



The Loch Ness "Monster" was sighted for the first time, igniting the modern legend 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1933 – 86 years ago!

## Scotland and the mystery of the Loch Ness Monster

Have you ever heard or read about the Loch Ness Monster? Do you think the monster is real? Nobody knows the answer. Loch Ness is a very old lake in Scotland. Eight rivers run into it. They come down from the hills and mountains around Loch Ness. It is also a very deep lake.

The name Nessie is not just the name of a monster. It comes from the name Agnes. The word Loch means 'lake'. Loch Ness runs from the River Ness to a town called Inverness. In 1933 the local people saw an item in the paper. It said

### "Strange Spectacle on Loch Ness".

Mr and Mrs Spicer, who lived in London, but who were on holiday, said

"We were in our car near Loch Ness. We saw the monster. A strange creature lives in Loch Ness. It's a dragon."

The *Daily Mail*, which is a London paper, sent a reporter to Scotland to find out more about the article. He was told different stories. People said it had a long neck, a short neck, a big head, a small head and that it was not a monster or dragon but a whale. One year later, in 1934, a doctor claimed he saw Nessie. He gave a photo to the Daily Mail and they put it on their front page.

People wanted to see the monster for themselves. They began travelling to the area to try and see it. They still do. There are hundreds of pictures and videos, in books and on YouTube, taken by people claiming to have seen Nessie. Some of them could be boats, fish, whales, seals, otters or logs floating in the water. Some of them are not so easy to explain. Scientists have used sonar (pictures made with sound) to search the loch and have found large creatures, bigger than sharks but smaller than whales, living in the water but still we have no actual proof of a monster.

Whether you believe or not, Nessie is important to the people who live around the Loch. You can buy T-shirts, posters, books and post cards. The local hotels rely on people visiting the loch in the hope of seeing the famous monster and people with boats sell tickets to visitors and take them out on to the water

## Activities you can do

- Draw your own Loch Ness Monster – be creative!
- Write your own story or description
- Follow the link for some colouring and craft print outs

<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/loch-ness-monster>

- Listen to a story here <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/nessie-the-loch-ness-monster>
- Try making your own Origami Loch Ness Monster using this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaUWZMleexA>
- Watch a classic T.V. cartoon – The family Ness <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASr355I5Q0k>

