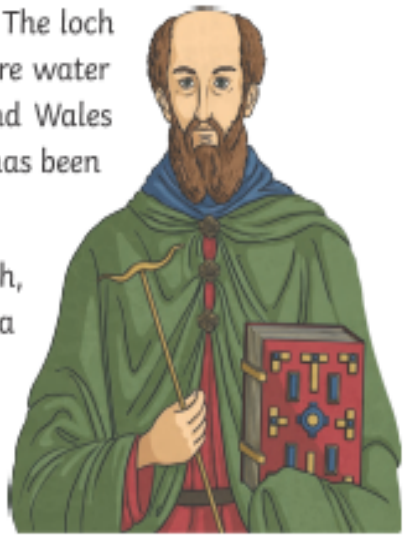
The Loch Ness Monster

The Legend of Loch Ness

The Loch Ness monster, famously known as Nessie, is said to live in the deep, murky waters of Loch Ness. The loch is the second largest in Scotland and holds more water than all of the lakes and rivers of England and Wales combined. Part of the loch is 812ft deep and it has been named Nessie's Lair.

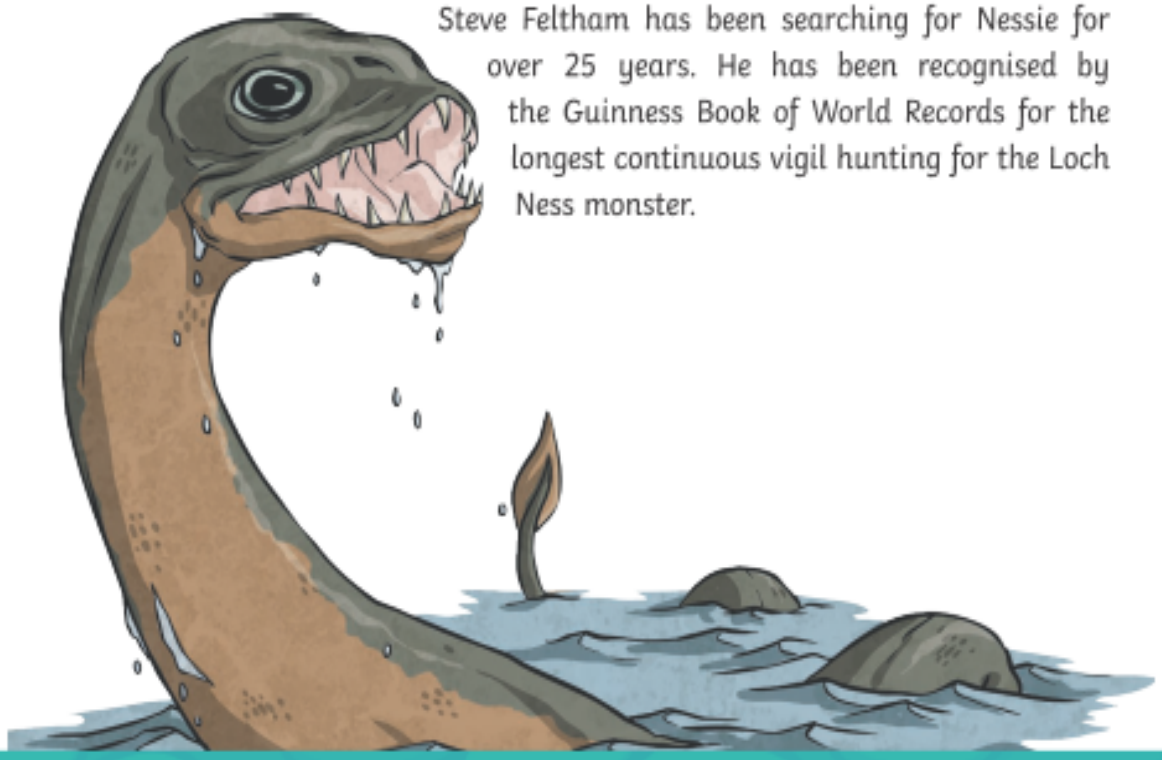


The first story of Nessie, the monster in the loch, dates back to AD 565. A monk called Columba was on a pilgrimage to Scotland and as he was about to cross Loch Ness, he encountered a giant 'water beast' coming out of the water. Legend tells that Columba said a prayer and scared the monster off.

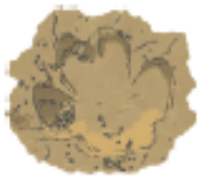
Fact or Fiction?

Nobody has ever proved Nessie to be real. However, there have been over 1000 sightings since the legend began; there is even an official website to report a sighting. Three people have already spotted Nessie in 2017 and they have photographic evidence. Over a million tourists visit the loch every year to try and spot the famous monster.

Steve Feltham has been searching for Nessie for over 25 years. He has been recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest continuous vigil hunting for the Loch Ness monster.



Famous Nessie Sightings:

Sighting	Evidence	Hoax
In 1934, a surgeon called Robert White reported that he saw Nessie's head coming out of the water.		40 years later, it was uncovered as a toy submarine with a fake head and tail.
In 1935, a hunter claimed he found a footprint on the banks of Loch Ness.		The print was made with a stuffed hippo foot.
In 2012, a boat skipper saw a hump coming out of the loch.		In 2013, the skipper admitted it was a fibreglass model of Nessie.
In 2014, Nessie was spotted on a satellite photo.		It was the wake of a boat.

Searching for Nessie

- In 1934, the first official search to uncover the mystery of Loch Ness took place. 20 men were paid £2 a day to be 'monster' spotters but nothing was spotted.
- The largest search to date was in 1987. It was called Operation Deepscan and it cost £1 million. Researchers used sonar technology and underwater cameras to look for Nessie. They searched 60% of the loch and the only evidence they uncovered was something 'larger than a shark but smaller than a whale'.
- Even Scooby Doo has searched for Nessie, but he was unsuccessful too!

Questions

1. Write two pieces of information about Loch Ness.

2. In AD 565, why was Nessie referred to as the monster in the loch?

3. What do you think Columba saw in the loch?

4. Why is Nessie important for Scottish tourism?

5. Which word in the text tells the reader Steven Feltham stayed awake for a long time?

6. Draw a line to match the date to the hoax information.

2012	Nessie was spotted in a satellite image.
1935	A skipper said there was a hump in the water.
1934	The surgeon's photo became world-famous.
2014	The famous surgeon's photograph was uncovered as a hoax.
1974	A hunter said he found Nessie's footprints.

7. Why did the first official search begin in 1934?

8. Does Nessie exist? Give a reason for your answer.

9. After Operation Deepscan, give two reasons why people might think Nessie exists?

10. Write three facts you have learnt about the Loch Ness monster.

Challenge

You have a photograph of the Loch Ness monster and are about to become world-famous. Write a diary entry about your discovery. Think about how people will react to your news, will they believe you?