From <https://www.biography.com/athlete/andre-the-giant>

Acromegaly

Monday, October 25, 2021 8:52 PM

Overview



Acromegaly is a hormonal disorder that develops when your pituitary gland produces too much growth hormone during adulthood.

When you have too much growth hormone, your bones increase in size. In childhood, this leads to increased height and is called gigantism. But in adulthood, a change in height doesn't occur. Instead, the increase in bone size is limited to the bones of your hands, feet and face, and is called acromegaly.

Because acromegaly is uncommon and the physical changes occur slowly over many years, the condition sometimes takes a long time to recognize. Untreated, high levels of growth hormone can affect other parts of the body, in addition to your bones. This can lead to serious — sometimes even life-threatening — health problems. But treatment can reduce your risk of complications and significantly improve your symptoms, including the enlargement of your features.

Products & Services

- [Book: Mayo Clinic Family Health Book, 5th Edition](#)

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Symptoms

A common sign of acromegaly is enlarged hands and feet. For example, you may notice that you aren't able to put on rings that used to fit, and that your shoe size has progressively increased.

Acromegaly may also cause gradual changes in your face's shape, such as a protruding lower jaw and brow bone, an enlarged nose, thickened lips, and wider spacing between your teeth.

Because acromegaly tends to progress slowly, early signs may not be obvious for years. Sometimes, people notice the physical changes only by comparing old photos with newer ones.

Overall, acromegaly signs and symptoms tend to vary from one person to another, and may include any of the following:

- Enlarged hands and feet
- Enlarged facial features, including the facial bones, lips, nose and tongue
- Coarse, oily, thickened skin
- Excessive sweating and body odor
- Small outgrowths of skin tissue (skin tags)
- Fatigue and joint or muscle weakness
- Pain and limited joint mobility
- A deepened, husky voice due to enlarged vocal cords and sinuses
- Severe snoring due to obstruction of the upper airway
- Vision problems
- Headaches, which may be persistent or severe
- Menstrual cycle irregularities in women
- Erectile dysfunction in men
- Loss of interest in sex

From <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/acromegaly/symptoms-causes/syc-20351222>