

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,240

Tonight, the world's most enduring deep sea monster

2

00:00:07,280 --> 00:00:08,240

mystery.

3

00:00:08,280 --> 00:00:10,620

I saw the head, the neck, and the huge body,

4

00:00:10,640 --> 00:00:13,080

which I'd say was about 30 feet long.

5

00:00:13,120 --> 00:00:16,320

We are talking about thousands of sightings,

6

00:00:16,360 --> 00:00:18,220

and that's a conservative estimate.

7

00:00:18,260 --> 00:00:22,820

It could be tens of thousands over the course of 1,500 years.

8

00:00:22,860 --> 00:00:24,700

Despite so many sightings, the beast

9

00:00:24,720 --> 00:00:26,900

remains unidentified.

10

00:00:26,940 --> 00:00:29,240

There are millions of species that we

11

00:00:29,280 --> 00:00:31,080

haven't found or classified yet.

12

00:00:31,120 --> 00:00:34,280

There's stuff out there that we don't know anything about.

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00:00:34,320 --> 00:00:36,320

As far as we can tell, nobody has ever

14

00:00:36,340 --> 00:00:39,580

captured a Loch Ness monster.

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00:00:39,620 --> 00:00:42,280

Now we'll explore the top theories surrounding

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00:00:42,320 --> 00:00:45,260

this elusive creature.

17

00:00:45,300 --> 00:00:47,300

Hey, maybe it's a plesiosaur.

18

00:00:47,320 --> 00:00:49,860

What about the thing that washed up in Stranse,

19

00:00:49,900 --> 00:00:52,260

or the similar lake monster in Sweden?

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00:00:52,300 --> 00:00:54,400

There are tons of eels in Loch Ness.

21

00:00:54,440 --> 00:00:58,540

Is it possible that there is a gigantic eel?

22

00:00:58,940 --> 00:01:01,140

Many people still believe it's real.

23

00:01:01,180 --> 00:01:03,340

Does the Loch Ness monster exist?

24

00:01:03,380 --> 00:01:05,680

And if so, what is it?

25

00:01:05,680 --> 00:01:06,680

What is it?

26

00:01:22,720 --> 00:01:27,600

Northern Scotland, August, 564 AD.

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00:01:27,620 --> 00:01:31,300

According to legend, an Irish monk named Colomba

28

00:01:31,340 --> 00:01:34,500

is attempting to cross the River Ness with a group

29

00:01:34,500 --> 00:01:38,060

of two men they stumble upon two men, burying a friend.

30

00:01:38,100 --> 00:01:40,460

This man had just been swimming when he was attacked

31

00:01:40,500 --> 00:01:43,360

by an enormous water beast.

32

00:01:43,400 --> 00:01:45,300

You would think that after that exchange,

33

00:01:45,340 --> 00:01:47,940

the monks would try to find a different river crossing,

34

00:01:47,980 --> 00:01:50,180

but Colomba stays undeterred.

35

00:01:50,200 --> 00:01:51,980

Maybe he didn't believe the locals,

36

00:01:52,020 --> 00:01:56,480

or he just thought that his faith will protect him.

37

00:01:56,520 --> 00:01:59,320

He orders another monk to swim across and retrieve

38

00:01:59,360 --> 00:02:01,820

a small boat.

39

00:02:01,860 --> 00:02:03,760

As this monk gets about halfway across,

40

00:02:03,820 --> 00:02:05,960

the creature suddenly appears out of the water

41

00:02:05,980 --> 00:02:07,660

and gives a giant, bell-wing roar.

42

00:02:11,160 --> 00:02:14,860

Everyone panics, with the exception of Colomba.

43

00:02:14,900 --> 00:02:17,060

He steps right up to the edge of the bank,

44

00:02:17,100 --> 00:02:19,500

makes a sign of the cross, and demands the monster

45

00:02:19,540 --> 00:02:21,060

leave the man alone.

46

00:02:21,100 --> 00:02:24,580

The creature supposedly obeys.

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00:02:24,600 --> 00:02:28,540

To the witnesses on shore, it is nothing short of a miracle.

48

00:02:28,580 --> 00:02:30,940

Colomba eventually achieves sainthood,

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00:02:30,960 --> 00:02:33,200

and this tale is supporting evidence

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00:02:33,240 --> 00:02:36,000

for his faith and abilities.

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00:02:36,040 --> 00:02:39,100

And this story is retold for years to come.

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00:02:39,140 --> 00:02:42,000

Debate continues for centuries.

53

00:02:42,040 --> 00:02:46,480

What could this mysterious creature actually be?

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00:02:46,520 --> 00:02:49,520

In Colomba's time, and continuing for several centuries

55

00:02:49,560 --> 00:02:52,020

after, through the Middle Ages, dragons

56

00:02:52,060 --> 00:02:54,120

are still believed to be real.

57

00:02:54,160 --> 00:02:57,860

And so many people think this is some sort of sea dragon.

58

00:02:57,980 --> 00:03:01,860

But nobody has any concrete evidence of what it is,

59

00:03:01,880 --> 00:03:03,960

or if it even truly exists.

60

00:03:03,980 --> 00:03:05,820

It remains an essentially local legend

61

00:03:05,860 --> 00:03:07,660

for quite some time.

62

00:03:07,700 --> 00:03:12,200

Then, in the 20th century, new visitors flocked to the Highlands,

63

00:03:12,240 --> 00:03:16,600

thanks to one remarkable invention, the automobile.

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00:03:16,640 --> 00:03:20,140

By the early 1930s, there's a road built along the shore

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00:03:20,180 --> 00:03:22,040

of Loch Ness.

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00:03:22,080 --> 00:03:25,340

One afternoon, in 1931, a local couple

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00:03:25,360 --> 00:03:30,400

were driving along there when they spotted a large animal.

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00:03:30,440 --> 00:03:35,440

It was rolling and plunging on the surface of Loch Ness.

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00:03:35,480 --> 00:03:37,340

Immediately, they report their experience

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00:03:37,380 --> 00:03:39,340

to the local papers.

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00:03:39,380 --> 00:03:41,340

When published, their story uses

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00:03:41,380 --> 00:03:44,720

the now-famous keyword monster.

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00:03:44,760 --> 00:03:49,720

The Loch Ness Monster, a name that soon spreads far and wide.

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00:03:49,760 --> 00:03:52,160

Now, all of a sudden, the tourists

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00:03:52,200 --> 00:03:54,460

are not coming to see the beautiful lake

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00:03:54,580 --> 00:03:55,580

in the rolling hills.

77

00:03:55,620 --> 00:03:59,120

They are coming to see the monster, who is soon

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00:03:59,160 --> 00:04:02,320

lovingly called Nessie.

79

00:04:02,360 --> 00:04:03,260

And guess what?

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00:04:03,300 --> 00:04:04,760

They are spotting it all right.

81

00:04:04,800 --> 00:04:07,760

They are spotting it in droves.

82

00:04:07,800 --> 00:04:10,800

Soon, there are more eyewitness accounts of Nessie,

83

00:04:10,840 --> 00:04:13,040

and they seem convincing.

84

00:04:13,080 --> 00:04:16,380

I saw a large object that came right out of the water

85

00:04:16,400 --> 00:04:17,540

in front of me.

86

00:04:17,580 --> 00:04:20,920

I was waiting in the river fishing with fly fishing.

87

00:04:20,940 --> 00:04:24,080

The best view I ever had was the very first in 1934.

88

00:04:24,200 --> 00:04:26,700

I saw the head, the neck, and the huge body,

89

00:04:26,740 --> 00:04:29,440

which I'd say was about 30 feet long.

90

00:04:29,480 --> 00:04:32,480

Each new glimpse brings fresh secrets,

91

00:04:32,520 --> 00:04:34,880

all with the latest technology.

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00:04:34,920 --> 00:04:37,180

We shouldn't have to wait long before somebody captures it

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00:04:37,220 --> 00:04:40,620

on film, and then we're bound to know what it is.

94

00:04:40,660 --> 00:04:45,160

In April of 1934, that finally happens,

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00:04:45,200 --> 00:04:47,760

and it becomes front-page news.

96

00:04:47,800 --> 00:04:51,440

A gynecologist from London named Robert Kenneth Wilson

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00:04:51,460 --> 00:04:54,160

went on a fishing trip over there to Northern Scotland

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00:04:54,200 --> 00:04:56,200

when he decided to go for a walk.

99

00:04:56,240 --> 00:04:58,840

During his stroll, that's when he spotted something

100

00:04:58,880 --> 00:05:00,300

unusual in the water.

101

00:05:00,340 --> 00:05:03,280

Luckily, he had his camera, and he snapped a picture.

102

00:05:03,320 --> 00:05:08,780

And there we have it, probably the first photograph of Nessie.

103

00:05:08,820 --> 00:05:13,960

Known as the surgeon's photo, the image causes quite a stir.

104

00:05:13,980 --> 00:05:17,600

Shows a silhouetted creature with a long slender neck,

105

00:05:17,620 --> 00:05:20,720

a small head, and a large body emerging slightly

106

00:05:20,840 --> 00:05:22,680

above the waterline.

107

00:05:22,720 --> 00:05:23,880

This is amazing.

108

00:05:23,920 --> 00:05:25,320

We finally have some visual evidence

109

00:05:25,340 --> 00:05:27,680

to back up these eyewitness accounts.

110

00:05:27,720 --> 00:05:29,580

And not only that, some experts think

111

00:05:29,620 --> 00:05:31,920

they can identify this animal.

112

00:05:31,960 --> 00:05:34,660

The creature's shape also strikes a chord

113

00:05:34,700 --> 00:05:36,600

with British pailing intelligence.

114

00:05:36,620 --> 00:05:39,700

So what particular species do you think it is?

115

00:05:39,740 --> 00:05:43,540

The evidence, as I interpreted, all fits.

116

00:05:43,560 --> 00:05:45,540

And I know this is a fantastic statement,

117

00:05:45,580 --> 00:05:47,500

but this all fits, plethora, so on.

118

00:05:51,680 --> 00:05:53,820

Plesiosaurus are a marine reptile

119

00:05:53,840 --> 00:05:56,120

dating back millions of years.

120

00:05:56,140 --> 00:05:59,380

Their fossils were first discovered in 1823

121

00:05:59,420 --> 00:06:01,820

during a dig in England.

122

00:06:01,860 --> 00:06:05,960

Fossil hunter Mary Anning actually uncovered

123

00:06:05,980 --> 00:06:12,160

a nearly complete skeleton of a previously unknown species.

124

00:06:12,200 --> 00:06:15,500

It is given the name Pleasiosaurus,

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00:06:15,540 --> 00:06:18,300

meaning near to reptile.

126

00:06:18,320 --> 00:06:20,960

Pleasiosaurus fossils have been found around the world,

127

00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:24,560

but a major cluster of them comes from here in Scotland.

128

00:06:24,600 --> 00:06:27,660

We're talking about hundreds of specimens.

129

00:06:27,700 --> 00:06:32,100

This was, at least at one time, this creature's main habitat.

130

00:06:32,140 --> 00:06:34,000

These fossils show that the Pleasiosaurus

131

00:06:34,040 --> 00:06:38,640

was an enormous water-dwelling creature over 20 feet long.

132

00:06:38,680 --> 00:06:42,040

They had broad, flat bodies with short tails.

133

00:06:42,080 --> 00:06:44,280

Their limbs had evolved into four long flippers

134

00:06:44,320 --> 00:06:47,520

that propelled them through the water in a flying motion.

135

00:06:47,640 --> 00:06:50,220

They breathed air, and so they would constantly

136

00:06:50,240 --> 00:06:52,820

have to come to the surface for oxygen.

137

00:06:52,840 --> 00:06:56,820

Most notably, they had long, thin necks.

138

00:06:56,840 --> 00:07:00,620

The surgeon's photograph happens to fit that to AT.

139

00:07:00,660 --> 00:07:05,420

And coincidentally, so do most of the witness statements.

140

00:07:05,460 --> 00:07:08,760

Though some believe Nessie could be a Pleasiosaur,

141

00:07:08,800 --> 00:07:11,860

the theory has one major flaw.

142

00:07:11,900 --> 00:07:14,300

Scientists believe that a mass extinction event

143

00:07:14,340 --> 00:07:16,500

about 65 and a half million years ago

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00:07:16,520 --> 00:07:19,460

killed about 75% of all species on Earth,

145

00:07:19,500 --> 00:07:22,020

including dinosaurs and Pleasiosaurus.

146

00:07:22,060 --> 00:07:25,000

A Pleasiosaur should not be inhabiting these waters today

147

00:07:25,040 --> 00:07:28,360

in St. Columbus time or any time during human existence.

148

00:07:28,400 --> 00:07:30,260

They're supposed to be extinct.

149

00:07:30,300 --> 00:07:33,900

But is it possible the Pleasiosaurus somehow survived?

150

00:07:33,940 --> 00:07:37,000

When we say that 75% of the creatures

151

00:07:37,040 --> 00:07:40,280

did not survive the last mass extinction event,

152

00:07:40,320 --> 00:07:42,880

that means that 25% did survive.

153

00:07:42,900 --> 00:07:46,600

So platypuses, turtles, crocodiles,

154

00:07:46,640 --> 00:07:49,780

all kinds of animals actually did survive that event.

155

00:07:49,800 --> 00:07:53,340

Scientists point to a fish long thought to be extinct

156

00:07:53,380 --> 00:07:55,140

as an example.

157

00:07:55,180 --> 00:08:00,680

The Silicanth, discovered alive in 1938 in South Africa.

158

00:08:00,720 --> 00:08:02,480

The entire scientific community believes

159

00:08:02,520 --> 00:08:05,920

that the Silicanth dies off 66 million years ago.

160

00:08:05,960 --> 00:08:07,960

There are no fossils after that.

161

00:08:07,980 --> 00:08:10,800

It's the same time as the Pleasiosaur.

162

00:08:10,920 --> 00:08:13,720

If the Silicanth can still be swimming around out there,

163

00:08:13,760 --> 00:08:16,060

what's to say that a small number of Pleasiosaur

164

00:08:16,100 --> 00:08:18,800

couldn't have somehow avoided extinction too?

165

00:08:18,840 --> 00:08:23,640

But to many, the Pleasiosaur theory remains too far fetched.

166

00:08:23,680 --> 00:08:25,220

The fact that they breathe air could account

167

00:08:25,260 --> 00:08:27,160

for the animal being sighted at the surface,

168

00:08:27,200 --> 00:08:28,600

but I actually think that's evidence

169

00:08:28,640 --> 00:08:30,720

against Nessie being a Pleasiosaur.

170

00:08:30,760 --> 00:08:32,720

Because it would have to surface all the time,

171

00:08:32,760 --> 00:08:36,120

if that were the case, we'd have so many more photos and videos.

172

00:08:36,160 --> 00:08:38,120

One would have probably already been caught

173

00:08:38,160 --> 00:08:39,760

and put into zoo by now.

174

00:08:39,760 --> 00:08:44,220

Plus, a creature as big as a 20-foot-long Pleasiosaurus

175

00:08:44,260 --> 00:08:48,920

would need a lot of food to sustain itself.

176

00:08:48,960 --> 00:08:51,920

There's just not enough of a food source for a massive beast,

177

00:08:51,960 --> 00:08:53,800

let alone a community of them,

178

00:08:53,840 --> 00:08:56,180

which there would have to be in order for this species

179

00:08:56,220 --> 00:08:58,220

to survive this long.

180

00:08:58,260 --> 00:09:01,760

And honestly, the Pleasiosaur theory

181

00:09:01,800 --> 00:09:04,220

only hangs on the one photograph.

182

00:09:04,260 --> 00:09:06,520

Before the surgeon's photo is published,

183

00:09:06,560 --> 00:09:09,720

absolutely nobody thinks it's a Pleasiosaur.

184

00:09:10,760 --> 00:09:12,760

This is the first one.

185

00:09:12,760 --> 00:09:15,760

The first photo of the supposed Loch Ness monster

186

00:09:15,800 --> 00:09:18,800

insights public frenzy and a torrent of tourists

187

00:09:18,840 --> 00:09:20,680

looking for Nessie,

188

00:09:20,720 --> 00:09:22,720

but not everyone believes the image

189

00:09:22,760 --> 00:09:25,760

known as the surgeon's photo is authentic.

190

00:09:25,800 --> 00:09:27,760

Dr. R. Kenneth Wilson,

191

00:09:27,800 --> 00:09:29,800

who submits this photo to the Daily Mail,

192

00:09:29,840 --> 00:09:31,760

claims that it's real.

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00:09:31,800 --> 00:09:32,760

But others say, hold on,

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00:09:32,800 --> 00:09:35,760

this is an elephant's trunk rising out of the water,

195

00:09:35,800 --> 00:09:37,760

but it's not.

196

00:09:37,760 --> 00:09:39,760

It's an elephant's trunk rising out of the water,

197

00:09:39,800 --> 00:09:42,760

or maybe it's a dolphin's fin or something else.

198

00:09:42,800 --> 00:09:45,760

What we do know is that the photo that's published

199

00:09:45,800 --> 00:09:47,760

is substantially cropped and zoomed in,

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00:09:47,800 --> 00:09:50,760

which blurs the shape of the creature a bit

201

00:09:50,800 --> 00:09:53,760

and skews any sense of scale or perspective.

202

00:09:53,800 --> 00:09:55,760

But when some experts go back and examine

203

00:09:55,800 --> 00:09:57,760

the original uncropped photo,

204

00:09:57,800 --> 00:09:59,760

they see something entirely different.

205

00:09:59,800 --> 00:10:01,760

Seeing the uncropped version

206

00:10:01,800 --> 00:10:03,760

changes their perspective completely.

207

00:10:03,800 --> 00:10:06,760

They believe that whatever this beast is in the water

208

00:10:06,760 --> 00:10:08,760

isn't anywhere near 20 feet long.

209

00:10:08,800 --> 00:10:11,760

It's maybe three feet long at the most.

210

00:10:11,800 --> 00:10:15,760

Is it possible that the most famous photo of Nessie

211

00:10:15,800 --> 00:10:17,760

is somehow doctor?

212

00:10:19,760 --> 00:10:21,760

People question the authenticity

213

00:10:21,800 --> 00:10:25,760

the moment this photo comes out in 1934.

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00:10:25,800 --> 00:10:29,760

But many people still believe this thing is real.

215

00:10:29,800 --> 00:10:32,760

And there is no definitive proof otherwise.

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00:10:32,800 --> 00:10:34,760

Then in 1994,

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00:10:34,760 --> 00:10:37,760

the photo's whole provenance comes into question.

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00:10:37,800 --> 00:10:39,760

Thanks to a deathbed confession

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00:10:39,800 --> 00:10:41,760

by a man named Christian Sperling.

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00:10:41,800 --> 00:10:43,760

He claims that in 1933,

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00:10:43,800 --> 00:10:46,760

his stepfather was hired by the Daily Mail

222

00:10:46,800 --> 00:10:48,760

to find evidence of the Loch Ness monster.

223

00:10:48,800 --> 00:10:52,760

Sperling is the stepson of a big game hunter and filmmaker

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00:10:52,800 --> 00:10:54,760

named Marmaduke Duke Weatherall.

225

00:10:54,800 --> 00:10:57,760

So Duke goes on this expedition to Scotland,

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00:10:57,800 --> 00:10:59,760

and it doesn't take him long

227

00:10:59,800 --> 00:11:01,760

to find these really large animal tracks

228

00:11:01,800 --> 00:11:02,760

near the banks of the Loch.

229

00:11:02,760 --> 00:11:04,760

Judging from the size of the footprints,

230

00:11:04,800 --> 00:11:08,760

Duke estimates the animal to be at least 20 feet long.

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00:11:08,800 --> 00:11:11,760

Weatherall sends plaster casts of the tracks

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00:11:11,800 --> 00:11:13,760

to a London museum.

233

00:11:13,800 --> 00:11:15,760

When the results came back,

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00:11:15,800 --> 00:11:17,760

they find that the tracks didn't come from a monster,

235

00:11:17,800 --> 00:11:21,760

but they came from a hippo.

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00:11:23,760 --> 00:11:25,760

It sounds unusual because we all know

237

00:11:25,800 --> 00:11:28,760

that hippos do not come from that area.

238

00:11:28,800 --> 00:11:30,760

But back then, hippos feet were used

239

00:11:30,760 --> 00:11:33,760

as umbrella holders and ashtrays,

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00:11:33,800 --> 00:11:36,760

so it wasn't that uncommon.

241

00:11:36,800 --> 00:11:38,760

So one of two things is happening here.

242

00:11:38,800 --> 00:11:40,760

Either Duke faked the tracks,

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00:11:40,800 --> 00:11:42,760

or someone was fooling him.

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00:11:42,800 --> 00:11:44,760

The Daily Mail is not happy about either of these options,

245

00:11:44,800 --> 00:11:47,760

so the paper publicly ridicules him.

246

00:11:47,800 --> 00:11:49,760

According to Sperling's confession,

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00:11:49,800 --> 00:11:53,760

Weatherall concocts a scheme to save his reputation.

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00:11:53,800 --> 00:11:55,760

Duke goes to his stepson,

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00:11:55,800 --> 00:11:57,760

who happens to be a model maker,

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00:11:57,800 --> 00:11:59,760

and asks him to fabricate something

251

00:11:59,760 --> 00:12:02,760

that looks like the eyewitness descriptions of the beast.

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00:12:02,800 --> 00:12:05,760

So using plastic, wood, and a toy submarine,

253

00:12:05,800 --> 00:12:08,760

they create this model of a creature with a long neck

254

00:12:08,800 --> 00:12:10,760

and a small head.

255

00:12:10,800 --> 00:12:13,760

And then Duke goes to the lock with his other son

256

00:12:13,800 --> 00:12:16,760

and creates that iconic photograph.

257

00:12:16,800 --> 00:12:19,760

But in reality, it's just a picture of the model

258

00:12:19,800 --> 00:12:21,760

floating in the water.

259

00:12:21,800 --> 00:12:26,760

Now, Weatherall just needs a way to make the photo public.

260

00:12:26,800 --> 00:12:28,760

The perfect solution.

261

00:12:28,760 --> 00:12:31,760

The surgeon, Dr. R. Kenneth Wilson.

262

00:12:31,800 --> 00:12:34,800

Duke realizes the best way he could pull this off

263

00:12:34,840 --> 00:12:36,800

is if he finds someone trustworthy

264

00:12:36,840 --> 00:12:38,800

who can claim the photo as their own.

265

00:12:38,840 --> 00:12:40,800

So he passes the photo on to Wilson,

266

00:12:40,840 --> 00:12:44,800

the very same surgeon who publicizes the infamous photo.

267

00:12:44,840 --> 00:12:46,800

The surgeon's photo is really a game changer.

268

00:12:46,840 --> 00:12:49,800

It unleashes a torrent of tourism

269

00:12:49,840 --> 00:12:52,800

that still is going on till this day.

270

00:12:52,840 --> 00:12:56,800

Over the years, there are more fake photos of Nessie.

271

00:12:56,800 --> 00:12:59,840

All of them eventually debunked.

272

00:12:59,880 --> 00:13:02,840

Then in 2016, there's suddenly new evidence

273

00:13:02,880 --> 00:13:05,840

that suggests the monster could be real.

274

00:13:05,880 --> 00:13:07,840

Researchers from Kongsburg Maritime

275

00:13:07,880 --> 00:13:10,840

send an underwater drone deep into the lock

276

00:13:10,880 --> 00:13:12,840

to search for any evidence of the monster.

277

00:13:12,880 --> 00:13:16,840

And surprisingly, the sonar returns images of something

278

00:13:16,880 --> 00:13:20,840

that has the shape of the monster's head and neck.

279

00:13:20,880 --> 00:13:23,840

At first, this is big news.

280

00:13:23,880 --> 00:13:27,880

Until it's determined to be a prop from a movie.

281

00:13:27,920 --> 00:13:31,880

In 1969, a Sherlock Holmes movie was shot at the lock.

282

00:13:31,920 --> 00:13:33,880

In the movie, there's a scene where the Loch Ness monster

283

00:13:33,920 --> 00:13:35,880

attacks the heroes.

284

00:13:35,920 --> 00:13:37,880

But during the filming, director Billy Wilder

285

00:13:37,920 --> 00:13:39,880

takes a look at the monster prop

286

00:13:39,920 --> 00:13:41,880

and decides he does not like the humps on the back.

287

00:13:41,920 --> 00:13:43,880

So they remove the humps

288

00:13:43,920 --> 00:13:45,880

and accidentally cause the prop to sink

289

00:13:45,920 --> 00:13:47,880

to the bottom of the lock.

290

00:13:47,920 --> 00:13:51,880

There's a lot of fakery surrounding the Loch Ness monster.

291

00:13:51,920 --> 00:13:54,920

People love getting their 15 minutes of fame from this.

292

00:13:54,960 --> 00:13:58,920

Every Nessie sighting gets attention.

293

00:13:58,960 --> 00:14:00,920

And people love getting attention.

294

00:14:00,960 --> 00:14:03,920

But the sheer volume of sightings throughout time

295

00:14:03,960 --> 00:14:06,920

convinced many that Nessie is real.

296

00:14:06,960 --> 00:14:09,920

We are talking about thousands of sightings.

297

00:14:09,960 --> 00:14:11,920

And that's a conservative estimate.

298

00:14:11,960 --> 00:14:13,920

It could be tens of thousands

299

00:14:13,960 --> 00:14:16,920

over the course of 1,500 years.

300

00:14:16,960 --> 00:14:18,920

Before cameras, before Photoshop,

301

00:14:18,960 --> 00:14:20,920

before robotic toys, submarines,

302

00:14:20,920 --> 00:14:23,960

sure, a few dozen sightings may be fake.

303

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:26,960

But all of them? No way.

304

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:29,960

A key piece of evidence for believers.

305

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:33,960

A discovery in 1808 on the Scottish Island of Stronse,

306

00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:37,960

just 120 miles from Loch Ness.

307

00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:40,960

According to eyewitnesses, the corpse of a strange animal

308

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:44,960

washes up on the beach and a crowd gathers to see it.

309

00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:48,960

It's the rotting carcass of an enormous unidentified sea beast,

310

00:14:49,040 --> 00:14:52,000

and the locals have never seen anything like this.

311

00:14:52,040 --> 00:14:55,000

Eyewitnesses call it the Stronse beast

312

00:14:55,040 --> 00:14:57,000

and describe it as having a serpentine-like body

313

00:14:57,040 --> 00:15:01,000

with a long neck and six limbs that resemble paws.

314

00:15:01,040 --> 00:15:03,000

They say its head is small like a sheep's

315

00:15:03,040 --> 00:15:06,000

and its eyes are similar to a seal's, but bigger.

316

00:15:06,040 --> 00:15:08,000

It has some short hairs around its head and neck

317

00:15:08,040 --> 00:15:11,000

and skin that is rough to the touch and grayish in color.

318

00:15:11,040 --> 00:15:14,000

The measurements they take show how gigantic

319

00:15:14,040 --> 00:15:16,000

this thing actually is.

320

00:15:16,040 --> 00:15:20,040

It's 55 feet long with its neck alone measuring 10 feet.

321

00:15:20,080 --> 00:15:22,040

Authorities document the creature

322

00:15:22,080 --> 00:15:24,040

and take sworn witness statements.

323

00:15:24,080 --> 00:15:28,040

This is the early 19th century, so they can't photograph it.

324

00:15:28,080 --> 00:15:30,040

But they also know the story won't be believed,

325

00:15:30,080 --> 00:15:32,040

so they need to prove it somehow.

326

00:15:32,080 --> 00:15:35,040

So they bring all the eyewitnesses to the Capitol,

327

00:15:35,080 --> 00:15:37,040

where they can swear before a magistrate

328

00:15:37,080 --> 00:15:39,040

that what they saw is the truth.

329

00:15:39,080 --> 00:15:43,040

We still have these records along with drawings that they made.

330

00:15:43,080 --> 00:15:45,080

The conch is quickly decomposing,

331

00:15:45,120 --> 00:15:47,080

and they lack the right equipment to transport

332

00:15:47,120 --> 00:15:49,080

or preserve this massive animal,

333

00:15:49,120 --> 00:15:52,080

but they do take samples of the specimen.

334

00:15:52,120 --> 00:15:56,080

The skull is saved and sent to London for further examination.

335

00:15:56,120 --> 00:16:00,080

But unfortunately, it's destroyed during the Blitz in World War II.

336

00:16:01,080 --> 00:16:03,080

The vertebrae, on the other hand,

337

00:16:03,120 --> 00:16:05,080

are sent to leading anatomist John Barclay

338

00:16:05,120 --> 00:16:08,080

from Edinburgh's most successful school of anatomy.

339

00:16:08,120 --> 00:16:11,080

He concludes that this is unlike any other creature he's ever seen,

340

00:16:11,080 --> 00:16:15,120

opening the door to the possibility that this is a new found species.

341

00:16:15,160 --> 00:16:18,120

The connexion isn't initially made to the Loch Ness monster,

342

00:16:18,160 --> 00:16:21,120

because it's not the 1930s yet,

343

00:16:21,160 --> 00:16:24,120

so Nessie Fever has not swept the nation.

344

00:16:24,160 --> 00:16:26,120

The legendary creature is not famous yet.

345

00:16:26,160 --> 00:16:28,120

But once it becomes famous,

346

00:16:28,160 --> 00:16:30,120

theorists realize,

347

00:16:30,160 --> 00:16:33,120

hold on, this might be the same animal.

348

00:16:33,160 --> 00:16:37,120

The fact that Stranese is just 120 miles from Loch Ness

349

00:16:37,160 --> 00:16:39,120

earns extra attention.

350

00:16:39,160 --> 00:16:41,160

And the physical description of the two creatures

351

00:16:41,200 --> 00:16:43,160

is strikingly similar.

352

00:16:43,200 --> 00:16:45,160

Gray skin, long neck,

353

00:16:45,200 --> 00:16:48,160

some kind of flipper-like appendages, small head.

354

00:16:48,200 --> 00:16:51,160

The only real major difference, I would say, is the size.

355

00:16:51,200 --> 00:16:54,160

The Stranse beast, according to those eyewitnesses,

356

00:16:54,200 --> 00:16:57,160

is much larger than anyone has ever claimed

357

00:16:57,200 --> 00:16:58,160

the Loch Ness monster to be.

358

00:16:58,200 --> 00:17:00,160

Nearly twice the size.

359

00:17:00,200 --> 00:17:03,160

That doesn't necessarily rule out the same species, though.

360

00:17:03,200 --> 00:17:05,160

Perhaps Nessie is just smaller.

361

00:17:05,200 --> 00:17:08,160

Or there's an even more compelling idea.

362

00:17:08,200 --> 00:17:11,200

What if the creature in Loch Ness is a younger specimen?

363

00:17:11,240 --> 00:17:13,200

What if the Loch is where these animals breed?

364

00:17:13,240 --> 00:17:15,200

It certainly happens.

365

00:17:15,240 --> 00:17:17,200

Sam and Swim in all the way from the North Sea

366

00:17:17,240 --> 00:17:20,200

and breed in the River Ness and the Loch.

367

00:17:20,240 --> 00:17:22,200

It's an annual event.

368

00:17:22,240 --> 00:17:26,200

This may also explain the inconsistency of sightings.

369

00:17:26,240 --> 00:17:28,200

If that's the case, the animal breeds

370

00:17:28,240 --> 00:17:30,200

and raises its young in the Loch,

371

00:17:30,240 --> 00:17:32,200

but then it migrates out into the sea.

372

00:17:32,240 --> 00:17:34,200

So the reason people don't see it all that often

373

00:17:34,240 --> 00:17:36,200

is because it doesn't live in Loch Ness full-time.

374

00:17:36,240 --> 00:17:37,240

It's possible.

375

00:17:37,280 --> 00:17:40,240

Loch Ness and Stranese are actually connected by water.

376

00:17:40,280 --> 00:17:43,240

Both the Caledonian Canal and the River Ness

377

00:17:43,280 --> 00:17:45,240

connect the Loch to Rosemarke Bay.

378

00:17:45,280 --> 00:17:47,240

And ultimately, the North Sea.

379

00:17:47,280 --> 00:17:50,240

So it's entirely possible that whatever washed up

380

00:17:50,280 --> 00:17:52,240

on the Isle of Stranse

381

00:17:52,280 --> 00:17:55,240

is the same species as the Loch Ness monster.

382

00:17:59,240 --> 00:18:01,240

If the Loch Ness monster exists,

383

00:18:01,280 --> 00:18:05,240

the waters it lives in remain largely unexplored.

384

00:18:05,280 --> 00:18:07,280

But as marine science evolves,

385

00:18:07,320 --> 00:18:10,280

new theories emerge about what Nessie might be.

386

00:18:10,320 --> 00:18:13,280

Over time, modern technology has allowed scientists

387

00:18:13,320 --> 00:18:17,280

to dive deeper into bodies of water than ever before.

388

00:18:17,320 --> 00:18:20,280

And the diversity of life there is amazing.

389

00:18:20,320 --> 00:18:21,280

And the more species we discover,

390

00:18:21,320 --> 00:18:24,280

the more we have to compare to the Loch Ness monster

391

00:18:24,320 --> 00:18:26,280

to see if they are matched.

392

00:18:26,320 --> 00:18:27,280

And that approach has yielded

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00:18:27,320 --> 00:18:30,280

one particularly compelling candidate.

394

00:18:30,320 --> 00:18:33,280

In 2012, biologist Jeremy Wade publicizes a theory

395

00:18:33,320 --> 00:18:35,320

that some scientists have held for years

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00:18:35,360 --> 00:18:37,320

on the origins of the Loch Ness legend.

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00:18:37,360 --> 00:18:39,320

Nessie may in fact be a creature

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00:18:39,360 --> 00:18:41,320

that scientists already know.

399

00:18:41,360 --> 00:18:44,320

A highly elusive, very mysterious species,

400

00:18:44,360 --> 00:18:46,320

but one that is very real.

401

00:18:46,360 --> 00:18:48,320

The Greenland Shark.

402

00:18:48,360 --> 00:18:50,320

Why a Greenland Shark?

403

00:18:50,360 --> 00:18:52,320

Why this animal in particular?

404

00:18:52,360 --> 00:18:55,320

Upon first blush, this theory seems way out there.

405

00:18:55,360 --> 00:18:58,320

For decades, Nessie has been described as more

406

00:18:58,360 --> 00:19:00,320

of a dinosaur-like creature.

407

00:19:00,360 --> 00:19:02,320

But that belief stems from a photo

408

00:19:02,320 --> 00:19:04,360

that we now know to be a hoax.

409

00:19:04,400 --> 00:19:07,360

What if Nessie is not the long-necked beast

410

00:19:07,400 --> 00:19:08,360

in the surgeon's photo,

411

00:19:08,400 --> 00:19:11,360

but something else entirely?

412

00:19:11,400 --> 00:19:13,360

Like Nessie, Greenland sharks are elusive.

413

00:19:13,400 --> 00:19:17,360

They tend to prefer very deep, very cold water.

414

00:19:17,400 --> 00:19:18,360

That makes them hard to study.

415

00:19:18,400 --> 00:19:21,360

They are rarely photographed or filmed.

416

00:19:21,400 --> 00:19:22,360

A lot of what we know about them

417

00:19:22,400 --> 00:19:25,360

has only come to light in the past couple of decades,

418

00:19:25,400 --> 00:19:27,360

despite the fact that our best guess

419

00:19:27,400 --> 00:19:31,360

is they've roamed the earth for over 100 million years.

420

00:19:31,400 --> 00:19:33,400

In fact, the first time one was photographed

421

00:19:33,440 --> 00:19:35,400

wasn't until 1995.

422

00:19:35,440 --> 00:19:36,400

And when you first look at it,

423

00:19:36,440 --> 00:19:38,400

you may not initially see Nessie,

424

00:19:38,440 --> 00:19:40,400

but keep looking and think about

425

00:19:40,440 --> 00:19:42,400

some of the eyewitness accounts.

426

00:19:42,440 --> 00:19:43,400

It could fit.

427

00:19:43,440 --> 00:19:46,400

Greenland sharks are typically mottled gray or brown.

428

00:19:46,440 --> 00:19:50,400

The same colors used to describe the Loch Ness monster.

429

00:19:50,440 --> 00:19:51,400

And they're big.

430

00:19:51,440 --> 00:19:55,400

Greenland sharks can get to, like, 20 feet long

431

00:19:55,440 --> 00:19:57,400

and, like, 4 tons.

432

00:19:57,440 --> 00:20:00,400

So they're very, very large animals.

433

00:20:00,440 --> 00:20:03,440

They can actually be larger than great whites.

434

00:20:06,440 --> 00:20:09,440

Unlike most sharks, they have a small dorsal fin.

435

00:20:09,480 --> 00:20:12,440

If a normal shark were cruising along the surface of Loch Ness,

436

00:20:12,480 --> 00:20:13,440

people would know it.

437

00:20:13,480 --> 00:20:15,440

It's instantly recognizable.

438

00:20:15,480 --> 00:20:17,440

But the odd stubby fin of the Greenland shark

439

00:20:17,480 --> 00:20:19,440

could easily be mistaken for something else,

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00:20:19,480 --> 00:20:22,440

possibly the head or hump of some kind of sea monster.

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00:20:22,480 --> 00:20:25,440

Which definitely applies to most sightings of Nessie.

442

00:20:25,480 --> 00:20:28,440

Witnesses often describe multiple humps

443

00:20:28,480 --> 00:20:29,440

undulating through the water.

444

00:20:29,440 --> 00:20:32,480

When you think back to the time of St. Colomba,

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00:20:32,520 --> 00:20:33,480

through the Middle Ages,

446

00:20:33,520 --> 00:20:36,480

and the Nessie sightings even up to the 1800s,

447

00:20:36,520 --> 00:20:39,480

there are still people around who believe in things like mermaids

448

00:20:39,520 --> 00:20:42,480

and all kinds of fantastical creatures.

449

00:20:42,520 --> 00:20:44,480

So it's not surprising that somebody could catch a glimpse

450

00:20:44,520 --> 00:20:47,480

of a bizarre-looking shark like this

451

00:20:47,520 --> 00:20:51,480

and think that it is a monster in Loch Ness or the River Ness.

452

00:20:51,520 --> 00:20:54,480

I mean, it kind of does look like a monster.

453

00:20:54,520 --> 00:20:56,480

According to some scientists,

454

00:20:56,520 --> 00:20:58,480

Greenland sharks also move,

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00:20:58,520 --> 00:21:00,520

like the Loch Ness monster.

456

00:21:00,560 --> 00:21:04,520

So most people imagine sharks as being fast, agile hunters.

457

00:21:04,560 --> 00:21:09,520

You think of like a great white or a Mako shark chasing down a meal.

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00:21:09,560 --> 00:21:12,520

Nessie sightings tend to describe a slow-moving animal.

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00:21:12,560 --> 00:21:15,520

Greenland sharks live in a completely different habitat

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00:21:15,560 --> 00:21:17,520

where the water is really cold

461

00:21:17,560 --> 00:21:19,520

and they have a very slow metabolism.

462

00:21:19,560 --> 00:21:22,520

So they swim slowly, they eat slowly,

463

00:21:22,560 --> 00:21:25,520

they do everything slowly.

464

00:21:25,560 --> 00:21:27,520

That is why they're sometimes called sleeper sharks.

465

00:21:27,520 --> 00:21:29,560

If an enormous Greenland shark surfaced

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00:21:29,600 --> 00:21:32,560

and moved along the water of Loch Ness that slowly,

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00:21:32,600 --> 00:21:34,560

it's easy to see how it could be misconstrued

468

00:21:34,600 --> 00:21:36,560

as something other than a shark.

469

00:21:36,600 --> 00:21:38,560

And why don't we see Nessie very often?

470

00:21:38,600 --> 00:21:40,560

Because a shark doesn't have to come up for air.

471

00:21:40,600 --> 00:21:43,560

It may occasionally make its way to the shallows,

472

00:21:43,600 --> 00:21:44,560

but not very often.

473

00:21:44,600 --> 00:21:46,560

These Greenlands love the depths.

474

00:21:46,600 --> 00:21:48,560

The problem with the Greenland shark theory

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00:21:48,600 --> 00:21:51,560

is that Loch Ness is a body of fresh water.

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00:21:51,600 --> 00:21:53,560

For a long time, we've thought that Greenland sharks

477

00:21:53,600 --> 00:21:55,560

are saltwater creatures.

478

00:21:55,600 --> 00:21:58,600

But new evidence suggests otherwise.

479

00:21:58,640 --> 00:22:00,600

Greenland sharks have recently been filmed

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00:22:00,640 --> 00:22:02,600

in Canada's St. Lawrence River.

481

00:22:02,640 --> 00:22:05,600

In fact, they go all up and down the St. Lawrence Seaway

482

00:22:05,640 --> 00:22:07,600

through America and Canada,

483

00:22:07,640 --> 00:22:08,600

and that is entirely fresh water.

484

00:22:08,640 --> 00:22:12,600

A similar freshwater route connects Loch Ness with the North Sea.

485

00:22:12,640 --> 00:22:16,600

If Greenland sharks can live in both freshwater and seawater,

486

00:22:16,640 --> 00:22:19,600

it's entirely possible one could survive in Loch Ness

487

00:22:19,640 --> 00:22:21,600

or at least migrate in from time to time.

488

00:22:21,640 --> 00:22:24,600

Maybe there's even a chance that the Stranse beast remains

489

00:22:24,600 --> 00:22:27,640

were misinterpreted, and it was some kind of large shark

490

00:22:27,680 --> 00:22:29,640

that was capable of going back and forth

491

00:22:29,680 --> 00:22:30,640

between the sea and the Loch.

492

00:22:30,680 --> 00:22:33,640

All of this evidence excites the scientific community.

493

00:22:33,680 --> 00:22:36,640

There are so many similarities between Greenland sharks and Nessie,

494

00:22:36,680 --> 00:22:39,640

experts think that they've solved the mystery.

495

00:22:40,680 --> 00:22:44,640

A 2016 experiment at the University of Copenhagen

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00:22:44,680 --> 00:22:46,640

only adds to that excitement.

497

00:22:46,680 --> 00:22:48,640

These scientists take 28 Greenland sharks

498

00:22:48,680 --> 00:22:52,640

and have them radiocarbon dated to determine their age.

499

00:22:52,680 --> 00:22:56,680

Shockingly, one of them is over 400 years old.

500

00:22:56,720 --> 00:22:59,680

400 years makes the Greenland shark

501

00:22:59,720 --> 00:23:01,680

the world's longest living vertebrate.

502

00:23:01,720 --> 00:23:04,680

To give you an idea of how incredibly old this is,

503

00:23:04,720 --> 00:23:06,680

there could be a shark swimming out there

504

00:23:06,720 --> 00:23:09,680

that was alive before the pilgrims left England on the Mayflower.

505

00:23:09,720 --> 00:23:12,680

The team also finds that these sharks only grow

506

00:23:12,720 --> 00:23:14,680

about a centimeter every year,

507

00:23:14,720 --> 00:23:16,680

and they don't even reach sexual maturity

508

00:23:16,720 --> 00:23:19,680

until they're about 150 years old.

509

00:23:19,720 --> 00:23:21,720

For some, this seals the deal

510

00:23:21,760 --> 00:23:24,720

that the Loch Ness monster is a Greenland shark.

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00:23:24,760 --> 00:23:26,720

That longevity could be key

512

00:23:26,760 --> 00:23:28,720

to how isolated the sightings have been.

513

00:23:28,760 --> 00:23:31,720

Nessie seems to be a solitary creature.

514

00:23:31,760 --> 00:23:33,720

No one has ever seen two at once.

515

00:23:33,760 --> 00:23:37,720

Most animals, you would need a family of them living in the Loch

516

00:23:37,760 --> 00:23:39,720

and regularly breeding to account

517

00:23:39,760 --> 00:23:41,720

for so many years of regular sightings.

518

00:23:41,760 --> 00:23:45,720

One single Greenland shark could be responsible

519

00:23:45,760 --> 00:23:48,720

for all of the sightings dating back to the 1600s.

520

00:23:48,760 --> 00:23:52,760

To find out if a Greenland shark is living in Loch Ness,

521

00:23:52,800 --> 00:23:55,760

a team looks for proof in 2017.

522

00:23:55,800 --> 00:23:58,760

A team of scientists led by Dr. Neil Gemmel

523

00:23:58,800 --> 00:24:01,760

from the University of Otago in New Zealand

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00:24:01,800 --> 00:24:03,760

did a really interesting study.

525

00:24:03,800 --> 00:24:05,760

They went to Loch Ness,

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00:24:05,800 --> 00:24:08,760

and they took water samples all over the lake,

527

00:24:08,800 --> 00:24:10,760

the middle, the sides, the ends, everywhere.

528

00:24:10,800 --> 00:24:12,760

From a half a liter of water,

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00:24:12,800 --> 00:24:17,760

we can get a very, very good catalog of life within the lock.

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00:24:17,800 --> 00:24:20,800

They did a DNA analysis of all the DNA

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00:24:20,840 --> 00:24:21,800

that they found in that water.

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00:24:21,840 --> 00:24:23,800

So, in theory, any living creature

533

00:24:23,840 --> 00:24:27,800

that has been in that water would leave a DNA trace.

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00:24:27,840 --> 00:24:29,800

If there's a shark in there, they'll know,

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00:24:29,840 --> 00:24:31,800

along with anything else that might be swimming around.

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00:24:31,840 --> 00:24:35,800

After two years, on September 5th, 2019,

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00:24:35,840 --> 00:24:37,800

they announced their results.

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00:24:37,840 --> 00:24:39,800

First and foremost, they found no evidence

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00:24:39,840 --> 00:24:42,800

of Jurassic-era animals, including plusiosaurus.

540

00:24:42,840 --> 00:24:45,800

But more importantly, they found no evidence

541

00:24:45,840 --> 00:24:49,840

of shark DNA, including Greenland sharks.

542

00:24:49,880 --> 00:24:51,840

If we think the creature might be migrating

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00:24:51,880 --> 00:24:52,840

in and out of the lock,

544

00:24:52,880 --> 00:24:54,840

and maybe it's been away for a while,

545

00:24:54,880 --> 00:24:56,840

perhaps the shark is still a candidate for Nessie.

546

00:24:56,880 --> 00:25:00,840

But that DNA test makes things a whole lot less likely.

547

00:25:00,880 --> 00:25:02,840

This study wasn't completely fruitless, though,

548

00:25:02,880 --> 00:25:05,840

because they did find the DNA of countless other species,

549

00:25:05,880 --> 00:25:07,840

including an incredibly large deposit

550

00:25:07,880 --> 00:25:10,840

of another potential Nessie candidate.

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00:25:10,880 --> 00:25:13,880

Across nearly 1,500 years of sightings,

552

00:25:13,920 --> 00:25:16,880

witnesses and scientists alike have been fascinated

553

00:25:16,920 --> 00:25:19,880

with the mystery of Scotland's beloved Nessie.

554

00:25:19,920 --> 00:25:23,880

But a closer look at results from a 2019 DNA test

555

00:25:23,920 --> 00:25:28,880

might finally reveal the secrets of what's living in Loch Ness.

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00:25:29,920 --> 00:25:31,880

Throughout the years, since at least the 1960s,

557

00:25:31,920 --> 00:25:33,880

and maybe even before,

558

00:25:33,920 --> 00:25:36,880

modern technology has been used to try and solve

559

00:25:36,920 --> 00:25:38,880

the mystery of the Nessie.

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00:25:38,920 --> 00:25:40,920

Everything from sonar to thermal imaging

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00:25:40,960 --> 00:25:42,920

to hydrophonic sound waves.

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00:25:42,960 --> 00:25:45,920

But none of these techniques have given us concrete results

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00:25:45,960 --> 00:25:48,920

or gotten us any closer to legitimate answers.

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00:25:48,960 --> 00:25:51,920

However, anybody who has ever watched a crime show

565

00:25:51,960 --> 00:25:54,920

knows that the best evidence to provide the identity

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00:25:54,960 --> 00:25:57,920

of the culprit is DNA evidence.

567

00:25:57,960 --> 00:26:01,920

In 2019, a team of scientists from New Zealand

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00:26:01,960 --> 00:26:04,920

finally complete their DNA analysis of water

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00:26:04,960 --> 00:26:06,920

from the Nessie area.

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00:26:06,960 --> 00:26:09,960

They find about 3,000 species, if you can believe it.

571

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:12,960

Most of those are tiny plankton, roundworms, nematodes,

572

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:14,960

small crustaceans.

573

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:17,960

Of the larger fish, they find salmon, pike,

574

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:19,960

stickleback, lamprey, a few others.

575

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:22,960

They even find DNA of land-based creatures

576

00:26:23,000 --> 00:26:25,960

that sometimes end up in the water for one reason or another,

577

00:26:26,000 --> 00:26:27,960

including two-year-old Nessie.

578

00:26:28,000 --> 00:26:29,960

They also find a large number of species

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00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:31,960

that are found in the Nessie area.

580

00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:33,960

They also find a large number of species

581

00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:35,960

that are found in the Nessie area.

582

00:26:35,960 --> 00:26:39,000

They also find other species, including dogs, cattle,

583

00:26:39,040 --> 00:26:41,000

sheep, rabbits, and even humans.

584

00:26:41,040 --> 00:26:44,000

This tells us that this test is very sensitive.

585

00:26:44,040 --> 00:26:47,000

Even animals that rarely go in the lock are detected,

586

00:26:47,040 --> 00:26:50,000

but the largest amount of DNA they find

587

00:26:50,040 --> 00:26:53,000

that is detected in almost every single sample

588

00:26:53,040 --> 00:26:55,000

is eel DNA.

589

00:26:57,000 --> 00:27:00,000

There are a ton of eels in Loch Ness.

590

00:27:00,040 --> 00:27:03,000

It is one of the principle spawning grounds

591

00:27:03,040 --> 00:27:05,000

of the European eel.

592

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:09,040

Now, most of these eels, they only grow to be about 0.8 meters.

593

00:27:09,040 --> 00:27:11,320

So they're not exactly monsters.

594

00:27:11,320 --> 00:27:15,120

But could there be a monster eel?

595

00:27:15,120 --> 00:27:16,720

Very possible.

596

00:27:16,720 --> 00:27:20,080

Every single sampling site that we went to pretty much had eels.

597

00:27:20,080 --> 00:27:23,720

And the sheer volume of it was a bit of a surprise.

598

00:27:23,720 --> 00:27:26,920

The largest eel in the region is the European conger.

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00:27:26,920 --> 00:27:31,920

It can grow to almost 10 feet long and weigh up to 160 pounds.

600

00:27:31,920 --> 00:27:33,840

Could that be messy?

601

00:27:33,840 --> 00:27:35,280

Eels are migratory fish.

602

00:27:35,280 --> 00:27:38,200

So if someone saw an eel in Loch Ness,

603

00:27:38,200 --> 00:27:40,520

it's pretty easy to assume that they could think

604

00:27:40,520 --> 00:27:42,080

that that's the Loch Ness monster.

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00:27:42,080 --> 00:27:44,640

Once you have an eel in mind and you look back at the videos

606

00:27:44,640 --> 00:27:49,280

and images of Nessie, you realize it could be possible.

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00:27:49,280 --> 00:27:53,760

Especially if you analyze the way both Nessie and Eels move.

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00:27:53,760 --> 00:27:56,360

The Loch Ness monster has often been described

609

00:27:56,360 --> 00:27:59,560

as a serpentine-like monster.

610

00:27:59,560 --> 00:28:03,320

Maybe snake-like or perhaps eel-like.

611

00:28:03,440 --> 00:28:06,240

If any animal could look like a sea monster,

612

00:28:06,240 --> 00:28:08,240

an eel is a prime candidate.

613

00:28:08,240 --> 00:28:10,680

It really has a classic serpentine look.

614

00:28:10,680 --> 00:28:14,560

Eels move in a slithery sort of snake-like way

615

00:28:14,560 --> 00:28:16,400

where their body curves.

616

00:28:16,400 --> 00:28:19,040

And that's exactly what people say

617

00:28:19,040 --> 00:28:20,760

the Loch Ness monster looks like.

618

00:28:20,760 --> 00:28:23,840

So it's really possible that they saw an eel

619

00:28:23,840 --> 00:28:27,120

with those hump-like shapes.

620

00:28:27,120 --> 00:28:29,800

And they thought, that's the Loch Ness monster.

621

00:28:30,800 --> 00:28:35,560

A 2007 video shot by retired engineer Gordon Holmes

622

00:28:35,560 --> 00:28:37,800

seems to support this theory.

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00:28:37,800 --> 00:28:40,800

In 2007, Holmes makes some trips to Loch Ness

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00:28:40,800 --> 00:28:43,960

to perform some amateur experiments just for fun.

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00:28:43,960 --> 00:28:47,560

At first, he records some sounds using hydrophonic equipment.

626

00:28:47,560 --> 00:28:50,760

Then he sets up a camera to capture video of the lake.

627

00:28:50,760 --> 00:28:53,840

But he doesn't find anything out of the ordinary.

628

00:28:53,840 --> 00:28:58,440

That is, until his visit on May 26th.

629

00:28:58,560 --> 00:29:01,520

Holmes spots a movement in the water as he's driving

630

00:29:01,520 --> 00:29:05,280

and pulls over and grabs his camcorder.

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00:29:05,280 --> 00:29:08,480

His footage clearly shows some type of large animal

632

00:29:08,480 --> 00:29:09,760

moving through the water.

633

00:29:09,760 --> 00:29:11,960

Though it's hard to tell, it appears as though it's moving

634

00:29:11,960 --> 00:29:15,960

in a serpentine fashion, almost slithering through the lock.

635

00:29:15,960 --> 00:29:18,280

This is some of the best video ever captured

636

00:29:18,280 --> 00:29:20,680

of a creature on the surface of Loch Ness.

637

00:29:20,680 --> 00:29:23,920

Holmes purposely zooms in and out while he's shooting

638

00:29:23,920 --> 00:29:26,600

to make sure the shoreline and other landmarks are visible

639

00:29:26,640 --> 00:29:28,640

so the footage can be analyzed later.

640

00:29:30,080 --> 00:29:32,840

Holmes sends his footage to a forensic team

641

00:29:32,840 --> 00:29:36,000

to determine the animal's size and speed.

642

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:38,400

They find that it's 10 to 15 feet long

643

00:29:38,400 --> 00:29:41,120

and swimming at a speed of six miles per hour.

644

00:29:41,120 --> 00:29:42,680

Based on movement analysis,

645

00:29:42,680 --> 00:29:46,720

they find a strong likelihood that this animal isn't eel.

646

00:29:46,720 --> 00:29:49,680

Eels are the most common animals in the lock,

647

00:29:49,680 --> 00:29:53,840

and it's very likely that most of the sightings over the year

648

00:29:53,840 --> 00:29:55,640

have been related to eels.

649

00:29:55,680 --> 00:29:58,040

At the time, this is long before the discovery

650

00:29:58,040 --> 00:29:59,720

of eel DNA in the lock,

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00:29:59,720 --> 00:30:02,040

so they come to this conclusion all on their own.

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00:30:02,040 --> 00:30:04,840

Eels can also appear brownish-grey in the water

653

00:30:04,840 --> 00:30:08,320

and have very smooth skin, like the messy descriptions.

654

00:30:08,320 --> 00:30:10,240

The so-called humps that people see

655

00:30:10,240 --> 00:30:13,520

could be the serpentine curves of the eel as it swims,

656

00:30:13,520 --> 00:30:15,760

and the whole long, thin neck concept

657

00:30:15,760 --> 00:30:17,640

could fit with the eel as well.

658

00:30:17,640 --> 00:30:20,440

They have a long, thin everything.

659

00:30:20,440 --> 00:30:22,680

But at 10 to 15 feet long,

660

00:30:22,680 --> 00:30:24,640

if Holmes' research is correct,

661

00:30:24,640 --> 00:30:27,240

there would still be an eel of massive proportions.

662

00:30:28,880 --> 00:30:33,120

And in fact, they did develop an amazing new science

663

00:30:33,120 --> 00:30:36,800

and a way to study bodies of water and what lives in them.

664

00:30:36,800 --> 00:30:40,120

But of course, potentially identifying the Loch Ness monster

665

00:30:40,120 --> 00:30:43,160

brings a ton more attention to their research.

666

00:30:46,520 --> 00:30:51,440

When a DNA profile of life in Loch Ness is completed in 2019,

667

00:30:51,440 --> 00:30:54,000

it uncovers a wide array of species,

668

00:30:54,040 --> 00:30:56,640

but it doesn't identify everything.

669

00:30:56,640 --> 00:30:58,720

Some of Nessie's most passionate researchers

670

00:30:58,720 --> 00:31:02,520

are quick to note that according to the full 2019 report,

671

00:31:02,520 --> 00:31:06,480

the source of 20% of the DNA collected is unknown,

672

00:31:06,480 --> 00:31:09,880

and that opens up a whole new world of possibilities.

673

00:31:09,880 --> 00:31:14,560

Maybe the monster isn't a plesiosaur or a shark or an eel

674

00:31:14,560 --> 00:31:17,400

or any species that we've even encountered before.

675

00:31:17,400 --> 00:31:20,640

All of the previous attempts to prove that it is this animal

676

00:31:20,640 --> 00:31:23,400

or this other animal have been destined to fail

677

00:31:23,520 --> 00:31:25,320

because it's none of these.

678

00:31:25,320 --> 00:31:28,720

We may not know what it is because we just don't know what it is.

679

00:31:28,720 --> 00:31:31,600

Based on all this unidentified DNA,

680

00:31:31,600 --> 00:31:33,640

could Nessie be a completely undiscovered,

681

00:31:33,640 --> 00:31:35,480

previously unknown species?

682

00:31:39,520 --> 00:31:42,240

If there's one thing that all underwater explorers

683

00:31:42,240 --> 00:31:44,040

and scientists can agree on,

684

00:31:44,040 --> 00:31:48,120

it's that we have not found all the species in the ocean.

685

00:31:48,120 --> 00:31:51,440

There are hundreds of thousands, maybe millions of species,

686

00:31:51,480 --> 00:31:53,880

that we haven't found or classified yet.

687

00:31:53,880 --> 00:31:57,160

There's stuff out there that we don't know anything about.

688

00:31:57,160 --> 00:32:02,080

If Nessie's species is unknown, how can we ever identify it?

689

00:32:02,080 --> 00:32:05,600

Pretty much the only way we can properly identify new species,

690

00:32:05,600 --> 00:32:08,680

whether it's a tiny insect or a giant lake monster,

691

00:32:08,680 --> 00:32:10,000

is to find a specimen.

692

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:12,560

That's how science proves and classifies new animals,

693

00:32:12,560 --> 00:32:14,320

plants and even bacteria.

694

00:32:14,320 --> 00:32:16,600

Either living or dead, we have to capture one.

695

00:32:17,520 --> 00:32:18,800

As far as we can tell,

696

00:32:18,800 --> 00:32:21,680

nobody has ever captured a Loch Ness monster.

697

00:32:21,680 --> 00:32:25,280

There may have once been those remains on the Isle of Stronse,

698

00:32:25,280 --> 00:32:27,680

but we're not actually sure it's the same animal,

699

00:32:27,680 --> 00:32:30,400

and in any case, none of that DNA survived.

700

00:32:30,400 --> 00:32:33,840

So there's no way to compare the Stronse beast DNA

701

00:32:33,840 --> 00:32:36,320

with the unknown DNA that we have from the Loch.

702

00:32:37,400 --> 00:32:41,360

So we're stuck with trying to catch this elusive animal in Loch Ness.

703

00:32:41,360 --> 00:32:45,080

But for 1,500 years, no one has even come close.

704

00:32:45,080 --> 00:32:46,720

We're still trying to get a good photograph,

705

00:32:46,720 --> 00:32:48,720

let alone trap the thing.

706

00:32:48,720 --> 00:32:54,160

The problem lies in the incredibly challenging conditions at Loch Ness.

707

00:32:54,160 --> 00:32:56,560

First off, Loch Ness is huge.

708

00:32:56,560 --> 00:32:59,120

It's 23 miles long, it's a mile wide,

709

00:32:59,120 --> 00:33:03,120

and the most important thing, 750 feet deep,

710

00:33:03,120 --> 00:33:06,040

which is impressively deep for any lake.

711

00:33:06,040 --> 00:33:10,800

It contains more water than any other lake in the UK.

712

00:33:10,800 --> 00:33:13,040

In fact, it contains as much water

713

00:33:13,040 --> 00:33:16,120

as all the lakes in England and Wales combined.

714

00:33:16,120 --> 00:33:19,360

So it's a large place to look for a monster.

715

00:33:21,480 --> 00:33:25,120

But the size isn't the only reason it's hard to explore.

716

00:33:25,120 --> 00:33:27,000

Loch Ness is full of peat,

717

00:33:27,000 --> 00:33:30,560

which is organic matter from plants that's constantly breaking down in water.

718

00:33:30,560 --> 00:33:33,280

It makes the water dark brown, almost black.

719

00:33:33,280 --> 00:33:36,120

Visibility is only a couple of feet at most.

720

00:33:36,120 --> 00:33:38,760

And even if you were to dive down for a look around,

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00:33:38,760 --> 00:33:40,840

the temperature is not survivable.

722

00:33:40,840 --> 00:33:44,960

Loch Ness has an average surface temperature of 42 degrees Fahrenheit.

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00:33:44,960 --> 00:33:46,960

And as soon as you get about 20 feet down,

724

00:33:46,960 --> 00:33:49,160

it has what is known as a thermocline.

725

00:33:49,160 --> 00:33:52,880

It's a stratification of the water, almost like an invisible wall,

726

00:33:52,880 --> 00:33:56,240

where suddenly the temperature can drop 10 or 20 degrees.

727

00:33:56,240 --> 00:33:58,720

Without a very advanced modern dry suit,

728

00:33:58,720 --> 00:34:03,240

a diver could freeze to death and drown in about six minutes.

729

00:34:03,240 --> 00:34:07,400

I'm not sure that this thing is possible to catch in Loch Ness.

730

00:34:07,400 --> 00:34:11,600

But could another lake linked to Loch Ness by a waterway

731

00:34:11,600 --> 00:34:15,280

offer fresh hope of capturing a creature like Nessie?

732

00:34:16,280 --> 00:34:19,400

According to some, the answer is yes.

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00:34:19,400 --> 00:34:23,760

And Sweden's Storzjan lake is the ideal location.

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00:34:23,760 --> 00:34:26,720

Both are fresh water and fairly cold.

735

00:34:26,720 --> 00:34:31,440

Both share similar biological diversity, oxygen levels, etc.

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00:34:31,440 --> 00:34:35,440

If something can live in Loch Ness, it could most likely live here too.

737

00:34:35,440 --> 00:34:39,560

Like Loch Ness, it has a long history of monster sightings.

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00:34:39,600 --> 00:34:42,240

There have been centuries of reported sightings of a creature

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00:34:42,240 --> 00:34:44,280

with the same physical description.

740

00:34:44,280 --> 00:34:46,960

In Swedish, it's called Storzjurjurt,

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00:34:46,960 --> 00:34:50,720

which literally translates to the Great Lake Monster.

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00:34:50,720 --> 00:34:52,880

It's first written about on a rune stone

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00:34:52,880 --> 00:34:55,680

that dates all the way back to the year 1050.

744

00:34:55,680 --> 00:35:00,120

It's got this depiction of a long, serpentine water monster on it.

745

00:35:00,120 --> 00:35:03,600

Conditions in the two lakes are similar,

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00:35:03,600 --> 00:35:05,640

but there's one key difference.

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00:35:05,640 --> 00:35:08,320

Storzjan lake is much cleaner and clearer

748

00:35:08,320 --> 00:35:11,080

and much less hazardous to explore.

749

00:35:11,080 --> 00:35:14,760

And that makes spotting a monster much easier.

750

00:35:14,760 --> 00:35:17,200

Thanks to much more favorable conditions,

751

00:35:17,200 --> 00:35:21,040

the Storziurjurt has been captured easily on video from far away,

752

00:35:21,040 --> 00:35:25,400

most recently in a 2008 documentary that also shot infrared footage.

753

00:35:25,400 --> 00:35:28,760

And attempts to track the specimen have already been mounted.

754

00:35:28,760 --> 00:35:32,080

Researchers at the Lake Monster Center in Storziurjurt

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00:35:32,080 --> 00:35:34,840

plan to continue their search efforts.

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00:35:34,840 --> 00:35:36,760

If they're successful, all we have to do

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00:35:36,760 --> 00:35:41,720

is compare the Swedish creature's DNA to all the unknown DNA from Loch Ness.

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00:35:41,720 --> 00:35:44,560

If any of it matches, we've identified our monster

759

00:35:44,560 --> 00:35:46,800

and discovered a brand new species.

760

00:35:46,800 --> 00:35:51,320

That would be among one of the most incredible scientific discoveries in history.

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00:35:51,320 --> 00:35:55,480

As many as 18,000 new species are identified every single year.

762

00:35:55,480 --> 00:35:57,240

So the possibility is out there.

763

00:35:57,240 --> 00:36:00,840

I hope one day we can add Nessie to that list.

764

00:36:03,720 --> 00:36:06,280

Over long centuries, many theories have emerged

765

00:36:06,280 --> 00:36:11,320

about the origins and existence of the mysterious Loch Ness monster.

766

00:36:11,320 --> 00:36:15,720

Each offers an intriguing possibility, but none are airtight.

767

00:36:15,720 --> 00:36:18,000

You say, hey, maybe it's a plesiosaur,

768

00:36:18,000 --> 00:36:20,560

but there's no evidence any of them survived extinction

769

00:36:20,560 --> 00:36:24,240

and we'd see an air-breathing creature much more often.

770

00:36:24,240 --> 00:36:28,600

So maybe it's a Greenland shark, but shark DNA wasn't found in the lock.

771

00:36:28,600 --> 00:36:30,640

Well, what about all the eel DNA?

772

00:36:30,640 --> 00:36:33,960

But couldn't eel even a giant one grow that big?

773

00:36:34,040 --> 00:36:36,560

What about the thing that washed up in Stronse,

774

00:36:36,560 --> 00:36:39,000

or the similar lake monster in Sweden?

775

00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:43,480

To be honest, any one of these creatures could be what was spotted in Loch Ness.

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00:36:43,480 --> 00:36:46,840

Or perhaps it's more accurate to say all of these things could be.

777

00:36:47,720 --> 00:36:52,280

What if it's not Loch Ness monster, but monsters?

778

00:36:56,200 --> 00:36:59,880

We talk about the Loch Ness monster as this monotypic creature.

779

00:36:59,880 --> 00:37:01,400

Like, there's just one of it.

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00:37:01,400 --> 00:37:03,840

There's only ever been one Nessie.

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00:37:03,880 --> 00:37:09,000

But given the time period, 1500 years of sightings, that's highly unlikely.

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00:37:09,000 --> 00:37:11,360

There's absolutely no reason it has to be one thing

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00:37:11,360 --> 00:37:14,080

and the same thing over centuries.

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00:37:14,080 --> 00:37:16,240

Let's start with the eel theory.

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00:37:16,240 --> 00:37:19,680

For sure, some of the things that people have seen in the lock over the years

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00:37:19,680 --> 00:37:20,720

have been eels.

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00:37:20,720 --> 00:37:23,960

Just look at the Gordon Holmes footage and that's obvious.

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00:37:23,960 --> 00:37:25,640

It's a common animal in the lock.

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00:37:25,640 --> 00:37:29,720

And when you're scanning from far away, looking for any kind of movement on the surface,

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00:37:29,720 --> 00:37:32,920

a large swimming eel could certainly catch your attention.

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00:37:32,920 --> 00:37:34,440

How about a Greenland shark?

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00:37:34,440 --> 00:37:36,760

Well, we know they're swimming around in the North Sea

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00:37:36,760 --> 00:37:40,880

and they can and do sometimes go upriver in the freshwater areas.

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00:37:40,880 --> 00:37:45,440

It's quite likely a predator like that could follow a bunch of salmon into the river Ness

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00:37:45,440 --> 00:37:48,720

and could conceivably make it all the way into the lock.

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00:37:48,720 --> 00:37:53,280

A lot of animals that sharks like to eat make that trip, including seals.

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00:37:53,280 --> 00:37:56,480

While there wasn't any shark DNA in 2019,

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00:37:56,480 --> 00:37:59,560

there is still a good chance that a shark has been spotted in the lock

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00:37:59,560 --> 00:38:02,320

across the thousands of other sites.

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00:38:02,320 --> 00:38:05,520

And what about the Plesiosaur theory?

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00:38:05,520 --> 00:38:09,920

I don't necessarily think there's a living, breathing Plesiosaur

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00:38:09,920 --> 00:38:11,280

that is swimming around there.

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00:38:11,280 --> 00:38:15,960

But I do think the Plesiosaur may be what's behind the legend.

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00:38:15,960 --> 00:38:20,640

Scotland and the UK in general are teeming with Plesiosaur fossils,

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00:38:20,640 --> 00:38:23,720

fully intact skeletons of creatures that back in the Middle Ages

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00:38:23,720 --> 00:38:26,160

would have been assumed to be monsters.

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00:38:26,160 --> 00:38:29,040

Water beasts just like St. Colombo saw.

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00:38:29,120 --> 00:38:33,960

Imagine in 500 or 600 AD, you stumble upon the remains of a Plesiosaur.

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00:38:33,960 --> 00:38:36,200

You would certainly tell your buddies back at the alehouse

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00:38:36,200 --> 00:38:38,960

about the crazy giant long-necked creature.

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00:38:38,960 --> 00:38:44,080

It's quite possible that this tail eventually morphed into the Loch Ness monster legend.

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00:38:44,080 --> 00:38:47,640

As for the strontae beast, whatever it is, it really doesn't matter.

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00:38:47,640 --> 00:38:49,640

If it washed up on the shore of the island,

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00:38:49,640 --> 00:38:54,320

we know there's a direct path of waterway that connects back to the Loch Ness.

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00:38:54,320 --> 00:38:58,640

And any migratory creature, whether it's a shark, a whale, or anything less,

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00:38:58,640 --> 00:39:01,720

could be swimming back and forth from the sea to the Loch.

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00:39:01,720 --> 00:39:05,600

Some of the Loch Ness sightings could be the same animal.

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00:39:05,600 --> 00:39:10,000

Or perhaps an unidentified animal from even further away.

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00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:13,280

Across 1500 years, some of the Loch Ness sightings

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00:39:13,280 --> 00:39:15,880

may well be an unidentified new species.

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00:39:15,880 --> 00:39:18,280

Even the DNA results bear that out.

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00:39:18,280 --> 00:39:21,360

They can't identify every living thing in the Loch.

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00:39:21,360 --> 00:39:24,480

But if Sweden's Storösjön lake is hiding the same species,

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00:39:24,480 --> 00:39:26,880

maybe we'll have an incredible discovery soon.

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00:39:26,920 --> 00:39:31,840

Still, even if they identify the Storösjön djört and identify one in Loch Ness as well,

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00:39:31,840 --> 00:39:36,080

that doesn't mean that Gordon Holmes didn't see an eel, or others didn't see other animals.

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00:39:36,080 --> 00:39:41,040

A new species would be a revelation, but remain only one piece of the puzzle.

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00:39:41,040 --> 00:39:45,920

And still, there will always be those people who believe Nessie is a hoax.

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00:39:45,920 --> 00:39:50,720

We know for a fact that plenty of Nessie witnesses have been duped by hoaxes.

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00:39:50,720 --> 00:39:54,640

It happened to a sonar team that found a movie prop.

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00:39:54,720 --> 00:39:58,000

And in fact, it happened to millions of people around the globe,

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00:39:58,000 --> 00:40:00,080

thanks to the surgeon's photograph.

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00:40:00,080 --> 00:40:03,600

So yes, Nessie is also a hoax, but not just a hoax.

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00:40:03,600 --> 00:40:06,320

There's much more to the monster than that.

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00:40:06,320 --> 00:40:10,480

One day we may get the perfect biopsy, the perfect picture,

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00:40:10,480 --> 00:40:14,400

the perfect bone specimen, or maybe a strange long-necked creature

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00:40:14,400 --> 00:40:17,040

will just walk right out of the Loch and say hello.

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00:40:17,040 --> 00:40:20,320

And when that day comes, it'll be time to break out the champagne.

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00:40:20,320 --> 00:40:22,880

But until then, I think we shouldn't limit our minds

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00:40:22,960 --> 00:40:26,720

to what Nessie could or couldn't be, because it could be something new next year.

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00:40:27,280 --> 00:40:30,160

The possibilities are endless, and that is what has kept people

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00:40:30,160 --> 00:40:32,320

fascinated with Nessie for so long.

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00:40:35,120 --> 00:40:40,240

Despite the many challenges, thousands of amateur and professional researchers

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00:40:40,240 --> 00:40:45,360

still spend time at Loch Ness every year, hoping to unmask the monster.

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00:40:46,080 --> 00:40:50,560

Perhaps modern technology will soon provide us with a clear picture

846

00:40:50,560 --> 00:40:52,560

of what's hiding in the depths.

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00:40:52,560 --> 00:40:56,080

Until then, there's no shortage of people willing to look.

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00:40:56,880 --> 00:40:58,080

I'm Lawrence Fishburne.

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00:40:58,720 --> 00:41:05,840

Thank you for watching History's Greatest Mysteries.