

Is Nessie a tourism ploy? 用尼斯湖水怪吸引游客?

Vocabulary: conspiracy 词汇: 阴谋

It's 80 years since the Loch Ness monster was **spotted** for the first time. Mrs Aldie Mackay, a local hotel manageress, might have thought that **her eyes had deceived her** when she reported seeing a "whale-like fish" in the waters of the Scottish lake.

Or was it a **fabrication**? Dr Charles Paxton, a researcher from St Andrew's University, **noted** that many of the 1,000 **eye-witness accounts** of the **elusive** "monster" he's been analysing come from hotel proprietors. This **raises suspicion** of a **conspiracy** to boost tourism.



Nessie has inspired comedy in Britain

Mrs Mackay's **is widely regarded as** the first "modern **sighting**" of the monster in the lake. And it's **opened the floodgates**.

Police inspectors, lorry drivers, clergymen and fishermen were among the people who **claimed** to have seen the monster. It became so famous that it got a nickname: Nessie.

Tourists and 'Nessie hunters' **flocked to** the area. There were traffic jams around the lake. Certainly, there was much to be gained from the **legend**. According to Visit Scotland, Nessie tourism brings in more than £1m to the area per year.

Marine biologist Adrian Shine, who interviewed Mrs Mackay years later, believes she was sincere. But there are plenty of people who have **made a living from** Nessie, including Mr Shine himself. He now runs the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition out of Mrs Mackay's old hotel.

Dr Paxton says, analysing the **eye-witness accounts** may tell us more about ourselves than whether or not the monster exists. He is due to publish the results of his study later this year.

As a scientist, he casts a **sceptical** eye on all the **evidence** linked to Nessie. Highly respected British surgeon, Colonel Robert Wilson, **claimed** he photographed the beast in 1934. It was later revealed to be a **toy** submarine with a sea-serpent head.

Dr Paxton says: "I suppose it is possible that people **have an agenda**. But I believe the vast majority of people are reporting the truth. They believe they have seen something strange."

Some say you see what you expect. If this is true, in the land famous for whisky and Nessie, the beast will live long and prosper.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Whose sighting of Nessie was the first in modern times?
2. Was the first person who claims to have seen a monster telling the truth?
3. Is the statement true or false? *A picture of the monster taken in 1934 proves its existence.*
4. Which expression means earning money?
5. Which expression can you use to say that you are seeing something that is extraordinary and improbable?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. According to eye _____ accounts, the driver was drunk when his car crashed.

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| -testimony | -sighting | -witness | -sceptical |
|------------|-----------|----------|------------|

2. The police have _____ that the crime was committed by someone from the area.

| | | | |
|--------|----------|-------------|------------|
| legend | evidence | fabrication | conspiracy |
|--------|----------|-------------|------------|

3. John is full of himself. He _____ to be the son of an aristocrat.

| | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| notes | spots | flocks | claims |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|

4. Jane was surprised when she saw her boyfriend kissing another girl. She thought he was _____ when he said she was the only woman for him.

| | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| strange | sincere | elusive | sceptical |
|---------|---------|---------|-----------|

5. Mr Bowler is widely _____ the best teacher in the school. Everybody wants to be in his class.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| looked at | believed | gained from | regarded as |
|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------|

Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Whose sighting of Nessie was the first in modern times? **Hotel manageress Aldie Mackay's.**
2. Was the first person who claims to have seen a monster telling the truth? **Aldie Mackay said what she believed to be the truth, according to an interviewer.**
3. Is the statement true or false? *A picture of the monster taken in 1934 proves its existence.* **False. What appeared to be a monster was actually a toy.**
4. Which expression means earning money? **To make a living**
5. Which expression can you use to say that you are seeing something that is extraordinary and improbable? **My eyes deceive me!**

Exercise 练习

1. According to **eye-witness** accounts, the driver was drunk when his car crashed.
2. The police have **evidence** that the crime was committed by someone from the area.
3. John is full of himself. He **claims** to be the son of an aristocrat.
4. Jane was surprised when she saw her boyfriend kissing another girl. She thought he was **sincere** when he said she was the only woman for him.
5. Mr Bowler is widely **regarded as** the best teacher in the school. Everybody wants to be in his class.

Glossary 词汇表

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| to spot | 发现 |
| (her) eyes deceive (her) | (她的) 眼睛欺骗了 (她) |
| a fabrication | 捏造, 编造 |
| to note | 特别指出 |
| an eye-witness account | 一个目击证人的描述 |
| elusive | 难以描述的 |
| to raise suspicion | (使人) 产生怀疑 |
| a conspiracy | 阴谋 |
| to be widely regarded as | 被公认为 |
| a sighting | (对不寻常事情的) 目睹 |
| to open the floodgates | 打开闸门 |
| to claim | 声称 |
| to flock to | 蜂拥而至 |
| a legend | 一个传说、传奇 |
| to make a living from | 以... 谋生 |
| sceptical | 怀疑的 |
| evidence | 证据 |
| a toy | 一个玩具 |
| to have an agenda | 有预谋 |