

Name: _____

Date: _____

Middle School Reading Comprehension

Read the text below and answer the questions!

The Legend of the Loch Ness Monster

Deep in the Scottish Highlands lies Loch Ness, a vast freshwater lake shrouded in mystery. For centuries, people have reported sightings of a mysterious creature lurking beneath its dark waters. Known as the Loch Ness Monster, or "Nessie," this creature has captured the imaginations of people around the world.

The first written account of a strange creature in Loch Ness dates back to the 6th century. A monk named St. Columba was said to have encountered a "water beast" while visiting the region. Since then, countless stories, photographs, and sonar readings have suggested that something unusual might dwell in the lake.

Scientists have studied Loch Ness extensively, hoping to uncover the truth behind the legend. Despite many expeditions and advanced technology, no conclusive evidence has been found. Some researchers believe Nessie could be a prehistoric creature, while others argue that the sightings can be explained by logs, waves, or even optical illusions.

Regardless of the truth, the legend of the Loch Ness Monster remains an enduring mystery. It continues to attract tourists, scientists, and storytellers to the picturesque shores of Loch Ness, where they hope to catch a glimpse of the lake's most famous residents.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the Loch Ness Monster often called?

(Answer: Nessie)

2. When was the first written account of a strange creature in Loch Ness?

(Answer: 6th century)

3. Why do some scientists believe the sightings are not of a creature?

(Answer: They argue it could be logs, waves, or optical illusions)

4. What effect has the Loch Ness Monster legend had on the area?

(Answer: It has attracted tourists, scientists, and storytellers to the area)

5. Do you think the Loch Ness Monster could be real? Why or why not?

(Answer: Open-ended (students' answers may vary))