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The following activities are inspired by one man and the amazing world he lived in. It was, of course, the same planet as the rest of us inhabit, but what set Robert Ripley apart was his curious viewpoint and insatiable appetite for the unusual and different. Some would even say the bizarre!

GLOBAL EXPLORER

Millionaire cartoonist, renowned broadcaster, and in the 1930s voted America’s most popular man, Robert Ripley was above all a world-class explorer and collector. Indiana Jones-style, he was relentless in his search for astonishing artifacts to add to his collection of the unbelievable. He coined the phrase “Believe It or Not” and founded the "Odditoriums" that bear his name.

ONE OF THE GOLD COAST’S BEST INTERACTIVE INDOOR ATTRACTIONS

Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Odditorium at SOUL Boardwalk, Cavill Mall, Surfers Paradise contains more than 400 genuine artifacts and exhibits from around the world: some more than 300 years old! In uniquely themed rooms, you’ll find the renowned exhibits that prompt even the most reserved among us to drop our jaw. Quite simply, you won’t believe your eyes.
CURIOS CUBS! Our badge resource kit brings you some of the flavor of the world of Ripley and is designed to be used in conjunction with a Curious Cub visit. The whole experience will stimulate curiosity, inspire ideas and motivate Cubs to achieve badges in a unique, remarkable and curious way!

CALLING CURIOUS CUBS! THIS RESOURCE KIT CONSISTS OF:

• A list of badges Cubs can earn using the exhibits.
• Activities related to these particular badges.
• Suggestions as to what Cubs can do before, during, and after their visit to Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Surfers Paradise.

WE HOPE YOU AND YOUR PACK ENJOY YOUR VISIT!
In this activity, introduce your Cubs to some of the exhibits in Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Surfers Paradise and ask them to say whether they believe them or not. Their challenge is to then find the related items in Ripley’s “Odditorium” and find out whether the facts they are given are true or not! At the back of this packet is the master matrix of answers together with the details of the relevant artifacts in Ripley’s in the order in which your group will reach them.

**ACTIVITY OUTCOMES:**

1.) To give the Cubs an understanding of Ripley's Believe It or Not! Surfers Paradise and start their journey and badge achievement using Ripley's as a resource.

2.) To research information.

**PREPARATION:**

1.) Book your visit to Ripley’s.

2.) Photocopy the sheet for each Cub.

3.) Photocopy the Cub Leader’s Notes for each adult group leader and brief them on what they need to do to encourage, assist, and observe the Cubs during their visit to Ripley’s.

**ALSO** Read through the list of badges that Ripley’s can help Cubs to earn. Provide a list to the Cubs and encourage them to consider what badge they would like to strive to achieve next, so they can take full advantage from their visit.
EARNING BADGES!

There are Seven Achievement Badges that Ripley’s can assist Cubs to achieve in a unique, exciting, and curious way.

ART & DESIGN
SPACE
HANDCRAFT
ENTERTAINER
COLLECTOR
MASK & SCULPTURE
LITERATURE
In order to achieve this badge, a cub must create artwork from a list of varied suggestions such as traditional drawing, painting, and collage. Amongst our 400 exhibits, Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Surfers Paradise hosts an unbelievable art gallery, dedicated specifically to unique, bizarre, and unusual art to inspire Cubs to create art in different and fresh ways and to achieve the Art & Design badge.

A visit to Ripley’s can inspire Cubs to earn this badge in a unique and creative way by...

1.) Suggesting different materials/ mediums to use.
2.) Demonstrating different art techniques.
3.) Suggesting Interesting subjects to draw or recreate.
4.) Presenting a variety of artists Cubs can take an interest in.
5.) Showing original pieces of artist’s work.
6.) Introducing Cubs to art forms they may not know or even considered before. E.g. painted crickets.
COLLECTOR

EARNING BADGES! [MASKS & SCULPTURE]

To earn this badge, Cubs must create a variety of masks or sculptures using different materials. People from all around the world send their unbelievable handmade sculptures to Ripley's Believe It or Not! Many of which are available for public viewing at the Surfers Paradise Odditorium!

A visit to Ripley's can show Cubs exhibits featuring real traditional tribal masks and...

1.) Show Cubs some of the most intricately detailed sculptures ever made.
2.) Suggest different materials to use.
3.) Inspire Cubs to create sculptures/masks.

LITERATURE

ART & DESIGN

SPACE

HANDCRAFT

ENTERTAINER

MASK & SCULPTURE
To earn this badge, Scouts must have an interest in, have practiced and have an improved proficiency in Space. At Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Surfers Paradise, we have a whole room dedicated to Space and some out of this world, Believe It Or Not!

A visit to Ripley’s can show Cubs exhibits that have come from space and...

1.) Encourage Cubs to learn about astronauts and come face to face with their medals!
2.) Provide fun and informative facts about space!
3.) Encourage Cubs to research Space!
To earn this badge, Cubs must show an interest in, have learned about, and have improved proficiency in Handcraft. Throughout our 15 rooms, there are ample examples of originality, individuality, and bizarre creativity in every piece of work!

**A visit to Ripley’s can demonstrate examples of original creativity and...**

1.) Inspire Cubs to think up their own original design ideas.
2.) Expose Cubs to particular techniques/ tools and materials.
3.) Show original pieces of artist's work.
4.) Suggest many different materials Cubs can use in making their own project.
Cubs must write and plan a piece of original entertainment in order to achieve this badge. Robert Ripley met some of the most amazing entertainers of his lifetime, and they are now featured at Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Surfers Paradise.

A visit to Ripley’s can demonstrate examples of unique entertainers to Cubs and...

1.) Give Cubs the opportunity to watch some unbelievable entertainers.

2.) Ignite imaginations and help Cubs think about creating an original performance/piece of entertainment.
EARNING BADGES! COLLECTOR

This badge encourages Cubs to build a collection of their own. Robert Ripley had one of the biggest collections of artifacts and exhibits of his time! Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Surfers Paradise showcases some extreme examples of collections of some of the rarest and most unusual items imaginable!

A visit to Ripley’s can encourage Cubs to start a collection by...

1.) Demonstrating different types of collections.
2.) Demonstrating how to organize and display collections.
3.) Suggesting interesting items to collect.
4.) Encouraging Cubs to research particular collections/collection items.
The Literacy Arts badge encourages Cubs to use their imagination and create various forms of writing. With 15 rooms of the weird, the wonderful, and the wacky, Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Surfers Paradise is enough to capture anyone’s imagination!

A visit to Ripley’s can inspire Cubs to earn this badge in a unique and creative way by...

1.) Helps Cubs think of a topic they might like to write about, even if it is Robert Ripley himself!

2.) Make Cubs consider new ideas.

3.) Encourage Cubs to use their imagination.
The world-famous Ripley's Believe It or Not! attractions were founded by Robert Ripley. Born in California in 1890, Ripley showed early sporting and artistic talent. He yearned for a pro baseball career and had a trial with the New York Yankees but injury ended his hopes. Having switched to drawing sporting cartoons, he went on to depict the bizarre and unusual. This proved an instant hit with the American public.

Under the title "Believe It or Not" Ripley's work appeared in 400 global newspapers and books and inspired a radio and television series. Such was his appeal that he was voted America's most popular man in 1936.

Travel became an obsession as he explored the world seeking out the surprising, the unusual, and the strange. He dedicated his life to reporting the unbelievable things he discovered and revealing them to the American public.

Daring jungle and desert, the intrepid explorer scoured the world for strange examples of the world's capacity for surprise and difference. In 1933, he showed thousands of the oddities he collected at the Chicago Trade Fair at his first "Odditorium". Public interest was overwhelming and many venues were subsequently opened to satisfy the curious— which includes us all! There are more than 30 Odditoriums globally.

Ripley was considered an eccentric character with a varied style of clothing. He was thin on top and had beaver-like protruding teeth. He was also terrified of using the telephone, fearing it would electrocute him. He owned more than 100 cars, even though he never learned to drive. Ripley was the most unlikely celebrity.

In 1948, he created a television pilot based on one of his radio shows. The pilot was such a success it became the basis for one of the very first weekly U.S. television series.

Robert Ripley died in 1949, but his legacy lives on in numerous attractions, which still bear his name.
To earn badges with Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Surfers Paradise, here are some suggestions that Cubs could do using inspiration from some our Believe It or Not! greats!

1.) CURIOUS CANVASES!
Throw out the normal canvas and suggest using different surfaces to paint on such as leaves, eggshells or even bread! At Ripley’s you can see painted leaves, decorated ostrich and quails eggs, and a painted tortilla!

2.) MIRACULOUS MIRACLES!
Try painting or drawing tiny pictures that can only be viewed with the aid of a magnifying glass. Suggest Cubs seek inspiration from their own imagination or perhaps copy a famous artwork such as a letter painted on a grain of rice using a human hair that is on display at Ripley’s. Suggested items could be sweets, pasta, or marbles.

3.) MINUTE MASTERPIECE!
Try creating a masterpiece in only a minute! Use pastels, watercolors, charcoal, or pencils to produce a detailed piece of artwork in only 60 seconds.

4.) SENSATIONAL SCULPTURE!
Use different materials to make the most sensational sculpture yet. Replicate or be inspired by some of the works at Ripley’s where exhibits can be seen which have been created using matchsticks, junk, chewing gum, sweet wrappers or even toilet paper.

5.) CREATIVE COMPUTING!
Create amazing artwork by using only letters typed on a computer keyboard! Numbers and symbols may also be used but points will be deducted! This method of artwork first flourished in the fifties and examples can be seen at Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Surfers Paradise.
Read through each of the facts below and decide whether you Believe It or Not! When you arrive at Ripley’s you will see these artifacts and discover the truth about each fact. There is also an extra column so you can make notes to take back, so we can talk about the facts later.

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Believe It! or Not? Alexander Patty of Paris, France, a circus acrobat, could bounce down and up flights of stairs on his head. (ALEXANDER PATTY)

Believe It! In the middle ages people who committed minor offenses were forced to wear iron masks, called branks. These branks came in many shapes, like a wolf head, and were intended to humiliate the wearer as well as cause discomfort. Branks shaped like animal heads were associated with specific crimes, in the case of the wolf the accused was guilty of theft, typically for food. (BRANK SHAME MASK)

Believe It! At the age of 3 daughters of wealthy families had their feet purposely broken and bound. The ideal foot was a mere 3 inches long and was crushed into a shape resembling the Chinese lotus flower. (CHINESE LILLY SLIPPERS)

Believe It! Mike, a headless chicken from Colorado, USA, lived for 181 months without a head (1945-1946). (MIKE THE HEADLESS CHICKEN)

Believe It! The Jivaro are amongst the most famous tribes of the Amazon area, due to their habit of shrinking the heads of their enemies killed in war. Although they no longer practice the art of shrinking heads, this legendary tribe still exists and inhabits an area larger than Switzerland on the Eastern slopes of South America. (JIVARO INDIAN WARRIORS)

Believe It! In parts of Africa chefs used wooded head rests as pillows. Often decorated with totemic figures who are suppose to protect the sleeper, they are actually considered more comfortable the average western-style soft pillow. For centuries the aristocracy in China preferred jade or porcelain pillows. The pillow could be heated with a lump of hot coal that was put inside. (TOILET PAPER WEDDING GOWNS)

Believe It! Cheap Chic Weddings of Florida, USA, a wedding dress advisor company, hold an annual toilet paper wedding dress contest. Co-sponsored by Charmin toilet paper products, would-be Vera Wangs must create their own wedding gowns using only toilet paper, tape and glue. (ROBERT WADLOW)

Believe It! Robert P. Wadlow is the tallest man ever known to exist. He grew to be over 2.7 meters tall, and continued growing for his whole life! Known as the “Alton Giant”, he was one of America’s most popular celebrities in the 1930’s. (ALTON GIANT)

Believe It! Enrico Ramos of Mexico City, used a three haired brush to paint more than one portrait on a single human hair. Madonna and Adolf Hitler are those featured on the piece of hair. (PORTRAITS PAINTED ON A HUMAN HAIR)

Believe It! Growing to the height of 3’4”, General Thom Thumb, was the most famous midget of all time. Associated all his life with the great showman P. T. Barnum, Thom Thumb amassed an immense fortune, which included a dazzling yacht, a stable of racehorses and a mansion in Connecticut decorated with miniature antique furniture. (GENERAL THOM THUMB)