

## The Mystery of the Loch Ness Monster

A mysterious creature is reported to live in Loch Ness, a deep, murky lake in Northern Scotland. Sightings of this creature have been reported for many years. In fact, the first sighting of the "Loch Ness Monster" was reported in the year 565 by Saint Columba. Since that time more than four thousand people claimed to have seen the Loch Ness Monster. The people of Scotland nicknamed this creature "Nessie."

The Loch Ness Monster became popular all over the world in 1933 when 90 people claimed to have seen it. The following year, 130 reports were made of this sea monster. New roads were built around the lake so that people could watch for the monster.

The people who claim to have seen the Loch Ness Monster say it is a reptile-like creature with a long, slender neck, a small head, and a hump on its back. It is believed to be 20 to 40 feet long.

Loch Ness lake is 23 miles long and more than 750 feet deep. People cannot see more than two feet into the water because the plants that grow in this lake make the water murky. Because of the size of the lake and the cloudiness of the water, scientists have tried to locate the creature by using sophisticated equipment. They have measured the size, depth, and movement of objects in the lake.

Many underwater photographs have been taken. One photo that was taken in 1975 showed a mysterious long-necked creature with flippers on the underside of its body. Was the creature the famous Loch Ness Monster? No one knows for sure. The scientists did discover that the lake is very deep with many underwater hiding places, such as rocky canyons and caves. Perhaps the Loch Ness Monster remains hidden in one of the underwater caves. Divers and even submarines have searched for the creature in the dark, murky water without any success.

Do the reported sightings and photos prove the existence of the Loch Ness Monster? Many of the reports have been proven to be "lies" and other reports turned out to be common animals or sea objects. But what about the hundreds of reports that cannot be explained? All that is really known is that there may be something hiding in the murky water.

## Activity 3-3: Change the Loch Ness Sentence

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Instructions: Think of a word with a similar or related meaning to the word in **bold**. Then rewrite the sentence using that word. The new word should not change the meaning of the sentence.

1. The water in Loch Ness is **cloudy**.

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2. The lake is **big**.

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3. The Loch Ness Monster is a **strange** creature.

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4. The Loch Ness Monster is reported to have a **small** head.

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5. This monster became **well-known** in 1933.

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6. Scientists used **sophisticated** equipment.

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7. The Loch Ness Monster is reported to have a **long** neck.

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## Activity 3-1: Comprehension and Thinking Questions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Instructions: Answer the questions about "The Mystery of the Loch Ness Monster."

1. In what country have sightings of this monster been reported?

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2. Why is this sea creature named the "Loch Ness" Monster?

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3. When was the first sighting of this monster reported?

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4. How has the appearance of the Loch Ness Monster been described?

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5. What have scientists done to try to prove the existence of the Loch Ness Monster?

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6. Why did the Loch Ness Monster become famous world-wide in 1933?

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7. How has the murky water affected the search for the Loch Ness Monster?

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8. What real objects or sea animals might resemble a sea monster?

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