

Oral Reading Test

- ▶ In July 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilmot were sitting on their porch in Roswell, New Mexico. They noticed a glowing object pass through the sky near their home. The couple immediately ran down into the yard to get a better look. The reliable Mr. Wilmot later guessed that the object was flying almost 500 miles per hour. He described the oval-shaped object as two shallow bowls pushed together.

Soon an Army press release announced that metal pieces of a flying disk—otherwise known as a flying saucer—had been found in the area. Reports even stated that dead alien bodies had been discovered. But then, several days later, another press release claimed the earlier story was false. The second press release explained that the pieces had been matched to a weather balloon that was supposed to be in the area. No mention was made of the dead bodies.

By that point, however, the story was too good to contain, and people couldn't stop talking about it. This was the first credible proof that alien life existed. But the Army refused to share the evidence it had collected with anyone who asked. And over the years, the rumors were told and retold.

In the 1990s, the Pentagon released another statement on the Roswell incident in an effort to stop the rumors. This statement stated that the debris found back in 1947 was from an experimental weather balloon. It even addressed the rumors that dead aliens had been found among the wreckage and claimed that there had been dummies on board the weather balloon.

What's the truth? Many people remain convinced that aliens sent a spaceship to Earth, while others believe the Army's explanation. But until a second alien visit, the world may never know what really happened in Roswell, New Mexico.