

The mystery of the Loch Ness Monster

Loch Ness is a large freshwater loch in the Scottish Highlands extending for approximately 37 kilometres (23 miles) southwest of Inverness. It takes its name from the River Ness, which flows from the northern end. Loch Ness is best known for claimed sightings of the Loch Ness Monster, also known affectionately as "Nessie". It is one of a series of interconnected, murky bodies of water in Scotland; its water visibility is exceptionally low due to a high peat content in the surrounding soil.

- A loch (pronounced 'lock') is a long, deep lake, often land locked.



There have been numerous sightings of the monster. The first recorded account is of a confrontation with the Irish saint, St. Columba in the 6th century. St. Columba, who ordered one of his monks to swim across the loch and fetch a boat. Halfway across the monster appeared and rushed at the swimmer! Columba cried out to the monster, "Go no further, nor touch the man! Go back!". The monster is said to have fled!

Since then, Nessie has been seen many times but has never harmed anyone. Sightings have been sporadic over the centuries, but in the 20th and 21st centuries Nessie has been more active!

1933 was the year when the first photograph of the monster, or what is said to be the monster, was published in the newspaper. It showed something with a long neck arched over a thick body. This photograph, taken by a London surgeon caused a sensation when first published in the Daily Mail. However, the photo was later proven to be fake. For the

photo, the surgeon had set up an inflatable ring and attached a head that looked like a dinosaur's head.



<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofScotland/The-Loch-Ness-Monster/>

Nevertheless, there have been thousands of sightings over the years. Here are a few reports:

1941

In December, Calum MacFarlane Barrow and his brother Patrick both saw a large creature in the loch near Fort Augustus. They saw the same creature twice in the same day by Calum explained in 2018 that such sightings were much more common amongst the local population at that time.

1961

In May, George Coumts and three others were driving to south side of the loch at 8pm in the evening. They pulled over and observed something in the water - it was like an elephant's back. They decided not to tell anyone but Mr Coumts, of Inverness, finally told the story in September 2019.

1965

23rd July - Mr and Mrs Brand, in company with Mrs Brand's father, Mr Andrew Walker, whilst driving along the Dores side of Loch Ness, had a good view of the Loch Ness Monster, directly opposite Urquhart Castle. The object, they say of considerable size, surfaced quite close to the shore and immediately made for the centre of the loch at speed. The loch itself was as calm as a mill-pond at the time and the surprised party were fascinated for several minutes until "Nessie" submerged. All three had previously been skeptical about the existence of "Nessie" but since last Thursday have changed their views - source, Ross-shire Journal 30 July 1965.



Loch Ness Monster

1969

May 1969 - Fred Millwood of Inverness was travelling towards Inverness in late May when he saw a 10-12-foot-long creature travelling across the loch at about 4mph. He said that it was like an upturned boat, (hump shapes), and there was no head visible. When it was about 200-300 m from the other side, it disappeared - he waited for about half an hour but nothing re-surfaced.

October 1969 -a local boy Peter Mackenzie and his uncle Ian MacRae were fishing in a small boat at the north end of the loch. Their fishing log states they were "Going down past Aldourie Castle, 5.15pm about 100 yards out". They then saw what they first took to be the wake of a speedboat coming towards them from the direction of the Clansman Hotel. It then appeared that there was a shape that was not a boat at the head of the wake - which then disappeared. The object then resurfaced and headed for the middle of the loch where they could see it in profile. Peter said it had the colour and shape of an elephant. It then disappeared under the water and their boat rocked in the waves caused by it - the whole episode took about 2 minutes.

1971

During the August of 1971, on a Sunday afternoon Richard Haworth was standing alone on the front lawn of Temple Pier house, looking across a flat calm Urquhart Bay in glorious sunshine. As he looked across to the river-mouth and scanned left towards the castle, he noticed a wake of water. At the front of the wake was what looked like a black hockey stick standing vertically out the water, with the 'hook' at the top. Initially he thought it might have been a swan but as it moved (at considerable speed in the direction of Urquhart Castle), it passed by a moored yacht close to the shore, and the 'hook' or head was clearly higher than the deck, making it at least 5 feet (1½ metres) in height. The sighting lasted a couple of minutes.

1974

In 1974, Mr J Gray and his friend, both of Inverness, saw what was looked like an upturned boat about in the water near Foyers one evening. Although deciding not to tell anyone, they had the sighting confirmed shortly afterwards when they met another person. He relayed these details to this website in 2019.

1976

RD and his family were on holiday in the summer of 1976. Along with his mother, father and brother, he saw an unknown creature about 10-15 feet long 'snaking' through the water about 50 yards from the shore. The sighting took place just south of Dores and lasted about 10 minutes.

1999

February 2nd - Nessie was spotted out of the water on the shores of Loch Ness by an American visitor to the area. This unique sighting took place at 8.30 in the evening on the

beach between Dores and Foyers where the creature, said to be between 10-15 metres in length with a long neck, scurried off into the water as the man approached.

March 30th - A group of 6-7 people saw a head and neck rise from the water 200 yards from the south shore of the loch. They watched as a black shape rose and then disappeared only to reappear a few minutes later. This was witnessed from a lay by opposite Urquhart castle. One witness described the head as being about 18 inches (46 cm) in height.

July 5th - A couple on holiday from Huntly witnessed a creature in the middle of the loch at 9am. They watched as it moved up the loch for a period of around 20 minutes close to the Loch Ness Caravan and Camping Park. An experienced whale watcher, the man said that he had never before seen anything like it.

September 14th - It was around 11.30 a.m. when a couple touring the area spotted in Urquhart Bay what they first thought to be a car tyre on the surface of the loch. It appeared to be about three feet long and one foot tall at its highest point. The object then moved against the waves formation in the area creating a wake as it did so. The couple saw some kind of water disturbance about three feet behind the black object, which appeared to rise slightly out of the water before submerging.



1998

October 20th - A local van driver spotted something in the flat calm waters of the loch at 1100 hours near Cherry Island.

October 24th - An English couple from Hertfordshire, on holiday in the area saw a large creature moving under the waters of the loch at 11 am, about half way up the loch.

December 31st - A local couple saw a hump shape like an upturned boat for about 10-15 seconds during the afternoon of New Year's Eve.

2018 - Total for the year - 15

December 13th - at 1440 hours Ricky D Phillips, a well-known military historian, heard a curious noise while taking pictures where the River Oich flows into Loch Ness at Fort Augustus. He looked up from his phone and saw a long, straight neck, a head maybe the size of a rugby ball, all completely grey, and a narrow face, which was only about 20 feet (7 metres) away - it then turned and disappeared.

December 19th - Caroline Barnett from the south west of England was watching the Loch Ness Webcam at 10.20 when she saw something move slowly up the loch. Initially she thought it was a boat or similar but the object appeared animate and then disappeared into the water before reappearing. It was dark in colour and nearer the east shore of the loch.

2020 - Total for the year - 13

August 29 - Mr Van-Schuerbeck, on holiday in the area with his family, spotted an unexplained phenomenon when he looked back at his pictures.

September 15 - Monika, on holiday from London at the Bunloit Farmhouse which is on the hill to the west of the loch, reported at 10.59am that she and her friend were "sitting out in front of the farmhouse looking out into the pastures of sheep and the lake beyond and chatting when something caught the corner of our eye on the lake near the opposite shore. At first, we thought it was a boat passing by (a common occurrence around mid-day at the lake), but noted a dark shadow behind and off to the side from where the boat went by after the wake created by the boat subsided. The water around the shadow appeared to be disturbed before the shadow broke through the surface just slightly. It was too distant to make out the exact shape of the shadow, how large it was or what colour (appeared black from a distance), but it was large enough to catch our eye from the other shore of the lake. We both raced to get our phones out and take pictures, but the shadow had receded into the waters by the time either of us were able to snap".

September 26 - reported in the Inverness Courier and with a video to support it in the Ross-shire Journal, Trevor Ross of Inverness saw something unexplained in the loch near Dores at 4.15pm. He described it as a shape in the water but had no explanation as to what it was. It was close to where another local man, Corey Sturrock, saw what he called an eel 'the size of a bus' a week before - more in the Inverness Courier.

September 30 - one of the best sonar contacts ever of a large unknown moving object deep in the loch was captured around 4.30pm near Invermoriston by the captain of the Loch Ness cruise boat 'The Spirit of Loch Ness'. The object was 32 feet (10 metres) long and 500 feet (152 metres) down in the water. The whole story was reported in the Inverness Courier.

October 11 - again from Cruise Loch Ness, another large sonar contact was picked up 185m down in the loch. Long time Nessie hunter Steve Feltham said "these latest images help put together the most compelling case for a big creature swimming around in Loch Ness". You can see all the details as reported by the Strathspey and Badenoch Herald.

November 15 - Local resident Louise Power, and her mum Jennifer Macrae, said they saw "something strange" in the water less than half-a-mile away from where they had gone for a walk. She said "There was a wake after it and during that time it did not disappear - it just

kept moving slowly. Then it turned towards Dores with a big wave and just went under the water and disappeared." She added: "I just couldn't believe it. It was quite big. I couldn't put an exact size on it - other than it was big. We have both lived here all our lives and we have never seen anything like that before."

November 24 - Karen Scott and her partner were visiting from Aberdeen when they reported a creature in the water near Urquhart Castle at 14.30hrs. The creature surfaced, disappeared and then reappeared over a period of five minutes.

Could the Loch Ness Monster be a species from the past, believed to be extinct?

The following article is by David Catchpoole, www.creation.com

A 55-year-old laboratory technician visiting Loch Ness has reportedly captured on video 'the finest footage ever taken of the elusive mythical creature reputed to swim beneath the waters of Scotland's most mysterious lake.'

Gordon Holmes, from Yorkshire, UK, recalls the moment he sighted and videoed the creature:

'I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw this jet-black thing, about 45 feet (15 metres) long, moving fairly fast in the water,' he said. 'My initial thought is it could be a very big eel, they have serpent-like features and they may explain all the sightings in Loch Ness over the years.'

Marine biologist Adrian Shine of the Loch Ness 2000 Centre said of the video: 'I see myself as a skeptical interpreter of what happens in the loch, but I do keep an open mind about these things and there is no doubt this is some of the best footage I have seen.'

There have been more than 4,000 purported 'Loch Ness Monster' sightings since the 1930s. Shine said that this video is particularly useful because Holmes panned back in order to include the background shore in some of the footage. Not only does that mean that the video was less likely to be a fake, it also provided a scale and geographical reference point, thus allowing an assessment of the creature's size and speed.

However, the cloudiness of the lake's water is such that it's not clear whether the creature caught on video has the plesiosaur-like features so often mentioned in reported sightings of large unexplained animals in various lakes in both the northern and southern hemispheres.

It's happened before.

Most evolutionists are quick to dismiss any such references to plesiosaurs, as they insist such creatures vanished 65 million years ago, along with the dinosaurs.

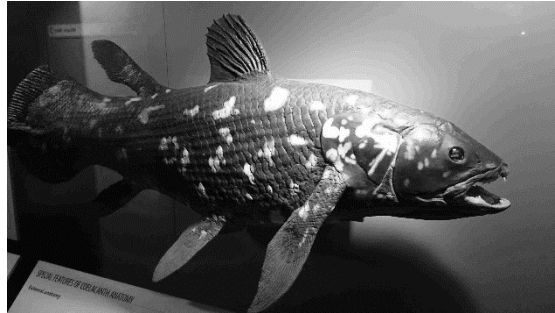
However, contrast this with the Bible's thousands-of-years' timeframe for the true history of Earth. There's really no basis for dismissing the possibility that plesiosaurs are not yet extinct.

After all, evolutionists had said the coelacanth, too, had been extinct for 65 million years, on the basis of their long-age interpretation of the 'fossil record'. Yet the coelacanth is now

known to be alive and well, with fishermen in African and Asian waters periodically hauling live specimens to the surface.

Just as it would have been wrong to say that the coelacanth was extinct because none had been found, similarly how can anyone claim that the plesiosaur is extinct just because none have been found? The world's oceans are vast. Even today, after decades of oceanic surveys and research using the latest technology, previously unknown creatures of the deep are periodically brought to the surface in fishermen's nets, or swim past the camera lenses of deep-water research probes, much to the surprise and delight of marine biologists.

Coelacanth – type of fish, thought to be extinct but now known to still exist



If, with the collection of more conclusive evidence over time, it turns out that a large aquatic reptile previously thought to have been extinct for millions of years is in fact still alive and well in the waters of Loch Ness, it will doubtless surprise many evolutionists. But it ought to be no surprise for creationists. It will simply have become one more in a long list of (so-called) 'living fossils'.

Activities

1. Find Loch Ness on the map of Scotland. What is the closest city to the loch?
2. What is a loch?
3. Loch Ness is land-locked. What does this mean?
4. The water in Loch Ness is murky. What does this mean? What makes the water in the loch murky?
5. When was the first recorded sighting of the Loch Ness Monster, and by whom?
6. When was the first photograph taken of Nessie? Describe the photo.
7. Name two castles on the banks of the loch.
8. Many of the observers reported a 'wake' of water during their sighting. What is this?
9. Taking into account the various descriptions of Nessie, as seen by people in the reports above, give a description based on the common features.
10. While there were some scientists who were believers in the Loch Ness monster, the British Scientific Society would not believe in the monster's existence, despite numerous reports and photographs. Neither would they provide any money for research. Why do you think this was so? (*clue... they were evolutionists*)
11. In what way was the expedition in August 1972, (privately funded), a breakthrough?
12. In the report by David Catchpoole, he describes the sighting and video footage taken by Gordon Holmes. Why was this video unlikely to be fake?
13. In the theory of evolution, dinosaurs, which supposedly lived 65 million years ago, developed into other species, finally developing into the human form. Why would a living dinosaur found today be a blow to this theory?
14. What other living thing was thought to have died out 65 million years ago?
15. How old is the earth according to the Bible – thousands or millions of years?