

EYEWITNESS  READERS

Level
3
GRADES 2 and 3

BEASTLY TALES

YETI,
BIGFOOT
AND
THE LOCH NESS
MONSTER



MALCOLM YORKE

Copyrighted Material



A DK PUBLISHING BOOK

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To the reader:

Welcome to the DK ELT Graded Readers! These readers are different. They explore aspects of the world around us: its history, geography, science ... and a lot of other things. And they show the different ways in which people live now, and lived in the past.

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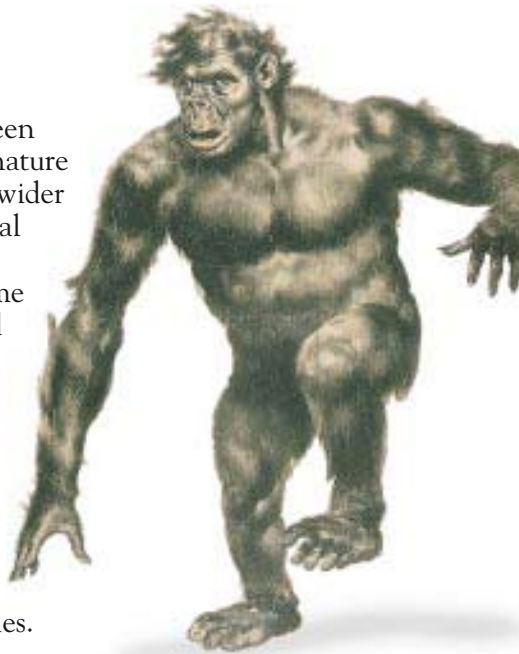
ELEMENTARY B

INTERMEDIATE

UPPER INTERMEDIATE

The language syllabus has been designed to suit the factual nature of the series, and includes a wider vocabulary range than is usual with ELT readers: language linked with the specific theme of each book is included and glossed. The language scheme, and ideas for exploiting the material (including the recorded material) both in and out of class are contained in the Teacher's Resource Book.

We hope you and your students enjoy using this series.



Believe it or not!

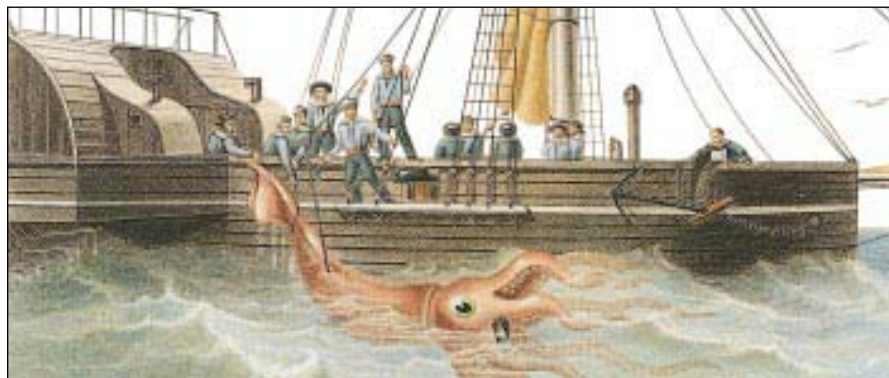
All around the world, people tell stories – or tales – about strange monsters. Have you ever heard any of these stories? Usually, when they see these monsters, people are alone and far away from villages and cities. When they come back and tell their stories, everybody laughs. “It is only a story!” they say. “Perhaps you were dreaming!” Nobody believes them. But sometimes, the stories are true – and we discover strange new things in the world.

Or, perhaps, things that are new to us.

Europeans first discovered mountain gorillas in 1902.



The Komodo dragon is a meat-eating lizard that can grow bigger than a person. But scientists didn't know about it before 1912.



People think that the Kraken in old stories from Norway was really a giant squid – it can grow twice as long as a bus.

Everyone has stories like this. There were stories in Africa about a gorilla that looks like a man. In Indonesia, people told stories about a strange creature like a dragon, and in Norway, there were stories about a huge sea monster with very long arms and legs – or tentacles. Most people laughed when they heard these things. They didn't believe them.

But we now know that these “monsters” were not just in stories – they were real! These “monsters” were really the African mountain gorilla, the Indonesian Komodo dragon, and the Norwegian giant squid.

Are there any more large creatures to discover in the world today?



The Loch Ness Monster

“Dad! Dad! What’s that in the loch?” shouted Jim Ayton.

It was 1963, and Jim was working on his father’s farm near Loch Ness – a large lake in Scotland. When Jim’s father looked up, he saw a strange creature moving down the lake. It was huge – and it did not make any noise. It was a warm evening in summer, and there was no wind. Jim and his father could see the water moving around the creature. And it looked very strange from where they stood!

“What is it?” shouted Jim again.

“I don’t know,” said his father. “I’ve never seen anything like it before, in the loch or anywhere else.”



Loch Ness is in the north of Scotland, in the UK.

Loch Ness

Loch Ness is a long, thin lake in the mountains of Scotland. Not many people live in this part of Scotland.



Two men were working nearby, and they heard Jim's shouts. They stopped, and came across to Jim and his father. "What's the problem?" they asked.

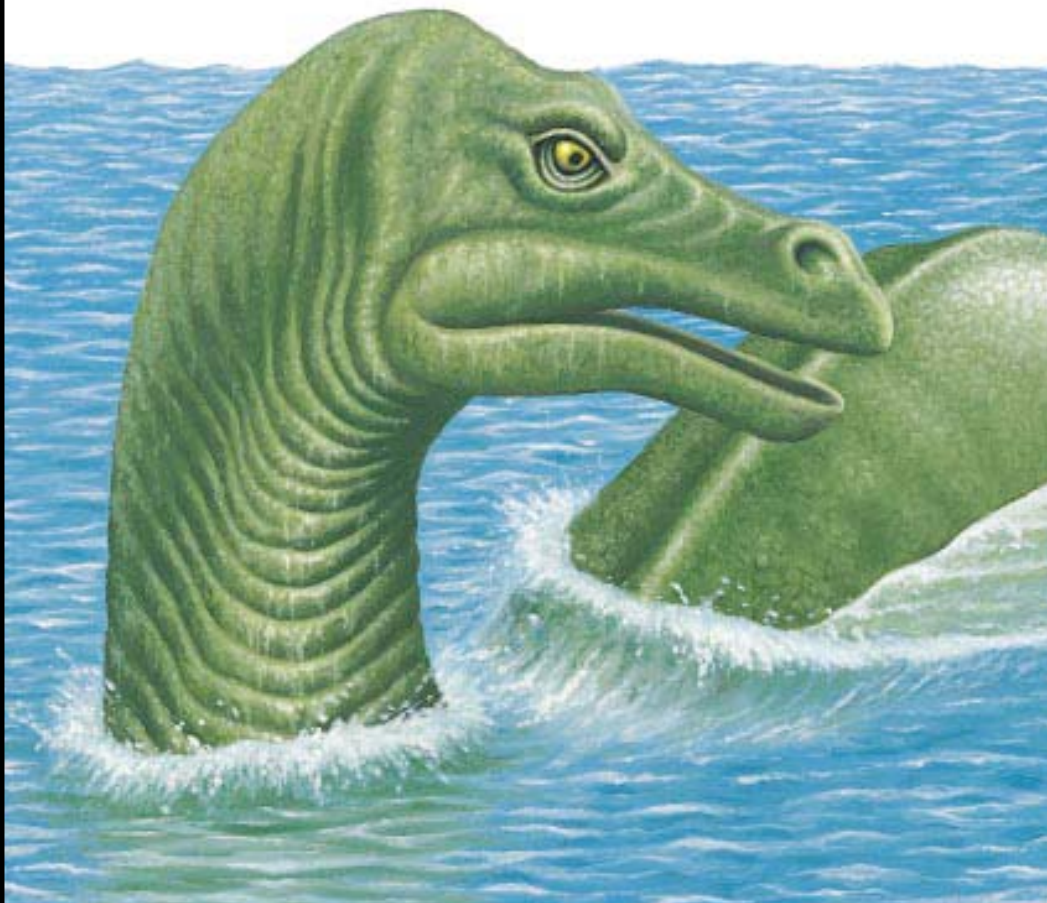
And then they saw the creature in the water. Everyone was excited – and no-one knew what the creature was. "We have to get closer," said Jim's father, "to see what kind of fish or creature it is."

There was a small motor boat in the water, and the men got in. They started the motor and went straight towards the strange creature.



Soon they got a closer look – and it was huge! The creature’s head looked like the head of a horse – but bigger! Its neck was nearly two metres long – the same size as a man. The body of the creature was like a snake, but it was a very, very long snake – the size of a bus! Was this the Loch Ness monster?

Everyone on the boat knew the story of the Loch Ness monster – and now they couldn’t believe their eyes. They didn’t know what to do next.



Suddenly, the creature's head came up out of the water – and then it dived down again with a splash! This was a dangerous situation, and the men were beginning to feel worried. Then, after the creature disappeared under the water, a huge wave hit the small boat. Jim thought they were all going to fall into the water, and he held on tightly to the side of the boat.

“Where is it?” asked Jim. “Did it see us? Perhaps we were too close and it got angry – now it’s going to attack us!”



A few seconds later, they saw the creature's head again. It was not very close now; perhaps it was going away. And it didn't look dangerous – in fact, it looked a little frightened! Then, suddenly, the head went down into the water again. The men looked and looked for the creature for a long time. They went up and down the lake in the boat, but it was no good – they never saw the “monster” again.

After that, the men couldn't work that evening. They talked together for some time, and then they went home – but they didn't tell anyone their story. “It's best to say nothing,” they said. “Everyone will laugh at us. They will say we are all crazy!”

And the men kept quiet – in fact, they did not speak about seeing the monster for twenty years!

But the Aytons and their friends are not the only people who have seen the monster. Other people say they have seen a strange creature in the waters of Loch Ness. People have talked about a monster there for many, many years.

A deep, dark lake

Loch Ness looks like a normal lake. But it is very, very deep – more than 213 metres. That is deep enough for a 4-storey building.



Anthony Shiels took this picture at Loch Ness, 14 years after the Aytons saw the "monster". It looks like the creature they saw.



One of the first stories about the Loch Ness monster was more than 1,400 years ago, in AD 565. A very religious and holy man from Ireland called Saint Columba was travelling in Scotland at this time.

The old stories say that Saint Columba saw a “water monster” in Loch Ness. We do not know exactly what the creature looked like, but this monster was very big, and it was attacking someone who was swimming in the water of the loch. When Saint Columba saw this, he wasn’t afraid. He told the monster to stop – and the amazing thing is that it did! The stories say that the water monster stopped attacking the swimmer and went away.



This is a picture of Saint Columba on a stained glass window in the church of a Scottish castle.

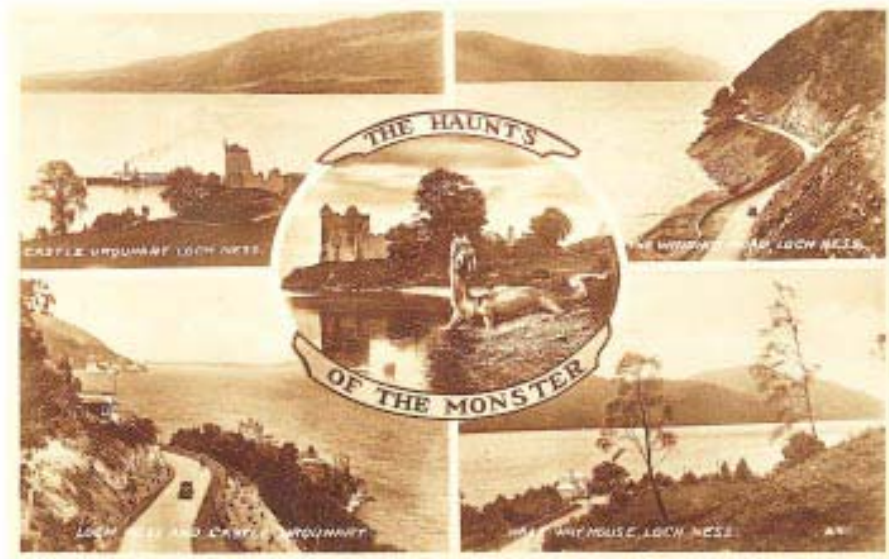
Loch stories

There are many stories of water-monsters in other Scottish lakes. The Scottish people call these monsters “kelpies”.



There are some very old stories about the Loch Ness monster – like the story of Saint Columba – but most of the stories we hear started in 1933. At this time, a road was built along the side of the loch for the first time. Before that, not many people went there, but now tourists could travel around the loch – and look for the monster!

People started telling stories about seeing the monster – and the newspapers were interested. Soon, you could read these monster stories in newspapers all over the world. Everybody knew about the Loch Ness monster!



A Loch Ness monster postcard from the 1930s



Everyone wanted to see the Loch Ness monster – and to get the first photograph of the strange creature. Newspapers from all over the world would pay a lot of money for a “monster” photograph – good photographs and bad ones!

A lot of different people visited Loch Ness in the summer. Some people wanted to take a photograph and make a lot of money; some were interested in all kinds of monsters, and some were scientists who wanted to discover and study this strange creature. Loch Ness was now a popular place to be.

But no-one got a clear picture of the monster – and camera equipment in the 1930s and 1940s was not very good. In later years, scientists used more modern equipment to look for the monster – and then they took some strange and interesting pictures. You can see one of these later pictures below.

In 1972, an underwater camera took a close-up picture of something very unusual in the water. What was this thing? No-one was sure. Then scientists used a special computer to make the picture a little clearer, and this is what they saw – look at the picture below. What do you think? Was this one of the monster’s feet (or flippers)? Was this really a photograph of the Loch Ness monster itself?



The “flipper” photograph

Perhaps we can see a foot (or flipper) in the underwater photograph on page 15, but no-one can be sure. The picture is not clear enough – it could be many different things.

And this is the big problem with all the photographs that people take in Loch Ness. The water in the loch is a very dark colour. It has a lot of dark brown peat in it – very small pieces of dead plants. So it is very difficult to take a good picture underwater. And when people do take pictures, it is possible to imagine that we can see many strange things.

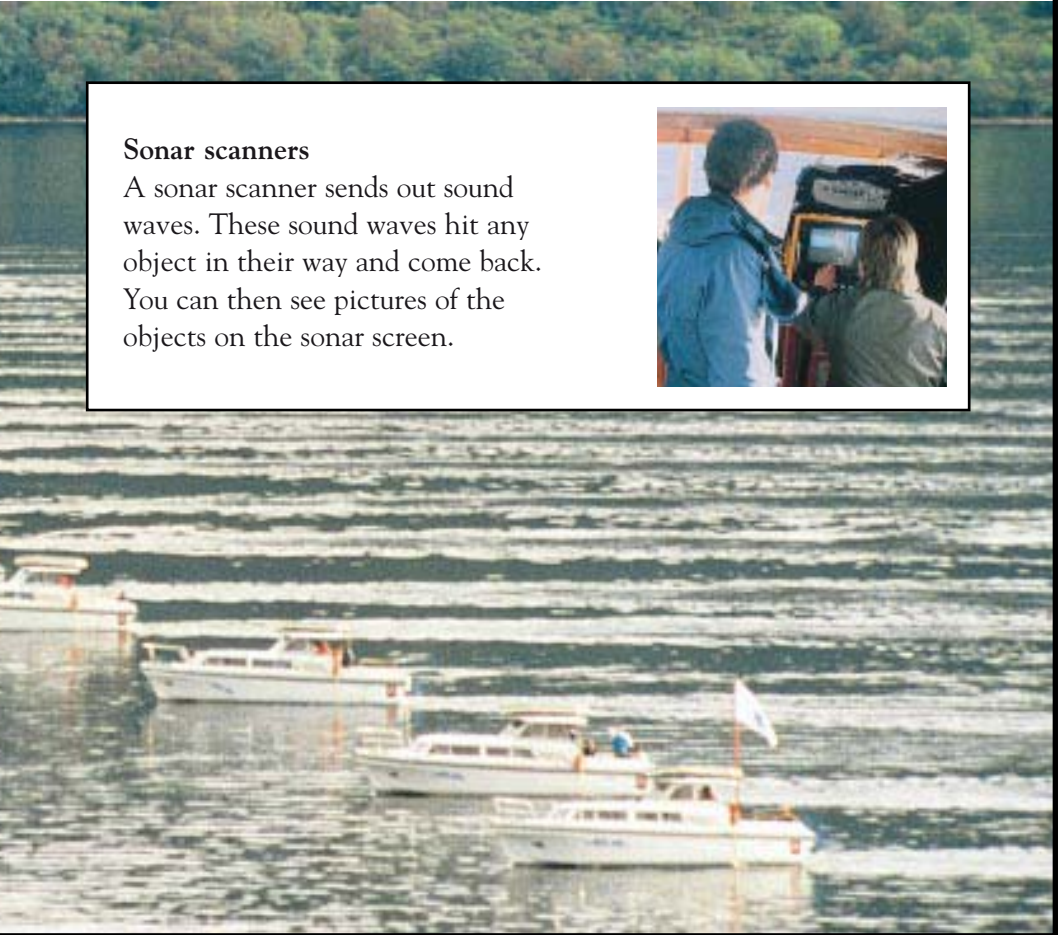


Underwater cameras were not very good, but there are now other ways to take pictures under the water. In 1987, some scientists used high-tech equipment to scan the loch and look for the monster.

This project was called “Operation Deepscan”, and they used 19 boats. Each boat had a sonar scanner, and they moved up the loch in a line. (See the diagram on page 18.) “If there is a monster, we will find it!” they said. They were very surprised when they saw the pictures on the sonar screen!

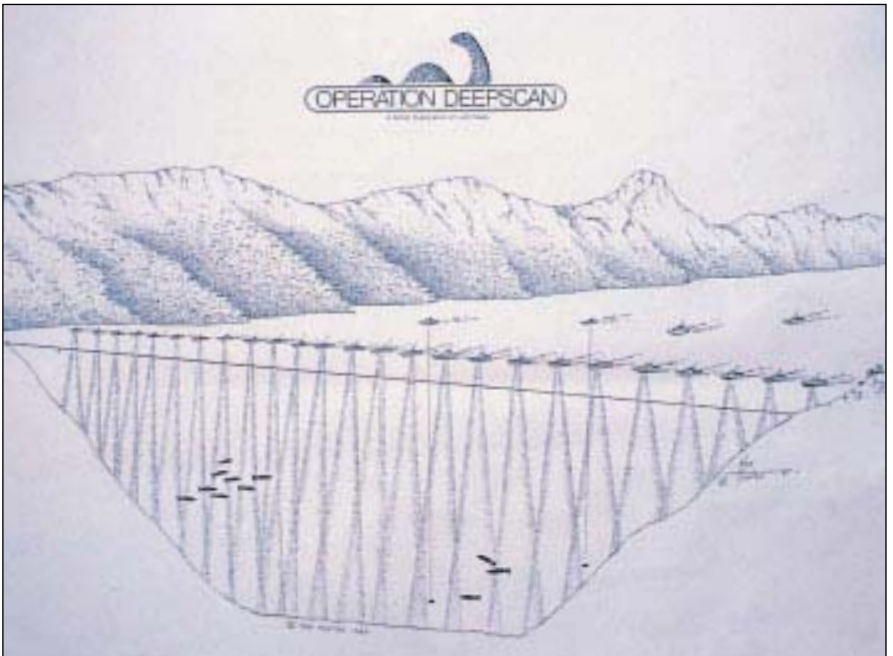
Sonar scanners

A sonar scanner sends out sound waves. These sound waves hit any object in their way and come back. You can then see pictures of the objects on the sonar screen.



When they looked at the pictures on the screen, the scientists saw some huge objects moving very deep in the water. They didn't know what these things were. How big were these objects? They were bigger than sharks, but smaller than whales.

What were they? Were they huge fish – or was this a family of Loch Ness monsters? Again, because the water was so dark and deep, the scientists did not find the answers to their questions. But people were interested in the Loch Ness monster again! The Loch Ness monster was back in the news.



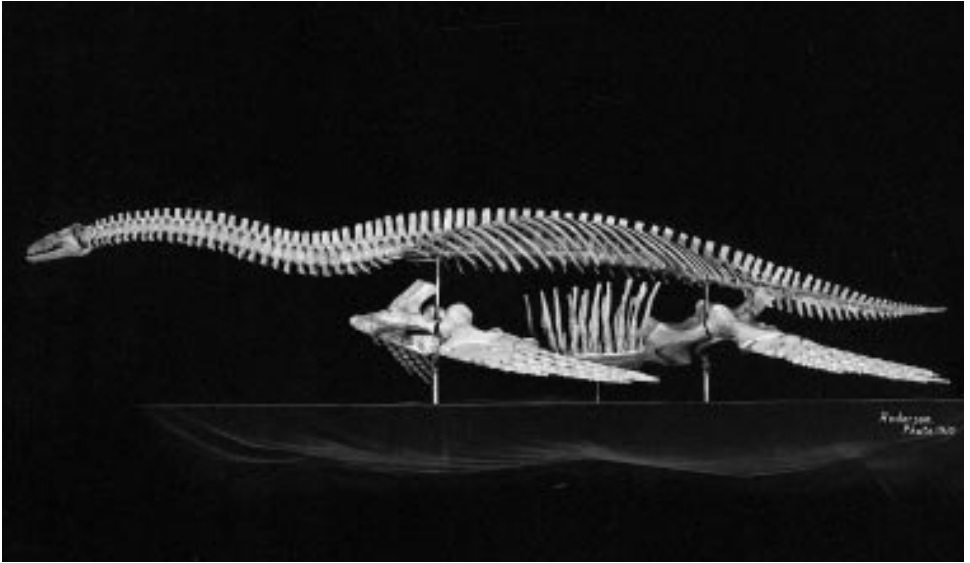
This diagram shows how the boats with sonar scanners moved in a line to scan every part of the loch.

Scientists still do not have any clear pictures of the creature in Loch Ness – and they do not know if there really is a strange creature there, or not. Or what it looks like. There are no really good pictures, and so the scientists have to listen to the stories of people who have seen the monster. From these stories, they can get a picture of the monster – of what it might look like. In all the stories, the creature has a long, thin neck. It has a fat body with four flippers and a long, very strong tail – like the creature in the picture below.



After listening to the Loch Ness monster stories, artists made this model.

No animal living today looks like this picture of the Loch Ness monster – but one prehistoric creature did. Can the monster be a relative of a prehistoric creature?



This fossil skeleton of Cryptocleidus is twice as long as an adult person.

The prehistoric creature was called *Cryptocleidus*. *Cryptocleidus* was a plesiosaur – a huge fish-eating creature that lived in the sea a long time ago. It had a fat body and a long neck and it had arms (or legs) like flippers to move in the water. Some people now think that it looks a lot like the Loch Ness monster pictures – but there is one big problem with this idea. The last *Cryptocleidus* in the world died 70 million years ago!

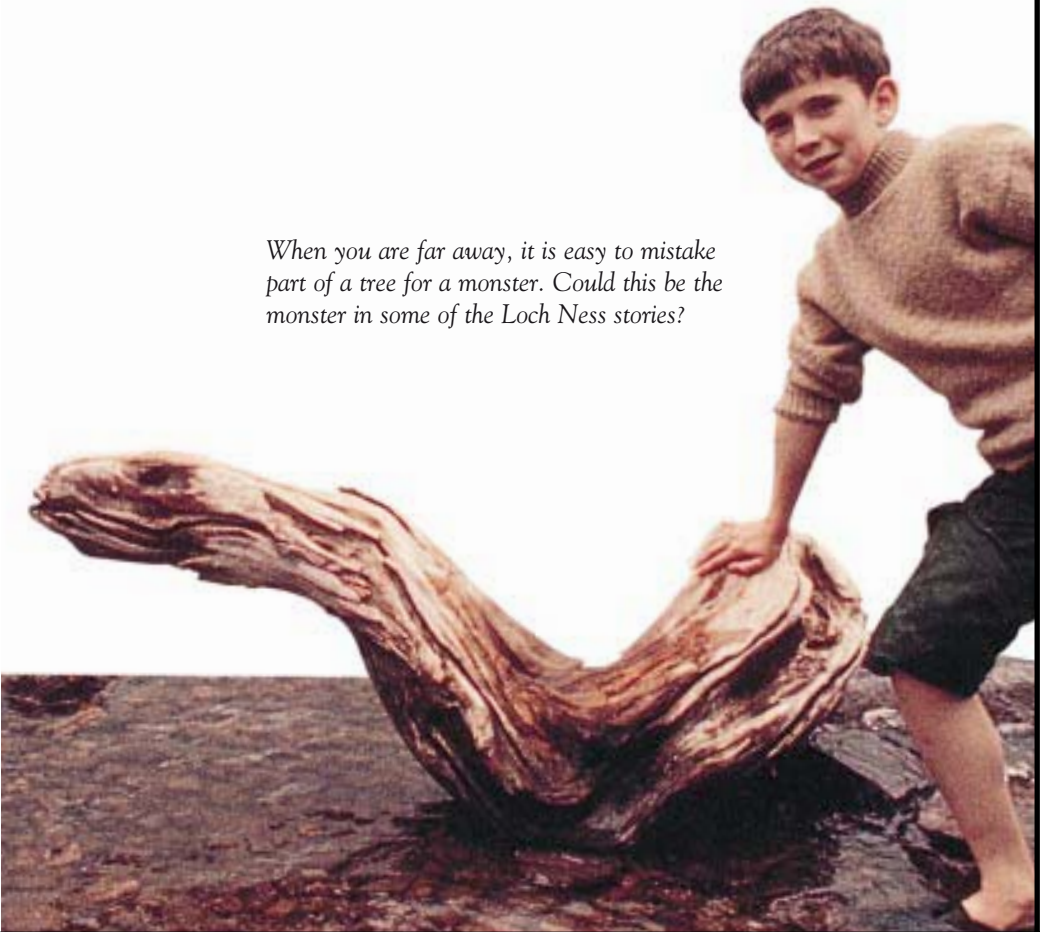
Could there be one of these creatures now in Loch Ness? Perhaps they didn't all die – perhaps they continued to live in this deep, dark place. It would be a perfect place for these large creatures to hide – a quiet place, big enough to live in and far away from human beings.

So is the Loch Ness monster a creature from the dinosaur age?
Or did the people who saw the monster make a mistake?

It is very easy to see strange things in a place like Loch Ness. For example, a boat, a tree, or a shadow on the water can look like a monster in the early morning or late evening light.

Perhaps they saw another big fish – or perhaps someone was playing a joke. No-one knows the answer to the questions about the Loch Ness monster – yet.

When you are far away, it is easy to mistake part of a tree for a monster. Could this be the monster in some of the Loch Ness stories?



Yeti

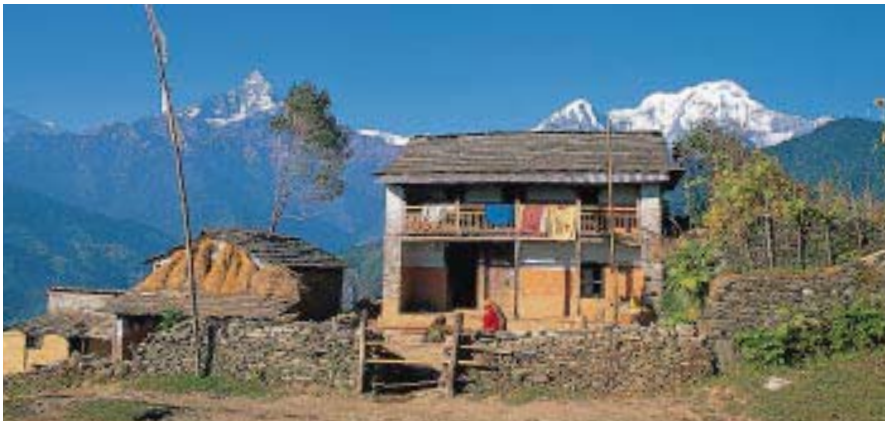
In 1974, in a village in Nepal, high in the Himalayan mountains, something strange attacked a young girl called Lhakpa Dolma. When the police saw the footprints of the attacker, they were frightened. The footprints were huge!

“What kind of beast is this?”
the people asked.

Lhakpa lived in the village, and every day she went up the mountain with her yaks (*a kind of cow*) so that they could eat the grass. Lhakpa knew exactly where to find the sweet, green grass for her yaks on this special mountain. The mountain was called Mount Everest – and it is famous because it is the highest mountain in the world.



The Himalayan mountains



Many Nepalese people live in the Himalayan mountains.

The highest in the world

At 8,848 metres, Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain. It takes weeks to climb to the top.



Lhakpa didn't usually see many people on the mountain – it was very high, and the road was difficult. Only Buddhist monks lived this high up – they wanted to build their monasteries in a quiet place, far away from all the noise and the people in the towns and cities below.

Lhakpa knew the stories about the yeti – a strange beast like a gorilla that some people saw in the mountains.

“Aren't you frightened to walk in the mountains alone, Lhakpa?” asked her friends. “What about the yeti?”

But Lhakpa was not frightened. “The mountains of the Himalayas are huge!” she laughed. “I only go to one small place, not far from the village. And no-one here has ever seen a yeti – it's only a story.” So Lhakpa never really thought about the old yeti stories while she was working.



Like these people, Lhakpa's family were Sherpas – people who first came to Nepal from eastern Tibet about 400 years ago.

Yaks

The people who live in the Himalayas need yaks for many things. These strong animals give meat, milk, clothes, and fuel.



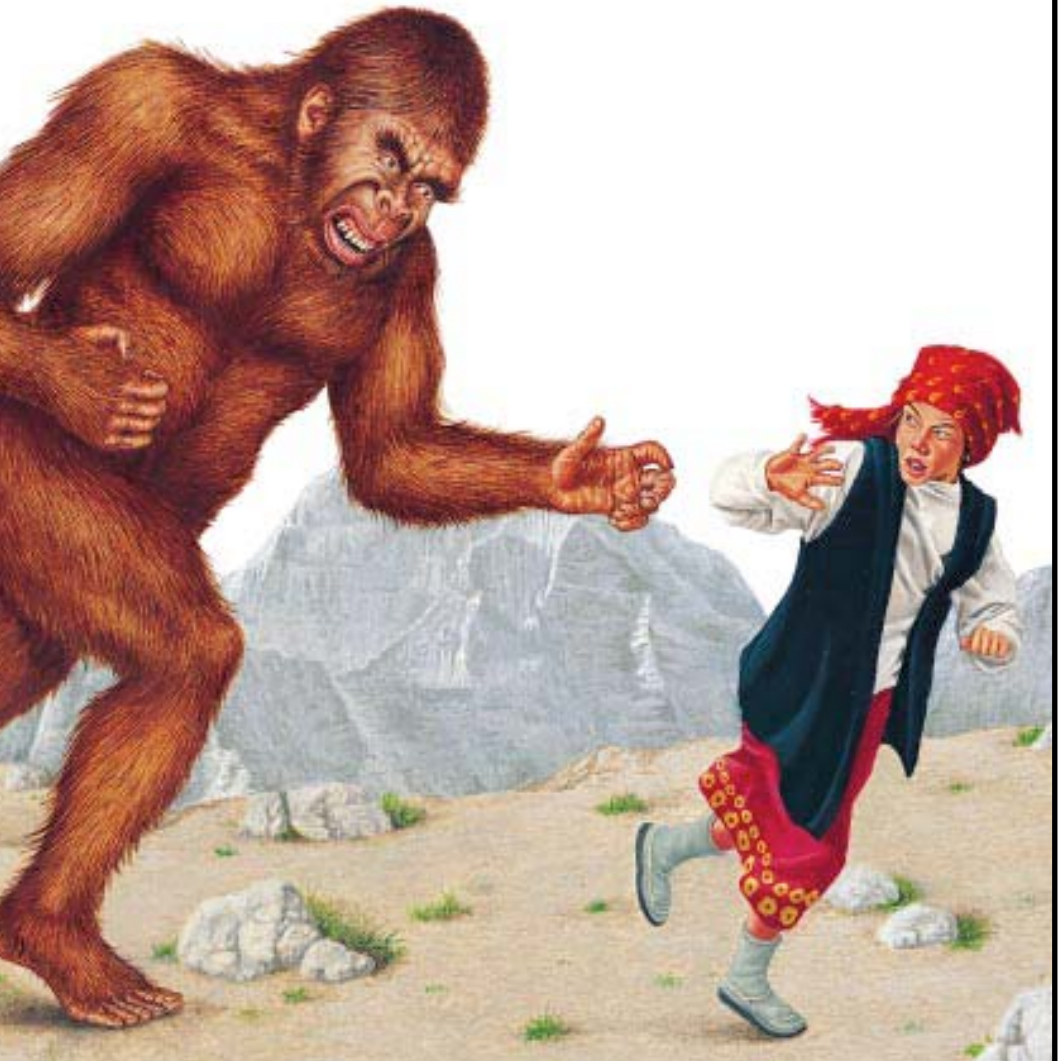
One day in 1974, Lhakpa took her yaks up the mountain as usual. After some time, she stopped. Lhakpa stood quietly: she was watching her yaks eating the green mountain grass. But she could see that the yaks were not happy. “Perhaps they can smell a bear or a snow leopard near us,” she thought, and looked around.

Lhakpa couldn’t see anything, but she moved away. She took the yaks to another place, near a small stream. The water here came from the mountain snow and Lhakpa drank a little – it always tasted good! Then she sat down and watched her yaks eating.



Suddenly, Lhakpa heard a noise behind her – it was the noise of an animal, but it was very strange. She looked round very quickly – Lhakpa couldn't believe her eyes! A huge creature was coming towards her on two legs. Lhakpa's eyes got bigger and bigger – it was a yeti!

“Help!” she shouted, and she started to run. But she was too slow and soon the huge yeti was right beside her.



The yeti took Lhakpa up in its long, hairy arms! She was terrified. She shouted and kicked, but it was no good – the yeti was too strong. “Help me!” she shouted. But the mountains were quiet, and nobody heard her.

But the huge beast was not really interested in Lhakpa – perhaps she was too small. It put her down in the cold mountain stream, then it turned round and looked at the yaks. Yaks are big and strong – but the yeti was bigger. Lhakpa watched the yeti – she was too terrified to move at first. With its strong arms, it quickly killed three of the yaks.

Then Lhakpa got out of the stream and ran home. She was frightened and cold. She told her parents about the yeti killing the yaks. Her family were amazed at the story. They listened carefully, then they went to the police.

“Where did this happen?” the policeman asked, when he heard the young girl’s strange story. Lhakpa told the policeman where she saw the yeti. When the police and the people from the village arrived at the stream, they saw the huge footprints of a strange creature – but they didn’t see the yeti. There were only a few yaks standing by the stream.



There are many other stories about the yeti. Usually, these stories are told by people who live in the Himalayas, like Lhakpa. These people all speak about a huge beast – like the one Lhakpa saw that day in 1974.

But other people also go into the Himalayas – mountaineers who like to climb the highest mountains in the world. These people come from all over the world, and some of these climbers say they have also seen a strange creature in the mountains – perhaps it is the yeti. They have told some frightening stories!



In 1951, a mountaineer called Eric Shipton was climbing with some friends in the Himalayas. They were in a part of the mountains where not many people go, and they wanted to study this strange and beautiful place. One day, they were surprised to see a line of big footprints in the snow.



Eric Shipton

Michael Ward, one of the men who was climbing with Eric Shipton, looks at his own footprints (on the right) beside the footprints of the creature.





Eric Shipton put his 33-centimetre ice axe in this photograph to show the size of the footprint.

The footprints looked like the footprints of a person – but they were two times wider! They were also deeper in the snow than the prints of the men’s climbing boots. “That creature must be very heavy!” thought Eric.

But when Eric Shipton looked more closely at the toe print in the snow, he was really surprised. He could see each toe clearly – the creature was walking barefoot in the freezing snow!

“No socks or boots?” said Eric. “It’s impossible – it can’t be a person!” Eric knew that he and the other climbers would die with no boots in the freezing temperature of the mountains. It did seem impossible. What kind of creature was this, walking barefoot in the mountains in front of them?

In 1970, another mountaineer came close to a yeti – this time closer than Eric Shipton and his friends. The man’s name was Don Whillans, and he was climbing in the Himalayas with some Sherpa guides. They were climbing for some time when suddenly something very strange happened. One of the Sherpa guides shouted, “Yeti coming!” Don knew the stories about the yeti, but he didn’t know if they were true. He never thought he would meet one himself.



Don Whillans



The yeti seem very good at living alone in the freezing mountains. (The yeti in this photograph is not real – it’s a model.)

A beast called yeti

The name “yeti” comes from the Sherpa words “yeh theh” which means “that thing”. “The abominable snowman” is another name for the yeti.

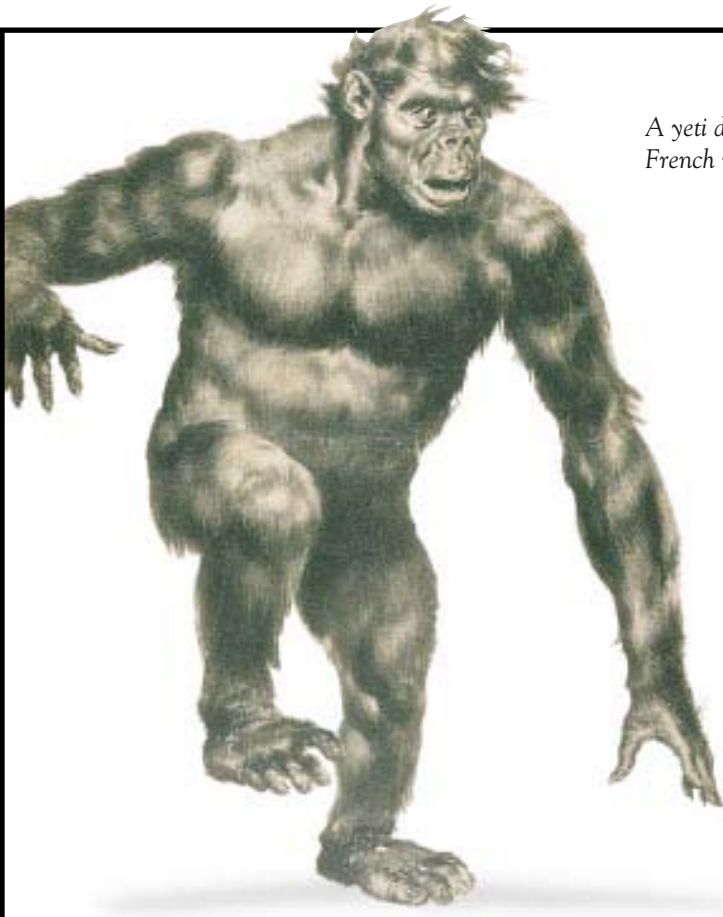
Immediately, Don looked up, and he saw a big black creature – like a gorilla – going behind the mountain. “What was that?” he thought to himself. “Was it really a yeti?”

The next day, Don walked behind the mountain and saw the creature’s footprints in the snow. They were about the same size as his boot prints – not big like the footprints Eric Shipton saw. So what was the creature Don saw – what animal made these prints?

“These footprints were made by a baby yeti,” said the Sherpa guide.



A drawing of a yeti, from eye-witness stories.



A yeti drawing from a French magazine.

Later that night, Don was sitting quietly in his tent. He was looking out into the bright moonlight and thinking about the footprints in the snow. Suddenly he saw the creature again – it was near the tent! The creature went over to some trees and started to pull the branches. What was it doing? Was it going to eat them? It certainly looked like that.

Don was surprised and excited – and he wanted to see more. He put out his hand to get his binoculars. “I need to see this close up,” he thought. But the creature heard something – or saw Don move – and immediately it ran away across the mountain. Soon it was gone again.

Don never saw the yeti again, but now he had a yeti story to tell – a real meeting with a yeti.

Some scientists were interested in the yeti stories, and the things that people like Eric Shipton and Don Whillans saw in the mountains. These scientists wanted to learn more about this strange creature – and perhaps discover a new animal. They studied photographs and models of yeti footprints, then compared these with other animal footprints. In the end, the scientists could not explain what they saw in the photographs. “These are not the footprints of a bear, or of any other animal we know today,” they said.

But no-one has found a yeti – we only have the footprints, and the stories. Some scientists did get excited once – they thought they had part of a yeti’s body. A Buddhist monk in Nepal gave something to Sir Edmund Hillary (one of the first two men to climb Mount Everest). The monk told Sir Edmund that it was a yeti scalp – the skin and hair from the top of the head. At last, there was something more to study!



The yeti scalp given to Sir Edmund Hillary.

Sir Edmund Hillary gave the scalp to the scientists to study. Everyone was excited at first, but soon they were disappointed. The scalp wasn't from a yeti – it was a fake. It was made from the hair and skin of other animals.

We haven't found a yeti, but people still see yeti footprints. In 1992, a climber called Julian Freeman-Atwood saw some footprints on a glacier in Asia – Julian was the first person on that mountain for thirty years.

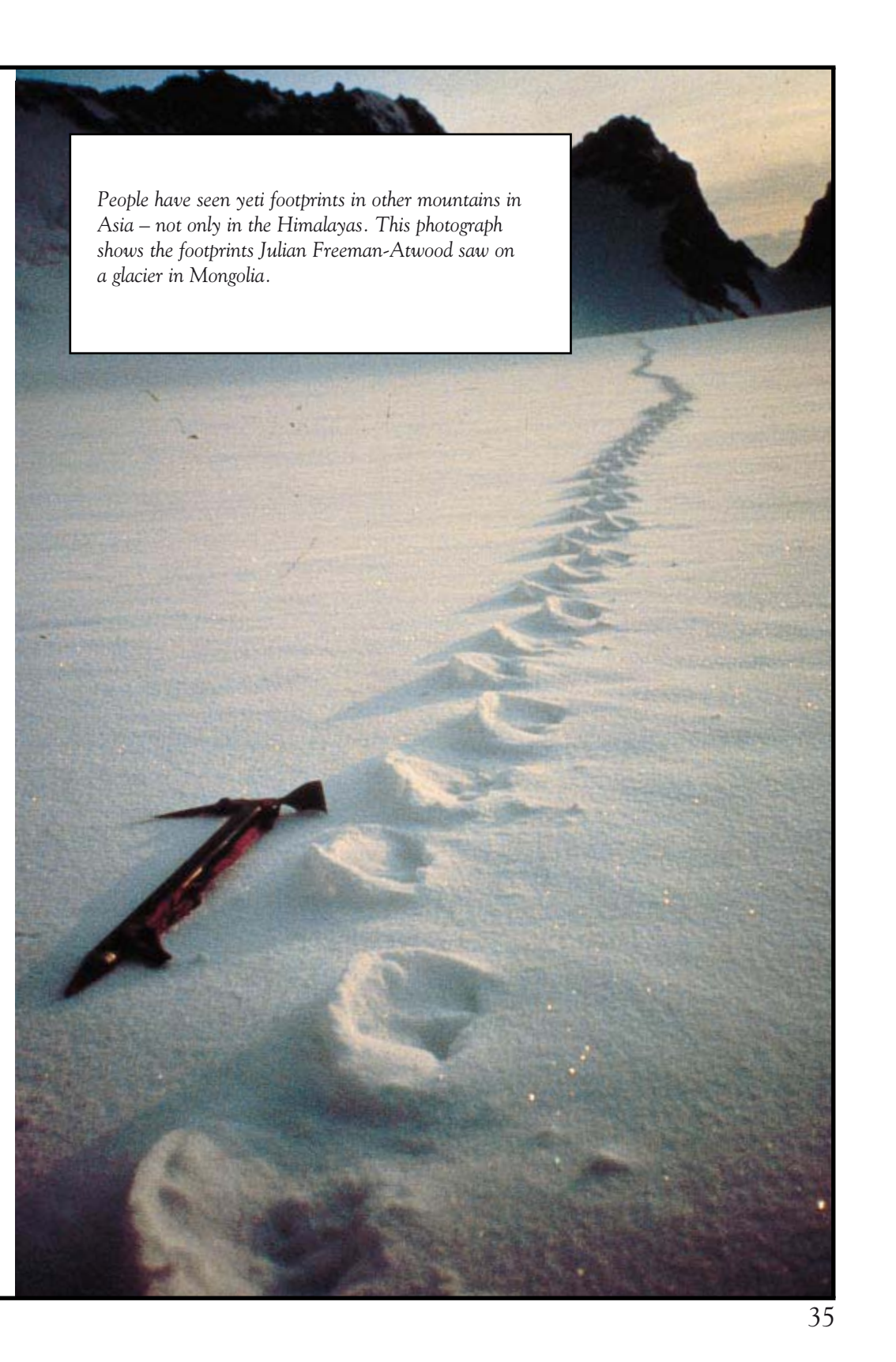
Monster crazy

Everyone is interested in the yeti – and there are now a lot of stories in books and newspapers. Some are serious, and some are just good fun.



So what kind of creature is the yeti – and will we ever know anything more about it? We have the stories, and the photographs of footprints, but not the facts. How does the yeti live, and where does it sleep? How can it get enough food in the cold and snow of the high mountains?

Perhaps one day we will know the answers!



People have seen yeti footprints in other mountains in Asia – not only in the Himalayas. This photograph shows the footprints Julian Freeman-Atwood saw on a glacier in Mongolia.

Bigfoot

In 1984, Albert Ostman left his home to go on a camping holiday. Albert enjoyed camping – he liked to get away from all the people, the cars, and the noise of the city. He had all his camping equipment in his backpack, and he walked into a big forest, near Vancouver in Canada.

Albert walked and slept in the forest for a few nights. Then one night, he noticed something strange – the things in his backpack were in a different order. “Someone or something has opened my pack, and looked through it!” he thought. “Maybe it was an animal – like a porcupine or a bear.” But it wasn’t one of these animals!



People say the strange bigfoot lives in forests in north-west America.



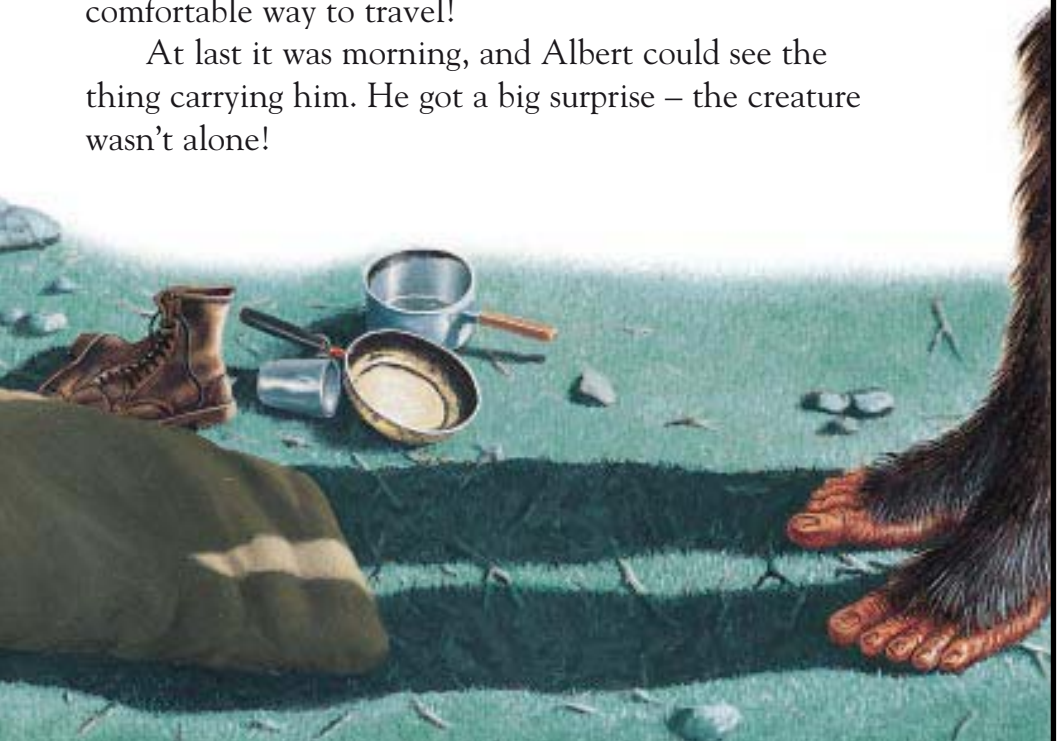
Space to hide

There are huge forests in north-west America – about 888,000 square kilometres.



That night, Albert was asleep in his sleeping bag, near his pack. Then, in the middle of the night, he woke up suddenly. “What was that?” he thought – and he felt that he was moving. Someone or something was picking Albert up inside his sleeping bag! Albert couldn’t move or get away. For hours, he travelled like this, inside his bag. It was dark and he couldn’t see anything. The ground was difficult and Albert moved from side to side – it wasn’t a very comfortable way to travel!

At last it was morning, and Albert could see the thing carrying him. He got a big surprise – the creature wasn’t alone!



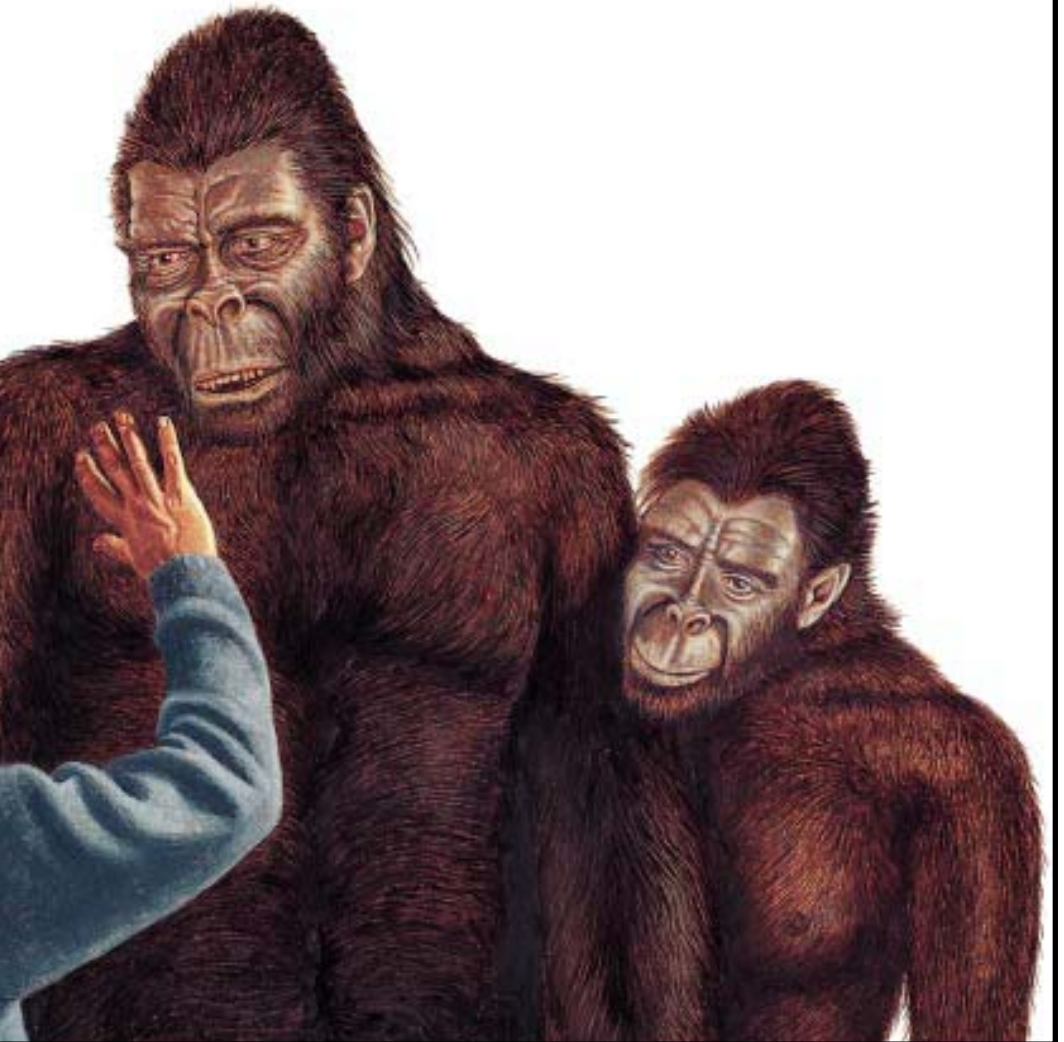
Four huge, hairy beasts were standing there, looking at him. Albert couldn't believe his eyes! There were three adults and a child, and they all stood around him. At first, Albert was frightened, but then he saw that the creatures didn't want to hurt him.

The creatures looked friendly, but what were they going to do? Every time Albert tried to go back into the forest, the creatures stopped him – he couldn't get away.



For six days, Albert had to stay with the creatures. They were very interested in the things inside Albert's pack, and liked to touch them and play with them. Then, one day, the oldest male was looking at the tobacco in Albert's pack – and he ate some.

Soon he was lying on the ground making a loud noise – he was feeling really ill. The other creatures were looking at the male – and Albert quickly took his things and got away.



Albert didn't stop – he walked and ran for hours and finally he got out of the forest. He didn't want to do any more camping there! When he got back to Vancouver, he told his story to the people there. "That was bigfoot," they said, "you were staying with a family of bigfeet!"

Albert was not the first person to see a bigfoot. People have seen these strange creatures thousands of times in the forests of north-west America. And there are many stories!

They say that a bigfoot looks like a yeti, but it could be even bigger! Some people say they have seen bigfeet that were 2.5 metres tall. The creatures have hair all over their bodies and have flat faces, short necks, and wide shoulders.



*Albert Ostman,
photographed 33 years
after his capture.*

Bigfoot's many names

Native Americans have told stories of bigfeet for many years. Different tribes give the creature different names, like "Sasquatch" or "Oh-mah-ah".



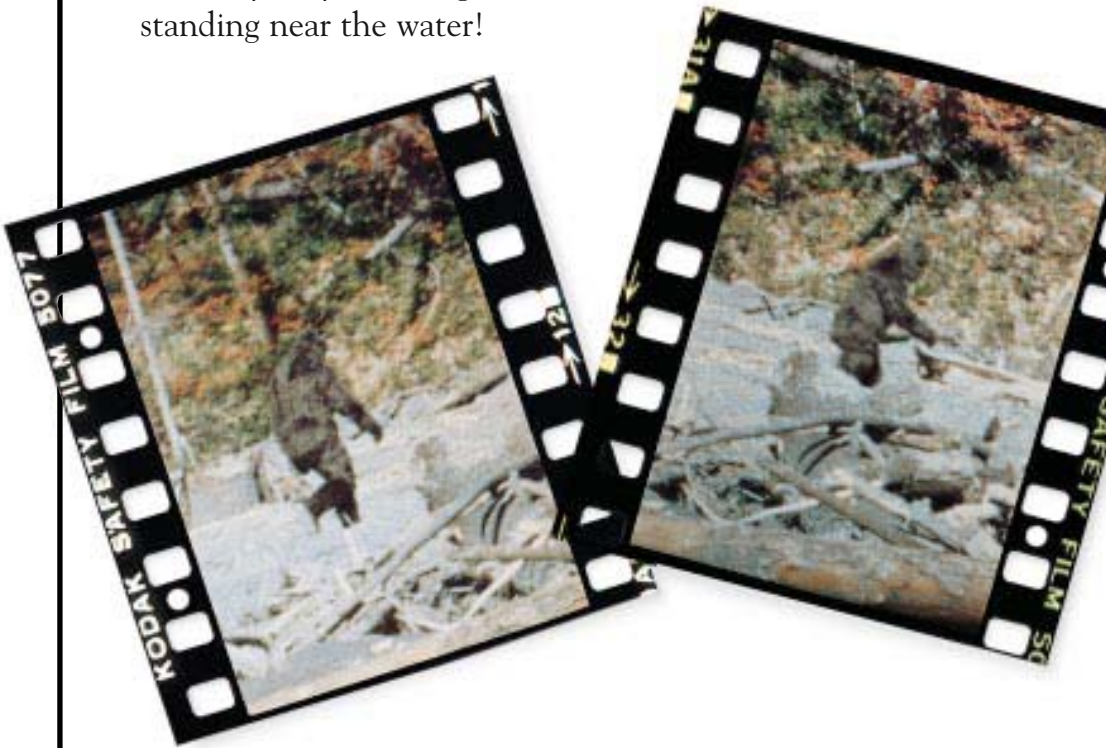
When you look at a possible bigfoot footprint (left) and an adult man's foot (right), you can see how it got its name.



Like the yeti, no-one has ever caught a bigfoot – dead or alive. We only have the stories that people tell. But in 1967, two men from California in the USA said that they had filmed one, and they had pictures of the creature to show people.

The two men were Roger Patterson and his friend. They were very interested in the strange creatures, and thought they could find one. So the two friends went off on their horses to look for a bigfoot. They had a movie camera, and wanted to take the first good photographs of the creature. But the forests of north-west America are huge – where could they look? They listened carefully to the bigfoot stories, and asked some questions. Then they knew where to go.

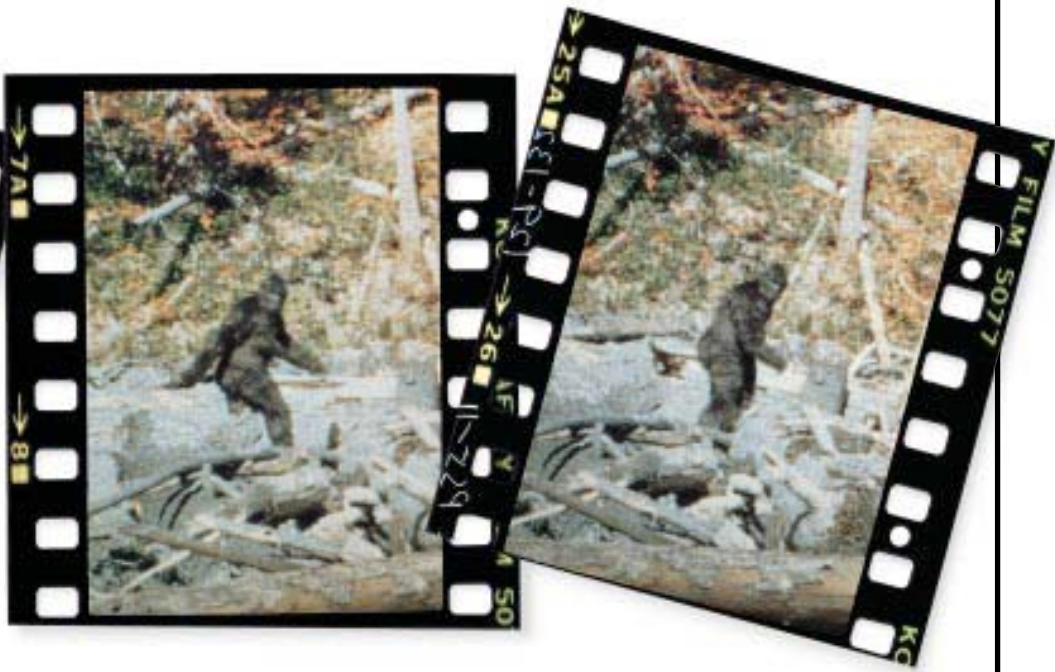
One day, Roger and his friend were riding along on their horses near a small river. They went round a corner – and suddenly they saw a bigfoot standing near the water!



These four photographs are from the film that Roger Patterson took in 1967.

“That’s it!” shouted the men. “Get the camera!” But Roger’s horse was frightened – it jumped in the air, and Roger fell to the ground. Roger stood up immediately and got his camera. He started filming the creature. The bigfoot ran towards the forest, but Roger didn’t stop filming. He ran after the creature with the camera. The two men came back with their film, and told their story.

Some people didn’t believe them. They said the two men had made the film themselves. So the scientists studied the film – they wanted to see if it was a fake.

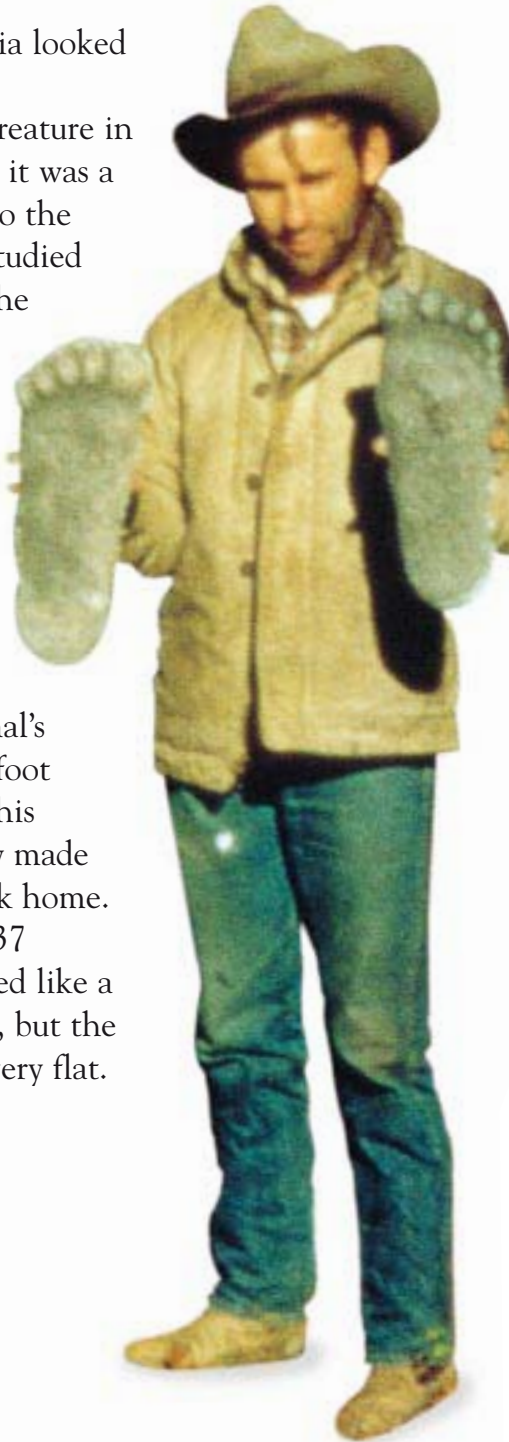


Experts in the USA and in Russia looked carefully at the film.

Some people said that the creature in the film wasn't really a bigfoot – it was a man wearing a special fur suit. So the experts examined the film and studied the way bigfoot moved, and in the end they decided that the film was not a fake.

“The creature in the film runs in a very natural way,” they said. “It is very difficult for someone in a suit to run like that.”

But Roger had more than the film to show the scientists – he had a plaster cast of the animal's footprints. After they filmed bigfoot on that day in 1967, Roger and his friend saw some footprints. They made plaster casts of these to take back home. The creature's feet were huge – 37 centimetres long! The foot looked like a human foot, and it had five toes, but the sole (*the bottom of the foot*) was very flat.



Roger Patterson with his plaster casts of the bigfoot's footprints.

Bigfoot food

From the stories that people tell, bigfeet usually eat plants. But some people have seen them eating fish and small animals like the marmot.



In the same year (1967), a man called Glen Thomas said he saw three bigfeet in Oregon State (a place north of California in the USA). Glen was a logger – this means that his job was to cut down trees – and he was often in the forest. Glen watched the three creatures. The largest one was moving some huge, heavy rocks. Glen didn't know why it was doing this – and then, suddenly, he understood. The creature was hungry, and it was looking for a family of marmots. At last, the bigfoot found the marmots. Glen watched the bigfoot eat the marmots one by one.

When he got back home, he told his story, and some experts came with him to have a look. “Something or someone has moved these rocks recently,” they said, “and marmots did live here.” So perhaps Glen Thomas did see three bigfeet in the forest – what do you think?



Glen Thomas on the rocks where he saw the bigfeet.

More and more people have seen bigfeet – or their footprints – in recent years. In 1995, for example, a forest patrol officer in Washington State, USA, says that he came very close to a bigfoot. The officer worked in the forest every day – and he knew all about the animals living there. One day, he was going through the forest, when he heard a strange noise – a splashing in the water. He looked round and got a big surprise – there was a bigfoot standing in the water behind him. And the problem was, it was looking straight at him!



One of the photographs the forest patrol officer took in 1995.

Bigfoot fakes

Some bigfoot photographs are fakes. People dress up in bigfoot suits as a joke – and sell the pictures to newspapers. Some stories are false – but perhaps not all of them are false.



The patrol officer couldn't believe his eyes! He picked up his camera and took some good photographs. But are these pictures real, or are they fakes? Experts have studied the photographs, but they still do not know the answer to this question.

Because we do not have a bigfoot – or the body of a bigfoot – we do not know if the stories are true. Many people think that there must be bigfeet because there are many stories, from many different people, about seeing these creatures over the years. We also have tape recordings of the noises that they make – and they make many different kinds of animal noises! People have seen thousands of footprints in the wet ground, in the sand, and in the snow. All of these things can't be fakes!

So what can we do now? "Catch a bigfoot, or kill one to study!" say some people. "Don't touch them – they are happy living far away from people!" say others.

What do you think?

Glossary

abominable**snowman**

Another name for the yeti (see yeti).

bigfoot

A big, hairy creature like an ape, that some people believe lives in north-west American forests.

Cryptocleidus

A kind of plesiosaur that lived in the sea around Scotland 70 million years ago.

glacier

A huge mountain of ice that moves very slowly.

Himalayas

The highest group of mountains in the world, in Nepal, India, and Tibet.

kelpie

A water monster that some people believe lives in Scottish rivers and lakes.

Komodo dragon

A huge, meat-eating lizard (see picture, page 4).

kraken

A sea monster from old Norwegian stories, now believed to be the giant squid (see picture, page 5).

loch

The Scottish word for a lake.

Loch Ness monster

A large creature that some people believe lives in Loch Ness, Scotland.

monastery

A place where religious people live, for example, Buddhist (or Christian) monks.

plaster cast

A model made by pouring liquid (plaster) into a shape and waiting until it gets hard.

plesiosaur

A large creature with a long neck that swam in the sea millions of years ago.

prehistoric

A very long time ago – in the time before people wrote down history.

sasquatch

A name for bigfoot that comes from a Native American word meaning hairy man.

Sherpas

People originally from eastern Tibet, now living in Nepal.

sonar scanner

A machine that sends out sound waves to build up a picture of an object.

yak

A kind of cow with long, thick hair that lives in the Himalayas.

yeti

A hairy creature like an ape that many people believe lives in the Himalayas.