

# Flathead Lake Monster

## Vocabulary

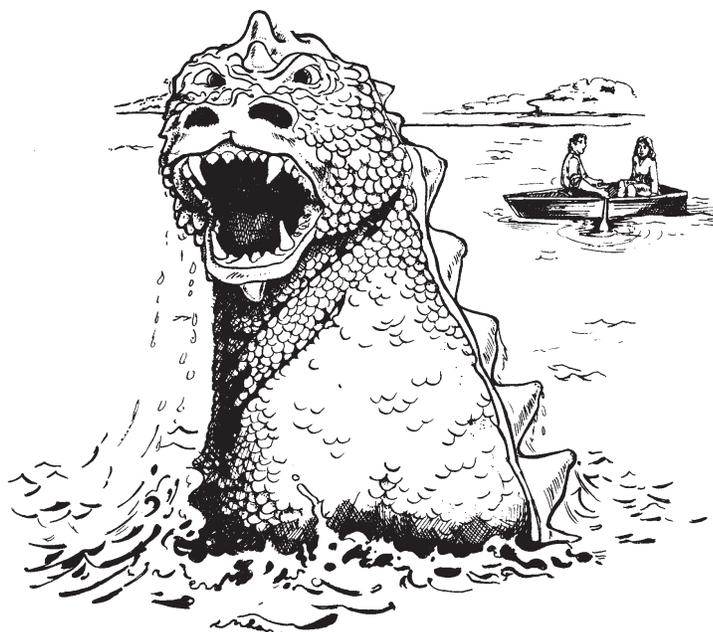
|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>pier</b>    | a platform built out over the water, a dock                     |
| <b>pilings</b> | large posts driven into the ground to hold up a pier or dock    |
| <b>wake</b>    | a trail left in the water by something moving through the water |

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

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

160 Does some sort of monster live in the **inky**  
 168 deeps of Flathead Lake? The Ziglers are not  
 177 the only people who say they've seen one. As  
 185 long ago as 1920, fishermen in Flathead Lake  
 191 complained that something huge was tearing  
 200 their nets apart. In 1963, two teachers out on  
 210 the lake in a small boat reported seeing a dark  
 217 gray object with three humps. When the  
 225 teachers reported what they had seen, two other  
 233 women admitted that they had seen the creature  
 242 on the same day. Through the years, more than  
 251 100 people have said they saw a monster in  
 Flathead Lake.

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

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### 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 Ziglers 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.

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### Finding supporting details

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

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### 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 Ziglers 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.