

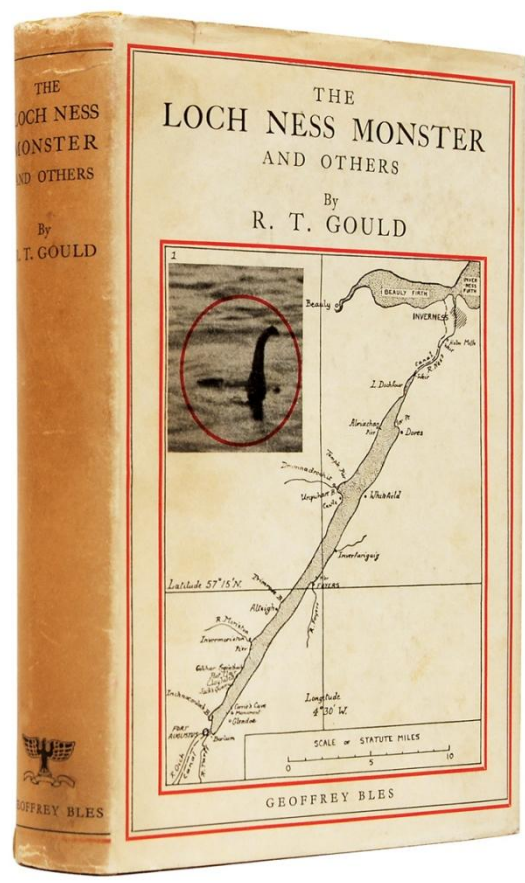
Loch Ness Monster



In the north of Scotland there is a very famous lake - Loch Ness. It is not the largest lake in Britain, but it is thirty-five kilometers long. The water of the lake is dark and always very cold. And Loch Ness is full of fish.



There cannot be many people who have not heard of the Loch Ness monster which appears in the news from time to time. For many years there have been reports of unusual, large animals in the lake. There are a lot of stories about the water monster "Nessie". One of them says, for example, that one early Sunday morning a young woman looked out of the house near the lake and saw in the waters of the loch Ness the "largest animal she had ever seen". It had, she said later, a giraffe-like neck, a very small head and a great dark grey body.



That was in 1934, the year in which the first book about the Loch Ness monster was published.

- Is the monster a fact or fiction?



One of the theories about the Loch Ness monster is that these animals lived in the North Sea, but came to the lake to produce their young in it. After volcanic action in this area, some of them could not come back to the North Sea and stayed in Loch Ness. They continued to live there.



Underwater photographs did not help to see the monster. Expeditions of British, American and Canadian scientists took more than one hundred thousand underwater photographs in Loch Ness, but not one of them was a picture of a large animal.



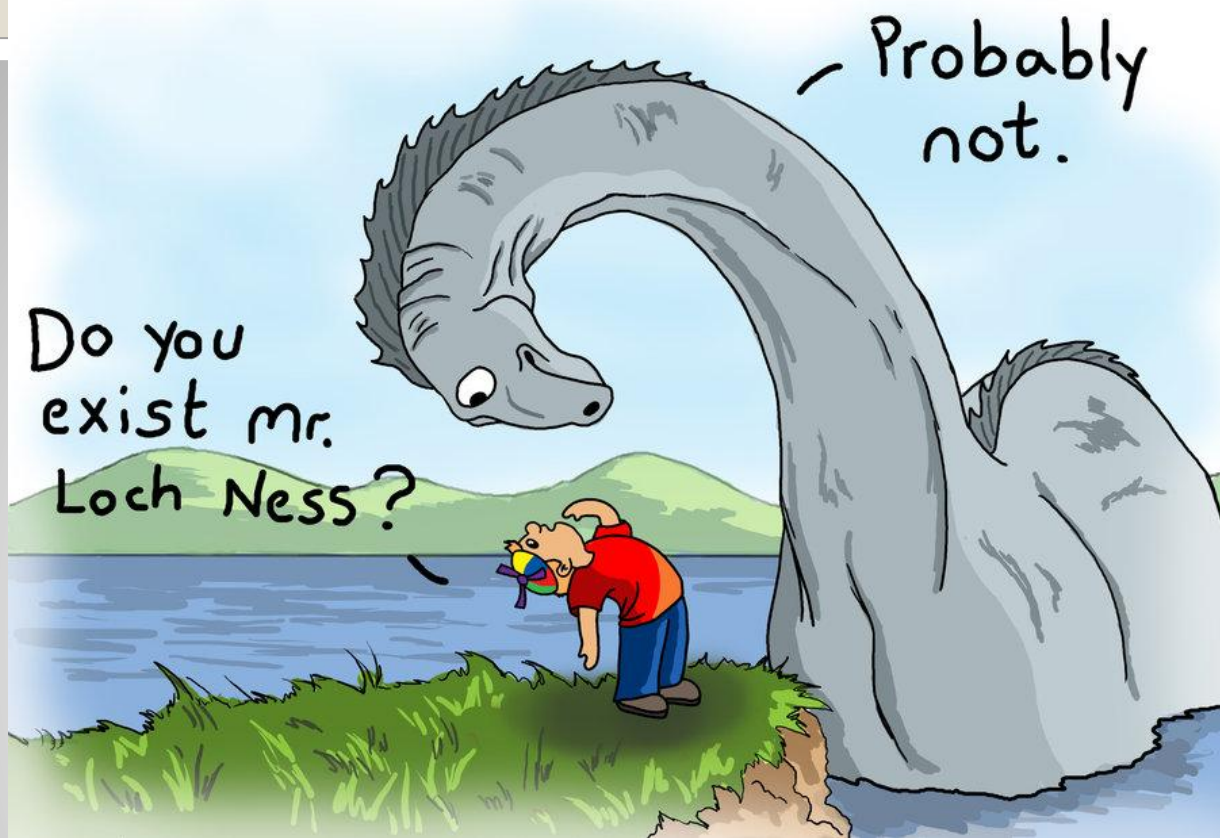
Year after year thousands of tourists come to Loch Ness in the hope to see the monster.



For some people Nessie is good business: T-shirt with "Nessie" on them, books about the monster, souvenirs are sold to tourists every year.



It is interesting to know that a museum of the Loch Ness monster was opened in Scotland. It has more than four thousands reports and drawing of Nessie made by those people who have "seen" it.



Let us hope that scientists will tell us one day whether Nessie is a fact or a fiction.