

# The Monster Truck

Jake thought that he was having the best birthday ever when he opened a present containing an orange and blue Monster Truck with yellow and red flames painted across the bonnet. Just when he thought it couldn't get any better, he found an envelope tucked inside the truck box which contained tickets for 'The Mega Monster Truck' show at the City Arena that evening.

When Jake insisted on taking his new truck to the show, his brother laughed at him, "You don't need that! You're going to see the real thing."

Jake's seat was right next to where the trucks entered the arena. He ran his new truck along the top of the barrier as they waited. Suddenly, the stadium was filled with the sounds of roaring engines. Jake leaned over the metal wall, straining to where the trucks were trundling forwards.

"I can see them!" he yelled, "they're coming and they're huge, this big!" He spread his arms widely and to his horror his new truck slipped out of his fingers and down onto the roadway below. Within seconds it disappeared under the wheels of a colossal blue and silver truck.

When all the trucks had gone past, Jake looked down sadly at the roadway; his beautiful truck was flat and twisted. Dad put an arm round his shoulder, "Never mind," he said, "it was an accident. Try to enjoy the show, we'll sort it out later."

The trucks performed some amazing stunts and Jake was thrilled but as the stadium rang to the sound of applause at the interval, he remembered his poor truck. If only he'd left it at home.

He watched as one of the truck drivers bounded up the stairway and stopped at the end of their row.

"Where's the little boy whose truck got squashed?" he shouted. Jake put his hand up, scared that he was going to get into trouble.

"Come round to the trucks at the end of the show," the driver shouted, "and I'll make sure that you get a free ride!"



# The Monster Truck

## Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Jake opened his birthday present. It was an orange and blue

1 **Monster Trike.**      **Monster Bike.**      **Monster Truck.**

Inside the box he found

2 **tickets**      **money**      **sweets**      **passes**

for the Monster Truck Show that evening. Jake's

3 **coat**      **bag**      **seat**      **truck**

was next to where the trucks came in. He was leaning over to see them when his truck

4 **was stolen.**      **ended up on the floor.**

**slipped from his fingers.**      **fell apart.**

Dad said,

5 **"Silly boy!"**      **"Never mind."**      **"Oh no!"**      **"Be careful."**

During the interval a driver came over and offered Jake a

6 **new truck.**      **free ride.**      **bag of sweets.**      **free ticket.**

## Section B

1 Why did Jake think he was having the best birthday ever?

2 What did Jake find 'tucked inside the truck box'?

3 Why did Jake's brother laugh at him?

4 How do you think Jake felt when 'suddenly, the stadium was filled with the sounds of roaring engines'?

5 How do you think Jake felt when he saw 'his beautiful truck was flat and twisted'?

6 What did Jake think was going to happen when one of the drivers came looking for him?

## Section C

Write a real or an imaginary account of your very own 'best birthday ever'.

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# News of the Week

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## Mystery of Strange Beast Continues

On 4th October 2011 the BBC reported that a team of Russian and American scientists would set off on an expedition to try to solve the mystery of the so called 'Abominable Snowman'.

It follows a rise in Yeti (another name given to this creature) sightings in the Kemerovo region, which is 3000 miles east of Moscow. Previous sightings have been in the mountains of the Himalayas.

Sightings of this unknown creature go back as far as 1832. Some say it is over three metres tall, is covered in white fur and walks upright like a human being or a great ape. Other descriptions tell of it being about two metres tall with a human face, an ape-like body and covered with long reddish brown hair.

Local legends tell of a fearsome, savage beast with a high-pitched whistling scream, which has a vile pungent odour. Some say it has feet that point backwards and supernatural powers.



It is said to prowl by night and leave huge footprints in the snow. In 1992 a climbing expedition led by the famous climber Reinhold Messner, discovered giant footprints in and around their camp when they awoke in the morning. As they were high in the mountains in an area very few people pass through, they concluded the tracks belonged to an unknown primate yet to be discovered by science.



# Mystery of Strange Beast Continues

## Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

A team of scientists are trying to solve the mystery of the

- 1 **Loch Ness Monster.**      **Big Foot.**  
**Frankenstein Monster.**      **Abominable Snowman.**

This follows a rise in sightings

- 2 **1000**      **2000**      **3000**      **4000**

miles east of Moscow. Some say it is covered in

- 3 **white**      **brown**      **grey**      **red**

fur. Others say it has long reddish

- 4 **white**      **brown**      **grey**      **red**

hair. Some say it has feet that point

- 5 **forwards.**      **backwards.**      **to the left.**      **to the right.**

A famous climber discovered giant

- 6 **paw prints**      **footprints**      **tracks**      **steps**

in and around his camp when he awoke in the morning.

## Section B

- 1 Complete the table below:

The year BBC report scientists look for Abominable Snowman:	
The year sightings of creature go back to:	
The year a climber discovered footprints in his camp:	

- 2 Which mystery were the scientists trying to solve?

- 3 Where had people claimed they had seen the 'Yeti'?

- 4 Why do you think people could not agree what this creature looked like?

- 5 What do you understand by the phrase 'vile pungent odour'?

- 6 How do you think Reinhold Messner felt when he discovered 'giant footprints' outside his tent?

## Section C

Write a report about an 'imaginary monster' being seen in your area.

# The Loch Ness Monster

Many people believe a large monster lives at the bottom of Loch Ness in Scotland.

## What is Loch Ness?

Loch Ness is the largest freshwater lake in Britain. It is twenty-four miles long and at one point one and a half miles wide. It has an average depth of one hundred and fifty metres but in places it is as deep as three hundred and twenty metres. It is cold and murky and has dangerous currents. A large creature could easily hide in this lake.

## What does the monster look like?

Descriptions of the Loch Ness Monster vary but many say it has a small head, a long thin neck, a hump like body with a long swishing tail. Some people describe it as having flippers instead of feet. In many ways it sounds similar to a plesiosaurus, a reptile that lived at the same time as the dinosaurs!

## Hoaxes

The most famous picture of the Loch Ness monster was the 'surgeon's photo' taken in 1934. However, Christian Spurling admitted the hoax shortly before he died in 1993 at the age of 90. He said it was a model monster, which he helped to build. Dr Wilson, the surgeon, took the photograph. Footprints of a large animal in the mud along the shore were found to be made by a dried hippo foot that was probably part of an umbrella stand.

## Sightings

- In 565AD Saint Columba is reported to have saved a swimmer from a hungry monster.
- In 1933, after a new road was built along the edge of the Loch, a number of sightings were reported. The first photograph was taken in 1933 by Hugh Gray but it was not very clear.
- In 1934 Arthur Grant claims to have nearly run over a strange beast as he was riding his motorcycle along the new road.
- In 1960 Tim Dinsdale captured the first moving picture but some thought it was a boat.



# The Loch Ness Monster

## Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Many people believe a large monster lives at the bottom of Loch Ness in Scotland. Loch Ness is the largest

1 **sea**                  **pond**                  **river**                  **lake**

in Britain. Saint Columba saved a swimmer in

2 **655AD**                  **565AD**                  **566AD**                  **556AD**

from a monster. In 1937 a new

3 **bridge**                  **hotel**                  **pier**                  **road**

was built by the Loch and a number of new sightings were reported. Many say the monster has a

4 **small**                  **large**                  **wide**                  **narrow**

head, a long neck, a hump like body and a long

5 **splashing**                  **staring**                  **swishing**                  **strapping**

tail. The most famous picture taken was the

6 **doctor's**                  **nurse's**                  **surgeon's**                  **dentist's**

photo in 1934, which was later admitted to be a hoax.

## Section B

1 Fill in the table below: **Loch Ness Facts**

Length	miles
Width at widest point	miles
Deepest point	metres

2 'A large creature could easily live in this lake'. Why is this statement true?

3 Why do you think there were 'a number of sightings reported' after a new road was built by the Loch?

4 What is a hoax?

5 Why do you think the most famous picture of the Loch Ness Monster was called the 'surgeon's picture'?

6 Why do you think someone would want to make footprints by the lake using a 'dried hippo foot'?

## Section C

Write a description of an imaginary monster which could live in a large lake or the sea.