

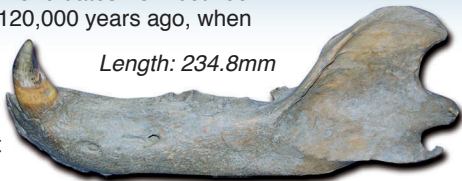
DNA sheds light on Yeti claims

Scientists have found a genetic match between an ancient polar bear and samples said to have come from the legendary Yeti, suggesting that the mythical creature – also known as the Abominable Snowman – may in fact be a sub-species of brown bear still living in the Himalayas

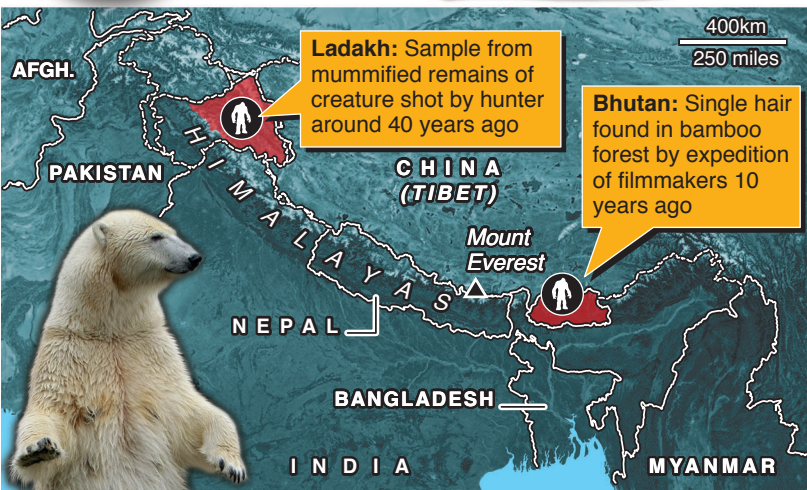
Svalbard
archipelago,
Norway



DNA from hair samples taken from two Himalayan animals – identified by local people as “Yetis” – have 100% match with ancient polar bear jawbone found in Svalbard. Bone dates from between 40,000 and 120,000 years ago, when polar bear and brown bear were separating into different species



Length: 234.8mm



Ladakh: Sample from mummified remains of creature shot by hunter around 40 years ago

Bhutan: Single hair found in bamboo forest by expedition of filmmakers 10 years ago

Scientists believe creature could be hybrid descended from extinct polar bear and closely related brown bear

Photographs of large footprints taken in 1951 on Mount Everest by mountaineer Eric Shipton, fuelled speculation about Yeti's existence

Sources: University Centre in Svalbard
Pictures: Ólafur Ingólfsson, Getty Images

