

READING The Loch Ness Monster

Read the text.



www.Loch-Ness.com



Travel to Loch Ness and you'll find a long lake that looks much like many others in Scotland. The hills around it are very nice, but no more spectacular than those around many other Scottish lochs. And yet Loch Ness is one of the most famous lakes in the world.

At 39 km long and just over one kilometre wide, it is smaller than Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland or Loch Lomond in Scotland. Its maximum depth of 235 metres is impressive, but Loch Morar is deeper still. What is special about Loch Ness is its average¹ depth: at 132 metres, this is a UK record. It makes Loch Ness deeper, on average, than most of the North Sea (whose average depth is 90 metres). Deep enough for a monster?

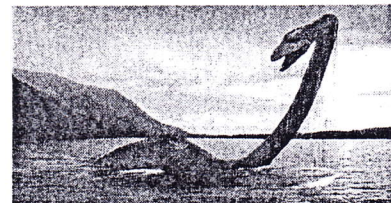
It is, of course, the legends of the monster that have made Loch Ness one of the most popular tourist sites in Scotland. The souvenir shops, Monster Centres, cafes, campsites and hotels all exist thanks to the monster – and they're all good news in a region that suffers from unemployment. But does the monster actually exist? Well, many people say that they have seen it:

→ In January, 1934, Mr Grant was riding his motorbike near Loch Ness when he almost had an accident because the monster was on the road next to the lake. A very large animal that was not a horse or a cow crossed the road and disappeared into the water. It all happened so quickly that Mr Grant wasn't able to take a photo.

→ In July 1963, Mr MacIntyre and Mr Campbell were sitting in a small boat on Loch Ness when suddenly they saw a very big animal in the lake. Its head was bigger than a cow's head, and it looked at them with big eyes. The two men were very surprised and frightened. But they didn't have a camera so they could not take a photo.

→ In 1972, an American university was very interested in the stories of the monster and sent a team to the lake with modern technology and underwater cameras. They took three photos of an animal between 6 and 9 metres long, with a neck like a giraffe's.

→ In 1987, in an operation which cost £ 1 million, twenty-four boats scanned the lake for two days. Television teams from all over the world filmed the operation. The boats made sonar contact with something bigger than a fish, between 80 and 180 metres underwater. Was it the monster? Well, perhaps ...



In July 2003, the BBC organized a systematic search of Loch Ness, using the latest sonar and satellite navigation technology. They went backwards and forwards across the lake, looking for any sign of the monster, but they did not find anything. The BBC team said that there was no monster, and that the reason for the myth was that people see what they want to see. To see if they were right, they hid a piece of wood under the water, and lifted the piece of wood when a group of tourists came to the lake. Later they asked the tourists what they had seen. Most tourists said they had seen a piece of wood, but some of them said they had seen the head of a monster.

But people still like to be careful, so in a triathlon in July 2005, the hundred swimmers who swam around a part of Loch Ness were insured² for £1 million against the monster! Luckily, the monster was asleep ...

¹ average ['ævərɪdʒ] Durchschnitt

² insured [ɪn'ʃʊrəd] versichert

2 READING The Loch Ness Monster

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Now read the statements and tick true or false.

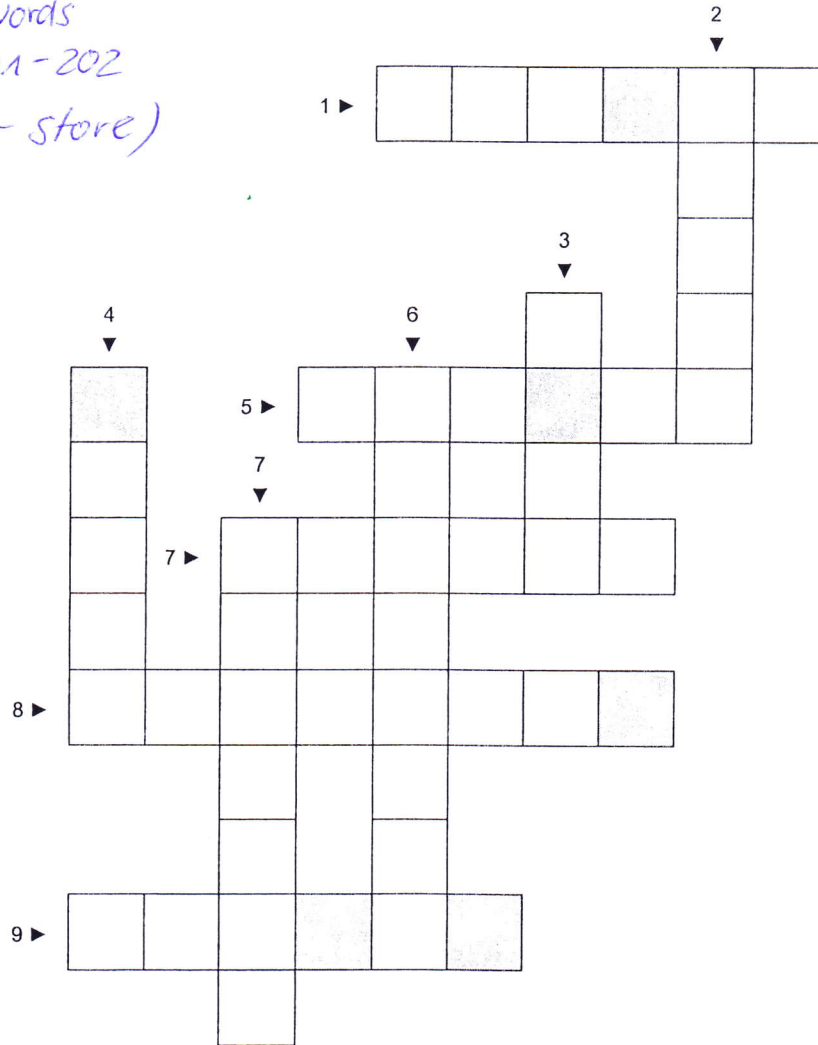
	true	false
1 Loch Ness is more beautiful than many other lakes in Scotland.	☐	☐
2 Loch Ness is the largest lake in the United Kingdom.	☐	☐
3 The souvenir shops, cafes and hotels are good for jobs.	☐	☐
4 Mr Grant didn't have time to take a photo.	☐	☐
5 The two men were scared when they saw the monster.	☐	☐
6 The American team took photos of an animal with a long neck.	☐	☐
7 In 1987, a team worked in the lake for a week.	☐	☐
8 The BBC team crossed the lake many times.	☐	☐
9 Most tourists who saw the piece of wood said they saw the monster.	☐	☐
10 The article says that there is no monster in Loch Ness.	☐	☐

3 WORDS A crossword puzzle

a) Complete the crossword.

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*help: new words
b.p. 20.1-202
(castle - store)*



- 1 When things don't stay the same, they ???
- 2 Someone who isn't real
- 3 Most people eat three of them a day
- 4 Another word for shop
- 5 The way that people from a certain area speak a language
- 6 Someone who wants to buy something
- 7 ► an old building that protected people from their enemies
- 7 ▼ The most important city in a country
- 8 Someone who works for somebody else
- 9 What you have to climb to get up???

b) Put the letters in the grey fields in the correct order to find the magic word.

Tip: It is the nickname of a Scottish attraction that no tourist has ever seen!

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