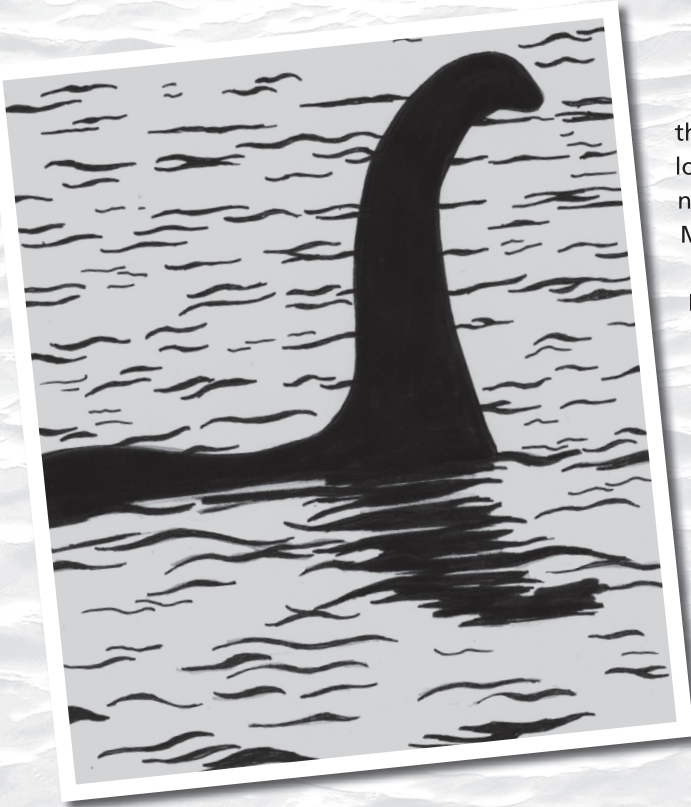


# THE LOCH NESS MONSTER



Is there really a monster swimming in the waters of Loch Ness? Photographs, videos and eye witness reports all seem to say 'yes'. But if there is a monster, why have so few people seen it? And why can't scientists find it? For many years people from around the world have puzzled at this great mystery. Perhaps it is time we looked at the evidence for ourselves.

On the 14th April 1933, Mr and Mrs Mackay were coming home from a trip to Inverness. It was almost three o'clock in the afternoon. Then, out of the corner of her eye, Mrs Mackay saw something moving in the Loch\*. As her husband parked the car, they both saw two enormous black humps rising and falling in

the water. The creature then sank from sight. It wasn't long before they were tickling the ears of a local newspaper reporter and the legend of the Loch Ness Monster was born.

But what did Mr and Mrs Mackay really see? Were the humps two dolphins swimming together? The dark water and shadows make it hard to see. And the humps were, after all, very far away.

In December that same year, footprints were found on the edge of the loch. Everyone was very disappointed when they turned out to be a hoax using an old umbrella stand made with a hippo's back foot!

This famous photograph was taken by Robert Kenneth Wilson, a London doctor who was on holiday in Scotland. The photo shows a long neck and small head, like that of a dinosaur. When it was printed in the Daily Mail in April 1934, many people talked about it. Was it true? Was this the first piece of hard evidence that the monster exists?

A journalist called Alastair Boyd said the photograph was a fake. He claimed it was a 30 cm plastic model glued on to a toy submarine. Wilson said it was not!

After looking at some of the evidence, what do you think? Does the Loch Ness Monster really exist or is it just an old story? Perhaps the best part of the story is the fact that we just don't know and the mystery (and the Loch Ness Monster) lives on.

*\*Loch = A Scottish word for lake*