Scientists to use DNA to find Loch Ness Monster

26th May, 2018

There is a legendary monster that people say lives in the deep Loch Ness lake in the north of Scotland. It is called the Loch Ness Monster, or "Nessie" for short. It looks kind of like a dinosaur, with a small head on a long neck and humps on its back. People first spotted Nessie in 1933. Since then, there have been many sightings and a few photographs. Now, scientists from New Zealand will use a special technique to see if there really is a Loch Ness Monster. A research team, led by Professor Neil Gemmell of the University of Otago, will use a technique called eDNA sampling to try and find some of Nessie's DNA. Professor Gemmell says this will show if the monster really exists or not.

Sightings of the Loch Ness Monster are often in the newspapers. Loch Ness is in the Scottish Highlands. The word "loch" is the Scots word for "lake". Many scientists have tried to find the monster before. They have even sent sonar equipment to the bottom of the loch, which is 230 metres deep. All of the photographs that people have taken of Nessie over the years are blurred. Some people say they are just car tyres floating in the water. Gemmell says he will test water from the loch. He said there should be DNA from the monster's skin, urine and other things. He will check all DNA found and make sure it is not from other marine animals. If he finds DNA not known to scientists, that could belong to Nessie.

Sources:
endgadget.com / abcnews.go.com / nationalgeographic.com

Writing

Are there monsters in this world? What do they look like?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

legendary / monster / dinosaur / humps / sightings / research / sampling / team / newspapers / scientists / equipment / photographs / water / DNA / skin / animals

True / False

a) Loch Ness in Scotland isn't very deep. T / F

b) The Loch Ness Monster was first sighted more than 100 years ago. T / F

c) Scientists will use sound-detecting equipment to try and find Nessie. T / F

d) Scientists will use a technique called i-DNA sampling. T / F

e) The word "loch" is a Scots word that means "lake". T / F

f) There have been some clear photos taken of Nessie over the years. T / F

g) Scientists hope to find DNA from the monster's skin. T / F

h) Scientists will make sure that any DNA does not belong to other animals. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**legendary**	a.	saw
2.	**kind**	b.	certain
3.	**spotted**	c.	method
4.	**technique**	d.	locate
5.	**show**	e.	unclear
6.	**find**	f.	famous
7.	**blurred**	g.	prove
8.	**just**	h.	be linked to
9.	**sure**	i.	type
10.	**belong**	j.	simply

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think of monsters?

b) What monsters were there when you were a child?

c) What monsters are there in the world now?

d) Why do people think monsters are scary?

e) What would happen if scientists found Nessie?

f) How can a large monster stay unseen for so long?

g) What is the scariest kind of monster?

h) Why do people call children "little monsters"?

Phrase Match

1. a legendary
2. It looks
3. a long neck and humps
4. People first spotted
5. use a technique called
6. often in the
7. sent sonar equipment to the bottom
8. people say they are just car tyres floating
9. He said there should be DNA
10. that could belong

a. of the loch
b. Nessie in 1933
c. newspapers
d. to Nessie
e. monster
f. from the monster's skin
g. eDNA sampling
h. kind of like a dinosaur
i. in the water
j. on its back

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) What do you know about the Loch Ness Monster?
c) Do you know any humans that are monsters?
d) Do you have a favourite monster movie?
e) What legendary monsters are there in other parts of the world?
f) What real animals would you say were monsters?
g) How much of a monster are you?
h) What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

Spelling

1. There is a reldnyega monster
2. It looks kind of like a aiosunrd
3. People first teotsdp Nessie in 1933
4. there have been many tsghsnigi
5. use a special htqneecui
6. if the monster really sxesit or not
7. Many istesincts have tried
8. sonar mpieunqte
9. the years are luebrdr
10. car tyres iafntlgo in the water
11. DNA from the monster's skin, eriun and...
12. that could logenb to Nessie

Role Play

Role A – Breathe Fire
You think breathing fire is the most useful monster skill. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their skills. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): being invisible, casting spells or hypnotism.

Role B – Be Invisible
You think being invisible is the most useful monster skill. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their skills. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): breathing fire, casting spells or hypnotism.

Role C – Cast Spells
You think casting spells is the most useful monster skill. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their skills. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): being invisible, breathing fire or hypnotism.

Role D – Hypnotism
You think hypnotism is the most useful monster skill. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their skills. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): being invisible, casting spells or breathing fire.

Speaking – Monster Abilities

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- casting spells
- amazing strength
- lightning bolts
- hypnotism
- breathe fire
- fly
- be invisible
- run like the wind

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. a	4. c	5. g
6. d	7. e	8. j	9. b	10. h