Fake News: The Loch Ness Monster



Loch Ness is a long, deep lake that runs across the Scottish Highlands. It is part of the 'Great Glen', which is a valley that cuts through Scotland from the west coast to the east coast and is surrounded by breath-taking scenery. It is what lies beneath the icy depths of this lake, however, that has captivated people's imaginations.

The Loch Ness Monster was named for the first time by Alex Campbell in May

1933. Alex was a local journalist for the Inverness Courier and his articles sparked a lot of interest and led to a number of sightings. In August of that year, a man from London by the name of George Spicer described a large creature trundling across the road in front of his car. His account, verified by his wife who was travelling with him, stated that the creature was carrying 'an animal' in its mouth. "It was the nearest approach to a dragon or pre-historic animal that I have ever seen in my life," Spicer told the Courier.

Many similar sightings took place, but it was a photograph of a creature that put Loch Ness in the national spotlight.

Dr Robert Kenneth Wilson was looking at the loch in 1934 when he saw the monster. He grabbed his camera and took five photographs, the most famous of which shows a head and neck coming out of the water. Known as the 'Surgeon's Photograph', it gained widespread media attention. Disappointingly, the picture was revealed to be fake news in a report by the English newspaper, the Daily Telegraph in 1975. Wilson's account of what he saw was an elaborate hoax.

To this day, there has been no scientific evidence to prove the existence of the Loch Ness Monster. Indeed, 2013 was the first year since 1925 when there were no reported sightings of the creature.

Nevertheless, tourism authorities in Scotland are eager to speculate that the Loch Ness Monster does, in fact, exist. Far from scaring people away, 'Nessie' (as the monster has become affectionately known) draws many tourists to the Highlands. One insider said that one million people visit Loch Ness each year, and roughly 85% of these come because of the phenomenon of the monster. Each hopes to catch a glimpse of the mythical creature, but the nearest most of them get is a souvenir from one of the many dedicated shops. It is these shops, together with hotels, pubs and restaurants in the area that make an estimated £25 million each year out of 'Monster Tourism'.

1. What is the Loch Ness monster?
2. Why do you think some people who describe the Loch News monster as fake news?
3. When was the Loch Ness monster first reported?
4. What benefit does the Loch Ness monster bring to Scotland, as a country?

5. Share your opinion: Does the Loch Ness monster exist? Your answer should give a least 3 reasons, with explanation.

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Epic Class Code – iba8407

Spelling:

Day 4 Blue	Orange (S4)	Pink (53)	Red (S1)
Li: To review all of my spelling words from this unit.	Li: To peer assess my spelling words.	LI: To write sentences dictated by the teacher.	LI: To write sentences dictated by the teacher.
Choose a fun spelling activity to practice your spelling words from this unit. Look back in your jotter to see your word lists.	Work with a partner to do caller writer (peer assess your spelling words).	Practise your spelling words using rainbow writing. Then, self-assess your work.	Generate 4 sentences using your spelling words with the teacher and take turns to dictate them to a partner.
'full' and 'till' joined to another root syllable, drop one 'l' useful dreadful cheerful until lentil beautiful wonderful faithful eventful cheerful careful skilful plentiful	Letters i and y followed by a consonant, usually make the i sound as in 'big' and 'gym'. Examples: big gym cry fly myth sync silk gift gist brick trick twig	giant cage danger germs magic gym gentle stranger gem energy have retrieve give starve live relieve leave believe tried replied cried lied fried lie died denied dried tie supplied tell large spell still saw own small something live give about around house hour side	strong ring bring thing lung sting string sing going her went