The Loch Ness Monster

Many people believe a large monster lives at the bottom of Loch Ness in Scotland.

What is Loch Ness?

Loch Ness is the largest freshwater lake in Britain. It is twenty-four miles long and at one point one and a half miles wide. It has an average depth of one hundred and fifty metres but in places it is as deep as three hundred and twenty metres. It is cold and murky and has dangerous currents. A large creature could easily hide in this lake.

What does the monster look like?

Descriptions of the Loch Ness Monster vary but many say it has a small head, a long thin neck, a hump like body with a long swishing tail. Some people describe it as having flippers instead of feet. In many ways it sounds similar to a plesiosaurus, a reptile that lived at the same time as the dinosaurs!

Hoaxes

The most famous picture of the Loch Ness monster was the 'surgeon's photo' taken in 1934. However, Christian Spurling admitted the hoax shortly before he died in 1993 at the age of 90. He said it was a model monster, which he helped to build. Dr Wilson, the surgeon, took the photograph.

Footprints of a large animal in the mud along the shore were found to be made by a dried hippo foot that was probably part of an umbrella stand.

Sightings

- In 565AD Saint Columba is reported to have saved a swimmer from a hungry monster.
- In 1933, after a new road was built along the edge of the Loch, a number of sightings were reported.

The first photograph was taken in 1933 by Hugh Gray but it was not very clear.

- In 1934 Arthur Grant claims to have nearly run over a strange beast as he was riding his motorcycle along the new road.
- In 1960 Tim Dinsdale captured the first moving picture but some thought it was a boat.

Theme 3 Monsters | Information Text

The Loch Ness Monster

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Many people believe a large monster lives at the bottom of Loch Ness in Scotland. Loch Ness is the largest

1 **sea** **pond** **river** **lake**

in Britain. Saint Columba saved a swimmer in

2 **655AD** **565AD** **566AD** **556AD**

from a monster. In 1937 a new

3 **bridge** **hotel** **pier** **road**

was built by the Loch and a number of new sightings were reported. Many say the monster has a

4 **small** **large** **wide** **narrow**

head, a long neck, a hump like body and a long

5 **splashing** **staring** **swishing** **strapping**

tail. The most famous picture taken was the

6 **doctor's** **nurse's** **surgeon's** **dentist's**

photo in 1934, which was later admitted to be a hoax.

Section B

1 Fill in the table below: **Loch Ness Facts**

Length	miles
Width at widest point	miles
Deepest point	metres

2 'A large creature could easily hide in this lake'. Why is this statement true?

3 Why do you think there were 'a number of sightings reported' after a new road was built by the Loch?

4 What is a hoax?

5 Why do you think the most famous picture of the Loch Ness Monster was called the 'surgeon's picture'?

6 Why do you think someone would want to make footprints by the lake using a 'dried hippo foot'?

Section C

Write a description of an imaginary monster which could live in a large lake or the sea.