

### The Murky Attraction of the Loch Ness Monster

- 1 Many scientists have spent decades studying the loch best known for a creature affectionately known as 'Nessie'. Why does this mythical monster hold such fascination for so many people? Willie Cameron, an expert on the Highland tourism market, says about one million people visit Loch Ness and the surrounding area every year, with the value to the economy worth about £25m. And he says most of them are attracted by the phenomenon of the Loch Ness monster. "Loch Ness has become a brand as big as Elvis Presley, Madonna and Coca-Cola," he says. So when did the Loch Ness monster gain such mythical status, and what is the fascination with finding it?
- 2 Jonathan Downes, director of the Centre for Fortean Zoology, says the legend of the monster dates back to the 6th century, but it was not until the 1930s that it really took off. Since then there have been more than a thousand people insisting they have seen creatures in Loch Ness. Most descriptions of encounters lend themselves to either the theory of a multi-humped sea serpent or a long necked dinosaur. "People like to think of it as a giant Jurassic reptile. I think people find the idea of a 21st century monster, a survivor from the age of the dinosaurs, irresistibly romantic," says Downes.
- 3 Downes continues: "The odd thing about the Loch Ness monster is that although it is 'the most iconic mystery creature', it is actually the one with the least amount of evidence of it being real. So-called physical evidence has turned out to be hoaxes. Footprints turned out to have been made by a stuffed hippo or stuffed elephant, and a 'monster body' that washed up in 1972 turned out to be a dead elephant seal."
- 4 Scientist Adrian Shine has first-hand experience of how unreliable sightings can be. Shortly after he arrived in Loch Ness in the 1970s, he rowed out on the lake. "Suddenly there it was – the classic profile of a large hump and then I saw a half-submerged head which seemed to be moving." He excitedly began snapping pictures but soon realised that it was nothing more than a strange-shaped rock sticking out of the water. "That was when I realised that if I couldn't trust my own eyes I shouldn't necessarily trust anybody else's." 24, Shine says it is hard to dismiss 'the honesty and volume' of eyewitness testimony of the Loch Ness monster.



- 5 Shine is still hoping to find out what is behind the mystery and says the beauty of the monster myth is that no one can disprove it, short of draining the loch. “It could be the Atlantic Sturgeon, a fish that is known to grow over 4m long and has reptilian scaled plates along its back. It could very easily have swum into the loch, been spotted and left again leaving nothing behind save an enigma. But even if I do manage to prove it was a sturgeon, I am under no illusion that it will bring an end to the mystery of Nessie. You can’t kill this legend with science.”

*bbc.co.uk, 2012*

## Tekst 9

---

- 1p 21 What becomes clear about the Loch Ness myth from paragraph 1?
- A It could be exploited more extensively than is now the case.
  - B It gives a financial boost to the local tourist industry.
  - C It has been a source of inspiration for important artists.
  - D It is a fake story made up for marketing purposes.
- 1p 22 What point is made by Jonathan Downes in paragraph 2?
- A People love the idea of a monster that has been alive since prehistoric times.
  - B Stories about the monster are so old that there must be some truth in them.
  - C The people who report having seen the monster all describe it in identical terms.
- 1p 23 Which of the following is in line with what is said about the monster in paragraph 3?
- A It has never been researched properly.
  - B It is rather doubtful that it ever existed.
  - C Traces of it keep coming to the surface.
- 1p 24 Kies bij 24 in alinea 4 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
- A Consequently
  - B For example
  - C Nevertheless
  - D On top of this
- 1p 25 What becomes clear about Shine in paragraph 5?
- A He has a theory about the cause of the sightings he wants to explore.
  - B He is convinced the Loch Ness monster is just a man-made fantasy.
  - C He is trying to rescue a particular type of fish from becoming extinct.
  - D He thinks the lake is full of wildlife that is completely unknown to us.
- 1p 26 “You can’t kill this legend with science.” (end of paragraph 5)  
What does Shine want to make clear with this remark?
- A It is clear that the monster can hide itself from being found by scientists.
  - B It is impossible to find scientific proof that explains why people believe in legends.
  - C People will believe in the legend even if a scientific explanation to the contrary is found.
  - D The scientists who want to study the monster are interested in capturing it alive.

---

### Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.