

Flathead Lake Monster

Vocabulary

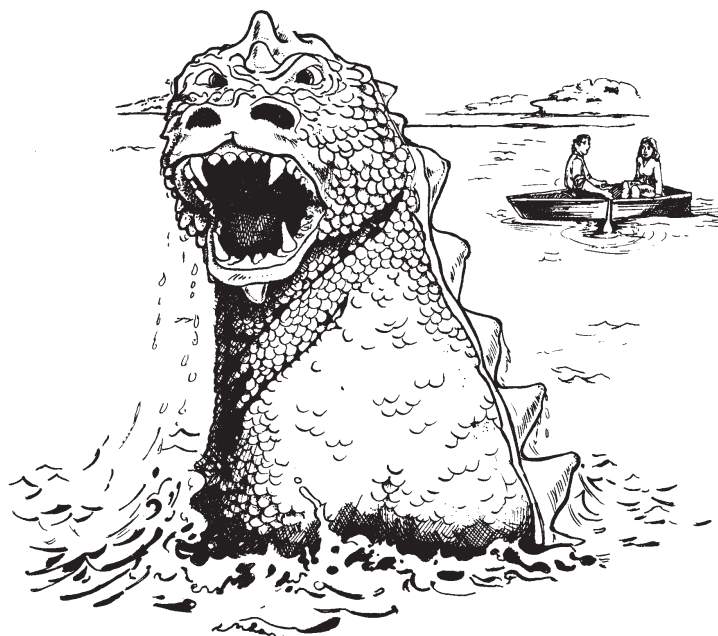
pier	a platform built out over the water, a dock
pilings	large posts driven into the ground to hold up a pier or dock
wake	a trail left in the water by something moving through the water

A few years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Zigler were spending a quiet evening in their cabin beside Flathead Lake in Montana. Suddenly, they heard waves crashing against the shore outside. When they rushed out to investigate, they could see a strange shape splashing water over the end of the **pier**. It seemed to be rubbing against the **pilings** almost as if it were an animal scratching its back.

While Mr. Zigler ran for his rifle, Mrs. Zigler **inched** down the pier for a better look. Suddenly, a horrible creature with a terrifying head **emerged** from the water. Mrs. Zigler screamed, and her husband came running with the rifle. The creature turned and swam away with great speed, leaving a large **wake** behind it. When the Ziglers reported the **incident**, people suggested that they had seen a log or big waves. The Ziglers were positive that they had seen a live animal.

Does some sort of monster live in the **inky** deeps of Flathead Lake? The Ziglers are not the only people who say they've seen one. As long ago as 1920, fishermen in Flathead Lake complained that something huge was tearing their nets apart. In 1963, two teachers out on the lake in a small boat reported seeing a dark gray object with three humps. When the teachers reported what they had seen, two other women admitted that they had seen the creature on the same day. Through the years, more than 100 people have said they saw a monster in Flathead Lake.

The Flathead Lake monster has been compared to the Loch Ness monster of Scotland, the world's most famous lake monster. Although it has yet to be identified as any creature known to man, the Loch Ness monster has been seen by thousands of people. Scientists have studied Loch Ness and have concluded that it would be possible for a large creature to exist in its waters. Flathead Lake is much larger than Loch Ness and the same types of fish live in the two lakes. Could it be that the Scottish monster has a cousin in Montana?



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Comprehension Questions

Identifying the main idea

1. What is the main idea of the story?
 - a. There may be a monster in Flathead Lake.
 - b. People have seen a monster in Loch Ness.
 - c. Very few people have seen lake monsters.

Recalling a fact

2. Why did the Zigers rush out of their cabin?
 - a. They heard waves splashing.
 - b. They saw a strange shape.
 - c. Something was swimming nearby.

Getting meaning from the context

3. What does the word **incident** mean in this story?
 - a. accident
 - b. monster
 - c. event

Making connections within the text

4. Why might the Loch Ness and Flathead Lake monsters be related?
 - a. Both have been seen by many people.
 - b. Both have the same living conditions.
 - c. Both monsters are unsolved mysteries.

Connecting the author's and the reader's ideas

5. Why is it difficult to prove the Flathead Lake monster exists? Include information from the story to support your answers.

Finding supporting details

9. Write three events from the story that support this statement: People and monsters seem to be afraid of each other.

Developing vocabulary

6. Write the number of the word from column 1 in front of its definition in column 2.

1. wake	a. ____ moved slowly
2. inched	b. ____ clouded
3. emerged	c. ____ wave
4. incident	d. ____ rose up
5. inky	e. ____ event or happening

Attending to details

7. Fill in the blanks below with bold-faced words from the story.

Mr. and Mrs. Zigler reported a strange _____ in Flathead Lake. They claimed a creature _____ from the water near the end of a _____ . They said it seemed like the creature was rubbing against the _____ of the pier. Mrs. Zigler _____ her way down the pier. The creature swam away, leaving a huge _____ behind it.

Understanding fact and opinion

8. A fact is a statement that can be proven true. Which of the following statements is a fact?
 - a. There is a monster in Flathead Lake.
 - b. The Zigers reported seeing a monster in Flathead Lake.
 - c. The monster in Flathead Lake and the Loch Ness monster are related.

Enrichment Activity

Look in the dictionary for the meaning of the word illusion. Then decide whether you think the sightings at Flathead Lake could or could not be an illusion and explain why or why not.