**Loch Ness Monster**

The Loch Ness Monster, sometimes called "Nessie" or "Ness" is a creature or group of creatures said to live in Loch Ness, a deep freshwater loch (lake) in northern Scotland. Nessie is generally categorized as a lake monster.

Legends of a monster, or animal, living in the loch have been known for several centuries, though others have questioned the accuracy and reliability of such tales, which were generally unknown before the 1960s.

The first modern sighting occurred on May 2, 1933. The newspaper Inverness Courier carried a story of Mr. and Mrs. John Mackay, who reportedly saw "an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface." The report of the "monster" became a media sensation even a reward of 20,000 pounds was offered for capture of the monster.

Regardless of whether anything is actually in the loch, the Loch Ness Monster has some significance for the local economy. Lots of people visited the loch for many times to see the monster.

Loch Ness is located in the North of Scotland and is one of a series of interlinked lochs which run along the Great Glen. By volume, Loch Ness is the largest freshwater lake in Great Britain.

Since Dec., 1933, when newspapers published accounts of a 'monster,' 40 to 50 ft (12-15 m) long, said to have been seen in the loch, there have been alleged sightings.

Most of the Nessie witnesses describe something with two humps, a tail, and a snakelike head, a red mouth and horns or antennae on the top of the creature's head. Nessie's movements have been studied, and the films and photos analyzed to determine what Nessie might be, if she exists.

Most accounts of Nessie's appearance, including historical ones, indicate a creature resembling the long-extinct plesiosaur. However, most scientists suggest the idea that the Loch Ness Monster is a prehistoric creature is highly unlikely because the loch was created comparatively recently.

Other sightings, however, do not fit the plesiosaur description or even a water-bound creature: In April 1923, Alfred Cruickshank claimed to have seen a creature 3 m to 3.5 m long, with an arched back and four elephant-like feet cross the road before him as he was driving. Other sightings report creatures more similar to camels or horses.

Theories as to the exact nature of the Loch Ness Monster sightings are varied: misidentification of seals, fish, logs, or unusual wave patterns.

A recent theory postulates that the "monster" is actually nothing more than bubbling and disruptions in the water caused by volcanic activity at the bottom of the loch.

Some researchers claim that there are no anomalous physical creatures within the loch. Because of the complete absence of physical evidence, these researchers argue that many of the reported sightings can be attributed to hoaxes or misidentification of creatures and objects.

# The JERSEY DEVIL

The Jersey Devil, the supposed mythical creature of the New Jersey Pinelands, has haunted New Jersey and the surrounding areas for the past 260 years. It has been seen by over 2,000 witnesses over this period. It has terrorized towns and caused factories and schools to close down, yet many people believe that the Jersey Devil is a legend, a mythical beast, that originated from the folklore. Others disagree with this point of view. The following text will show there is evidence to support the existence of an animal or supernatural being known as the Jersey Devil. There are many different versions of the birth of the Jersey Devil. One of the most popular legends says a Mrs. Shrouds of Leeds Point, NJ made a wish that if she ever had another child, she wants it to be a devil. Her next child was born misshapen and deformed. She kept it in the house, so the curious couldn't see him. On stormy night, the child flapped its arms, which turned into wings, and escaped out the chimney and was never seen by the family again. Another story placed the birth in Estelville, NJ. Mrs. Leeds, finding out she was pregnant with her 13th child, shouted,"I hope it's a devil". She got her wish. The child was born with horns, a tail, wings, and a horse-like head. The sightings have been divided up into 3 time periods, pre 1909, January 16-23, 1909, and post 1909. The witnesses described the creature they saw: ‘It was about three feet and half high, with a head like a collie dog and a face like a horse. It had a long neck, wings about two feet long, and its back legs were like those of a crane, and it had horse's hooves. It walked on its back legs and held up two short front legs with paws on them. It didn't use the front legs at all while we were watching.’ There have been other sightings since 1909. In 1966 a farm was raided and 31 ducks, 3 geese, 4 cats, and 2 dogs were killed. One of the dogs was a large German Shepard which had its throat ripped out. In 1987 an aggressive German Shepard was found torn apart. The body was located 25 feet from the chain which had been hooked to him. Around the body were strange tracks that no one could identify. Professor Bralhopf said that" the tracks were made by some prehistoric animal form the Jurassic period". He believes the creature survived underground in a cavern. An expert from the Smithsonian Institute had a theory about ancient creatures surviving underground. He said the Jersey Devil was a Pterodactyl. The Academy of Natural Sciences could find no record of any creature, living or extinct, that resembles the Jersey Devil. Jack E. Boucher has a theory in which he believes the devil was a deformed child. He thinks Mrs. Leeds had a disfigured child and kept it locked away in the house. She grew sick and couldn't feed the child anymore. It escaped out of hunger and raided local farms for food. This doesn't take into account the incredible life span of the devil. The child would have been 174 years old in 1909. It also doesn't account for the sightings of the devil flying.

The last theory is the most controversial one. Many people believe that the Jersey Devil could be the very essence of evil, embodied. It is said that the devil appears before any great conflict. The jersey devil was sighted before the start of the Civil War. It was also seen right before the Spanish American War and WW I. In 1939, before the start of WW II, Mount Holly citizens were awakened by the noise of hooves on their roof tops. The Devil was seen on December 7, 1941, right before Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was also seen right before the Vietnam War.

Other facts support the supernatural theory are the reports of the death of the devil. Each time he is reported dead, he returns. It seems the devil is immortal, which a supernatural being would be. None of these theories can give a definitive answer to what the Jersey Devil was or is, but the sightings prove there is something out there. Whether the Jersey devil is a bird or a demon, is still left to speculation.

**Big Foot**

**N**orth America has its own monster. While Scotland has its Loch Ness sea monster and the Himalayas has its Abominable Snowman or Yeti, North America lays claim to Sasquatch or, as he has been nicknamed, Bigfoot. Sightings of Bigfoot were first reported in parts of the United States and Canada in the early 1800s. Since then there have been hundreds of reports of a large, hairy ape.

On August 26, 1957, William Roe a hunter, saw what he thought was a grizzly bear.  When the animal stood up, he realized this was no grizzly bear!  The animal, a female, was six feet tall, three feet wide, and weighed approximately 300 lbs.  Her arms reached almost to her knees. Roe was hiding in some brush and was able to observe the creature from a distance of some 20 feet.  He watched, fascinated, as she used her white, even teeth to eat leaves from a nearby bush.  Her head was "higher at the back than at the front"; her nose was flat.  Only the area around her mouth was bare - the rest of her body was covered in hair, none of which was longer than an inch.  The ears looked very much like a human's.  The eyes were small and dark, similar to a bear's.

Roe wanted to find out whether the animal was a vegetarian or whether she consumed meat as well.  He searched for and found signs in several places.  Roe concluded this animal lived solely on vegetation.  While Roe could not be sure this creature was, in fact, a Bigfoot, the logical conclusion is that he was fortunate enough to be able to observe this elusive creature up close.

On October 20, 1967, two men on horseback, Roger Patterson, who shot the film and Bob Gimlin, a friend,  took to the northern Californian woods of Bluff Creek in the hopes of photographing one of these elusive creatures.  They were not disappointed.  In the late afternoon, Patterson and Gimlin met the creature.  He quickly ran toward the creature.  It responded by simply walking away. It walked into the trees and vanished.  The creature that was filmed was a female. Over the years, rumors abounded that Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin hoaxed the whole incident. It even went further by saying that a special effects man named John Chambers, who designed the makeup in the Planet of the Apes movies, designed the suit. Scientists who have studied the film have said that the estimated stride of the creature is larger than that of a man.  They also say it would have been very difficult for a man for simulate this large stride.  Footprints were also found later at the same location.  The footprints were the same type as typically found at a Bigfoot sighting.

In 2008 two men, Matt Whitton and Rick Dyer, held a press conference to claim they had found a Bigfoot body in the forests of Georgia. The "body" was later revealed to be a rubber gorilla suit.

Are they dangerous? This is a very delicate area. Most encounters are just “being in the right — at the right time” to see a Bigfoot and watch it disappear into the forest. However, there have been a few documented cases where a violent encounter with a Bigfoot has taken place.

There have also been many hoaxes, wild guesses about UFOs or supernatural connections. Some suggest the beast is a relative of Gigantopithecus, an extinct primate of China. Some scientists think that it is possible that an extinct known as Gigantopithecus Blacki that walked in Asia some 300,000 years ago, did not die out, but survived well into the 20th century.

# Yeti: Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas

The Himalaya Mountains, the highest range on Earth, have been referred to as the "roof of the world." If that is so, there is a mystery called the *Yeti* in our attic. In Tibetan the word means "magical creature" and truly it is a seemingly supernatural enigma in the shape of a hairy creature that resembles a giant ape. The Himalayas lie on the border between India, Nepal, and Tibet (now part of China). In Katmandu, the capitol of Nepal, a visitor can hear the Yeti legend. He is a commercial money maker for the tourist industry (there's even a Hotel named the "Yak and the Yeti"). The first reliable report of the Yeti appeared in 1925 when a Greek photographer, **N. A. Tombazi**, working as a member of a British geological expedition in the Himalayas, was shown a creature moving in the distance across some lower slopes. The creature was almost a thousand feet away in an area with an altitude of around 15,000 feet. "Unquestionably, the figure in outline was exactly like a human being, walking upright," said Tombazi, "It showed up dark against the snow and, as far as I could make out wore no clothes." The creature disappeared before Tombazi could take a photograph and was not seen again. When the locals were asked to name the beast he'd seen they told him it was a "Kanchenjunga demon." Tombazi didn't think he'd seen a demon, but he couldn't figure out what the creature was either. Some of the best tracks ever seen were found and photographed by British mountaineers **Eric Shipton** and **Micheal Ward** in 1951. Each print was thirteen inches wide and some eighteen inches long. The tracks seemed fresh and Shipton and Ward followed the trail for a mile before it disappeared in hard ice. Shipton's and Ward's reputations argue against a hoax on their part and the remoteness and height of the trail's location argues against them being hoaxed. One of the more curious reports of a close encounter with a Yeti occurred in 1938. A military man was traveling the Himalayas by himself when he became snowblind. As he neared death from exposure he was rescued by a nine foot tall Yeti that nursed him back to health until he was able to return home by himself. In many other stories, though, the Yeti hasn't been so kind. One Sherpa girl, who was tending her yaks, described being surprised by a large ape-like creature with black and brown hair. It started to drag her off, but seemed to be startled by her screams and let her go. It then savagely killed two of her yaks. She escaped with her life and the incident was reported to the police, who found footprints.

Several expeditions have been organized to track down the Yeti, but none have found more than footprints and questionable artifacts like scalps and hides. Sir Edmund Hillary, the same man that had first climbed Everest in 1953, lead the 1960 expedition. Despite a ten-month stay the group failed to find any convincing evidence of the existence of the Yeti. The artifacts they examined, two skins and a scalp, turned out to belong to two blue bears. On October 20, 2008 a team of seven Japanese adventurers photographed footprints which could have been made by a Yeti.

Some people believe that the Yeti is actually three animals. The first is a large animal that often attacks cattle. This is probably the Tibetan blue bear. A creature so rare it is known only in the west through a few skins, bones and a skull. The second type is probably a gibbon that may live as far north as Nepal. The third Yeti, is the true abominable snowman of legend. A savage ape, covered with black or red hair that lives at altitudes of up to 20,000 feet.

So far there is no firm evidence to support the existence of the Yeti, but there is no way show that he doesn't exist either. If he indeed lives in the barren, frozen, upper reaches of the Himalayas where few men dare to tread, he may find his refuge safe for a long time to come.