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The fictitious truth I want to focus on is based on the children's TV show "Gravity Falls". *Gravity Falls* is an animated mystery-comedy series created by Alex Hirsch that aired on Disney Channel and Disney XD from 2012 to 2016. The show follows the adventures of 12-year-old twins, Dipper and Mabel Pines, who are sent to spend the summer with their great-uncle, or "Grunkle," Stan, in the small, seemingly ordinary town of Gravity Falls, Oregon. However, they soon discover that the town is far from normal and is filled with strange creatures, supernatural occurrences, and cryptic mysteries. The series is known for its clever writing, humor, and ongoing storyline filled with cryptic codes, puzzles, and hidden messages that encourage viewers to engage deeply with the show.

Fans of *Gravity Falls*, including myself, have long been fascinated by the mysterious town, its cryptic messages, and its supernatural occurrences. But what if *Gravity Falls* is more than just a children's show? What if it's based on actual government experiments, designed to manipulate time, space, and even the perception of reality? Using clues from within the show and real-world "coincidences," I want to build on the conspiracy theorists' claim that *Gravity Falls* is, in fact, a method of revealing the truth about hidden research conducted in remote parts of America.

One of the big conspiracy theories is about the cryptic ciphers and codes that are scattered throughout *Gravity Falls* in nearly every episode. One code, deciphered by fans in the episode "Dipper and Mabel vs. The Future," reads: "The answers lie just beyond the forest." While this line appears innocuous at first, some fans used the Caesar cipher to uncover an interesting set of coordinates hidden in another episode, *Society of the Blind Eye*. These coordinates point to a remote area of the Pacific Northwest known for its deep forests and difficult-to-access terrain. Strangely, local maps reveal that this region is located within a government-restricted area, specifically part of an old Cold War research facility now closed to the public. Could it be that *Gravity Falls* is hinting at the location of an actual government experiment site hidden in plain sight?

When I was watching the show as it aired when I was younger, it felt like a fun game. Picking up on small details, codes, and hidden messages to try to decipher things about the mysteries and the characters of the show. I want to recreate this sort of treasure hunt childhood memory and expand it into a much bigger conspiracy than just within the boundaries of the show's plotline. The show always felt so much more developed and intricate than other children's shows and I think that's why it was a favorite for so many kids and why I'm interested in using it for this project.

Four writers worked on the production of *Gravity Falls*. Alex Hirsch was the original creator and is said to have based a lot of the show on his own childhood memories. Josh Weinstein is of course also known for his work on *The Simpsons* which coincidentally is also known for its eerily accurate predictions of the future. Aury Wallington has written extensively for TV and has her own published science fiction book. Last, but not least, Shion Takeuchi was the creator of the show *Inside Job*; an animated show all about conspiracy theories. The theory would be

presented by someone working on the production of the show who decides to come out with inside information on the truth about the script of *Gravity Falls* which they overheard throughout the years of working closely with the writers.

The whole project would just be a way to drive more people to watch the show and for old fans of the show to rewatch it to try and build on the conspiracy theory by catching their own “hidden messages” within the show.