

Loch Ness Monster Spotted!

August is traditionally the silly season for news stories. One such story about the Loch Ness Monster caught my eye. As many people know, the hunt for 'Nessie' has been going on for years. There are many photos claiming to show the existence of the beast. Some people spend their lives looking for the elusive monster of the deep. One of them is George Edwards who has been on the lookout for Nessie for 26 years. One of his photos, he claims, proves the monster's existence. It shows an image of a dark hump slinking in and out of the lake's waters from the deck of his boat, *Nessie Hunter*. After he took the photo the monster then quickly vanished back into the deep. Mr Edwards says his photo proves Nessie is not a sturgeon. More importantly he adds it proves once and for all that the elusive leviathan really exists! He even had the photo independently verified by a team of US military monster experts, as well as a Nessie sighting specialist.

The first recorded sighting of the Loch Ness Monster was in 565AD. Since then there have been thousands of sightings. Some people think it is some form of ancient reptile. Most regard Nessie as a hoax or fantasy. Certainly, these days computer technology allows this to happen on photos. Yet those that claim to have seen Nessie may in fact have seen a sturgeon. These fish do grow up to 12 feet long. Then again in bad weather what people may have seen could have been a tree, an eel, a log, a submarine or a seal? Some people think there are in fact several monsters in the Scottish Loch.

One of the most famous sightings of Nessie showed the monster with a long neck and head rising out of the water. This fake photo first published in 1934 in Britain's *Daily Mail* newspaper turned out to be a toy submarine, bought from Woolworth, with a head and neck made of wood. It was an elaborate hoax by big-game hunter Marmaduke Wetherell in an act of revenge on the newspaper that had ridiculed him over his hapless search for the beast. Meanwhile in 2012, a sonar image of a large mystery object deep below the surface of Loch Ness netted boat skipper Marcus Atkinson 'the Best Nessie Sighting of The Year Award' by William Hill the bookmaker.

One thing is certain – the search for Nessie goes on. Maybe a visit to Loch Ness is worth thinking about...

Category: Scotland / Loch Ness / Monster
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

EXERCISES

1. The Loch Ness Monster: Think of three things you know about the Loch Ness Monster. Go round the room swapping details with others.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

6. Geography: Loch Ness: Where is Loch Ness? Draw a map on the board or **look on Google maps** to help you.

7. The Loch Ness Monster: Think of five things you know about the Loch Ness Monster from the article. Then add five other things you know about Nessie. Write them below. Discuss together. What are your conclusions?

From the article	Your own ideas
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. Let's roleplay 1: In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *The Loch Ness Monster*. 10 minutes.

1	George Edwards	3	A William Hill spokesperson
2	Marcus Atkinson	4	A 'Nessie' hunter

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

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9. Let's roleplay 2: In pairs. You are in pub overlooking Loch Ness. Start a conversation about 'The Loch Ness Monster'. 5-minutes.

10. Let's think! In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **the Loch Ness Monster**. One-two minutes. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

11. Presentation: In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: 'The Loch Ness Monster'. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation.

12. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Where will you maybe find the Loch Ness monster?
- 2) Name the boat.
- 3) Who is Mr Edwards?
- 4) Name the newspaper.
- 5) What happened in 565AD?

Student B

- 1) What happened in 1934?
- 2) Name the bookmaker.
- 3) Name the skipper who won an award.
- 4) What is the silly season?
- 5) What is a sturgeon?

13. Monsters and Mysteries: Think of five monsters. Then add five mysteries you know about. Write them below. Discuss together. What are your conclusions?

Monsters	Mysteries
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

14. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **The Loch Ness Monster**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

15. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) The Loch Ness Monster _____
- b) Loch Ness _____
- c) The photo _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What is your favourite monster?
- 3) Did you hide behind the sofa as a child when you saw a monster on TV?
- 4) Is Nessie a hoax?
- 5) Why do people hunt for Nessie?
- 6) What do you think about people like George Edwards?
- 7) Will you be taking a ride on Mr Edwards' boat looking for Nessie?
- 8) What do you think of Scotland?
- 9) What is Nessie?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What do you think of the Loch Ness Monster?
- 3) Have you ever been to Scotland?
- 4) Would you like to visit Loch Ness?
- 5) What do you know about the Scottish weather?
- 6) How far is Loch Ness from where you live?
- 7) Have you seen any photos of the Loch Ness Monster?
- 8) Does the Loch Ness monster really exist?
- 9) Is this a good silly season story?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! The Loch Ness Monster

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

20 things about the Loch Ness Monster

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING: edited

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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August is traditionally the (1)_____ season for news stories. One such story about the Loch Ness Monster caught my eye. As many people know, the hunt for 'Nessie' has been going on for years. There are many photos claiming to show the existence of the (2)_____. Some people spend their lives looking for the (3)_____ monster of the deep. One of them is George Edwards who has been on the lookout for Nessie for 26 years. One of his photos, he claims, proves the monster's (4)_____. It shows an (5)_____ of a dark hump slinking in and out of the lake's waters from the (6)_____ of his boat, *Nessie Hunter*. After he took the photo the monster then quickly vanished back into the deep. Mr Edwards says his photo proves Nessie is not a sturgeon. More importantly he adds it proves once and for all that the elusive (7)_____ really exists! He even had the photo independently verified by a team of US military (8)_____ experts, as well as a Nessie sighting specialist.

beast

image

existence

silly

deck

monster

leviathan

elusive

The first recorded sighting of the Loch Ness Monster was in 565AD. Since then there have been thousands of sightings. Some people think it is some form of ancient (1)_____. Most regard Nessie as a hoax or fantasy. Certainly, these days computer (2)_____ allows this to happen on photos. Yet those that claim to have seen Nessie may in fact have seen a sturgeon. These fish do grow up to 12 feet long. Then again in bad weather what people may have seen could have been a tree, an eel, a log, a (3)_____ or a seal? Some people think there are in fact several monsters in the Scottish Loch. One of the most famous sightings of Nessie showed the monster with a long (4)_____ and head rising out of the water. This (5)_____ photo first published in 1934 in Britain's *Daily Mail* newspaper turned out to be a toy submarine, bought from Woolworth, with a head and neck made of wood. It was an elaborate (6)_____ by big-game hunter Marmaduke Wetherell in an act of (7)_____ on the newspaper that had ridiculed him over his (8)_____ search for the beast.

submarine

hapless

technology

fake

revenge

reptile

hoax

neck

GAP FILL: LISTENING: edited

Listen and fill in the spaces.

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One of the _____ of Nessie showed the monster with a long neck and head rising out of the water. This fake photo first published in 1934 in Britain's *Daily Mail* newspaper turned out to be a toy submarine, bought from Woolworth, with _____ made of wood. It was an _____ big-game hunter Marmaduke Wetherell in an act of revenge on the newspaper that had ridiculed him over his hapless search for the beast.

GRAMMAR: edited

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings:
Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20

1	specialist	11	sturgeon
2	existence	12	leviathan
3	beast	13	weather
4	really	14	traditionally
5	independently	15	silly
6	verified	16	elusive
7	Nessie	17	fake
8	season	18	mystery
9	deck	19	ancient
10	elaborate	20	hoax

LINKS

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2183094/Skipper-claims-finally-proof-Loch-Ness-Monster-exists.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2098225/Iceland's-Loch-Ness-monster-Giant-serpent-like-sea-creature-caught-camera-swimming-glacial-river.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2016445/Loch-Ness-like-monster-Alaska-captured-film.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loch_Ness_Monster

<http://www.nessie.co.uk/>

Note: *leviathan* = 1. A monstrous beast, esp a sea monster. 2. Any huge or powerful thing
Hapless = unfortunate; wretched

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