Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster http://www.nessie.co.uk

Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster has eluded* man and scientist for centuries! Well, really just since the 1930s when a road leading to Loch Ness was opened. Locals in the Loch area have known of a monster living there for ages! As children (before the 1930s), they were all told not to swim in the Loch because of "Kelpie." The monster has many names like Loch Ness Monster, Nessie, Kelpie and the Gaelic term, Niseag meaning water horse!

Hugh Gray, 1933

The "Surgeon" picture, taken by a surgeon* in April 1934, and now believed to be a hoax*.

The Loch Ness Monster has been seen both in and out of the water! On the right is the first picture of Nessie taken by Hugh Gray in 1933.
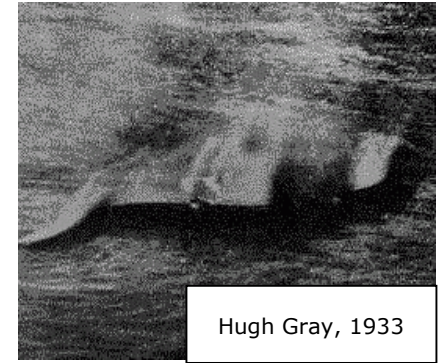
Most of the sightings*, both on land and in the water, say that the monster is "elephant grey" in colour and has 4 feet or flippers and a long neck with a head that looks like a horse or camel head, some mention, 1, 2, 3 or even more humps (*see drawing below*).

Many different people have claimed to see the monster. So many that it is impossible to ignore by saying that all were drunk, lying or mistaken! One of the earliest witness was Saint Columba in the year 565. And many sightings have been recorded since.

Around two million tourists flock to the murky loch each year hoping to get a glimpse of the beast.

The mystery is still intact. Keep your eyes open!
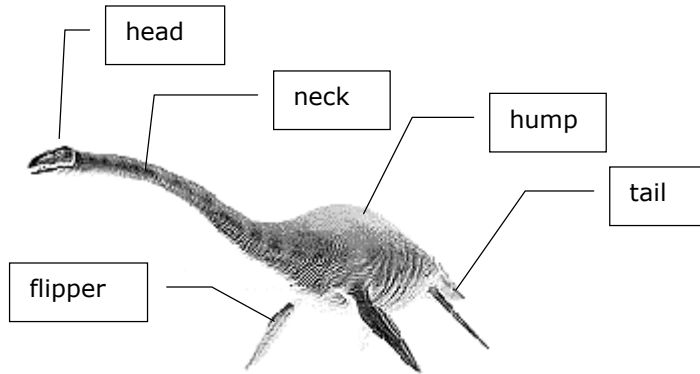
Loch Ness , long, narrow lake, northern Scotland, forming part of the Caledonian Canal. It extends in a northeastern direction for about 24 mi (about 39 km) from Fort Augustus to a point near the city of Inverness. The average width of the lake is about 1 mi (about 2 km), and the greatest depth is about 754 ft (about 230 m). It is drained by the Ness River into Moray Firth. The lake is reportedly the home of the so-called Loch Ness monster, but its existence has never been proven. *Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia.*

head

neck

hump

tail

flipper

Views of Loch Ness: Castle Urquhart
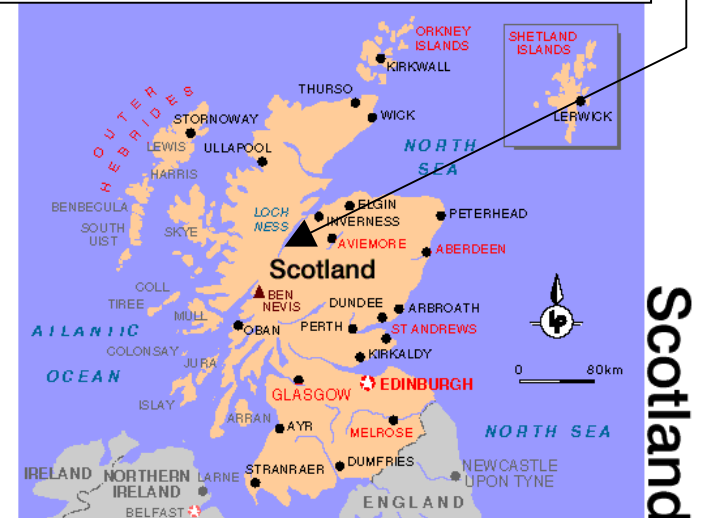
Scotland

Vocabulary help :

a surgeon = un chirurgien	a sighting = une observation
a hoax = un canular	to elude = échapper à