

# PAIRED TEXTS

## Legend of Loch Ness

Could there really be a giant monster living in the Scottish lake, Loch Ness? Is it possible that a Plesiosaur, a reptile from the Jurassic period, survived all this time and still exists? There isn't much evidence or proof, but some people believe it's true based on the stories that have been told. Scientists will tell you, though, the monster, called "Nessie," is just a hoax<sup>1</sup>.

The first story dates back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century in the year 565. An Irish monk, Saint Columba, came across some people who were burying a man that had been attacked by a water beast. Columba sent a man to swim through the water, and when the beast came up, the monk made the sign of the cross and commanded the monster to leave the man alone. The beast stopped and fled, and Columba's men called it a miracle.

Although believers still refer to Columba's story, the sightings of Nessie starting in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century were what multiplied the interests of many. On July 22, 1933, George Spicer and his wife reported that a 25-foot animal with a long, narrow neck crossed the road in front of their car.

The evidence that changed many people's minds is a photograph taken by Robert Kenneth Wilson, a London doctor. He said he was looking out over Loch Ness when the monster appeared, so he grabbed his camera and took a picture. However, skeptics believe it could have been an otter or a bird. The way the photo is cropped, it is hard to determine the distance or size of the creature.

In 1954, a boat's crew picked up on its sonar a large object that was following the boat. Sonar is a form of technology that uses reflected sound pulses to detect underwater objects. It is similar to how bats and whales use echolocation. Sonar showed the object was 473 feet below, and followed the boat for nearly 2,600 feet. They believed it had to be Nessie... do you?

<sup>1</sup>hoax: a trick, or a story told to deceive

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## Megalodon: Not A Myth

Megalodon means, "big tooth." When scientists who study fossils, called paleontologists, found shark teeth measuring over seven inches long, they named this creature, "Megalodon." These huge teeth have been found all over the world. Before scientists classified them as teeth, many people who found them thought they were the tongues of dragons. Paleontologists determined this shark lived in the Cenozoic Era over 15 million years ago. This was several million years after the Jurassic period, when many dinosaurs lived.

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We have been working through these paired texts and the kids love reading and learning about things they weren't aware of. The questions bring up great discussions and sometimes even research opportunities too! Great resource!

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around. Most likely, these sketches were of rotting whale sharks. One way scientists

know the Megalodon isn't still around is that only fossils of the teeth have been found-

none that were recently shed, and sharks are constantly shedding teeth. You don't

need to worry about these sharks at your nearby beach!

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Jennifer W., 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher



read and annotate the texts together, then provide the questions for comprehension check, allowing students to use the annotated passages

completely independent practice for students reading above 4th-5th grade level

Could there really be a giant monster living in the Scottish lake, Loch Ness? Is it possible that a Plesiosaur, a reptile from the Jurassic period, survived all this time and still exists? There isn't much evidence or proof, but some people believe it's true based on the stories that have been told. Scientists will tell you, though, the monster, called "Nessie," is just a hoax!

Although believers still refer to Columbia's story, the sightings of Nessie starting in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century were what multiplied the interests of many. On July 22, 1933, George Spicer and his wife reported that a 25-foot animal with a long, narrow neck crossed the road in front of their car.

The evidence that changed many people's minds is a photograph taken by Robert Kenneth Wilson, a London doctor. He said he was looking out over Loch Ness when the monster appeared, so he grabbed his camera and took a picture. However, skeptics believe it could have been on or over a bird. The way the photo is cropped, it is hard to determine the distance or size of the creature.

In 1954, a boat's crew picked up on its sonar a large object that was following the boat. Sonar is a form of technology that uses reflected sound pulses to detect underwater objects. It is similar to how bats and whales use echolocation. Sonar showed the object was 473 feet below, and followed the boat for nearly 2,600 feet. They believed it had to be Nessie...do you?

*"I was a trick, or a story told to deceive"*

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Megalodon means, "big tooth." When scientists who study fossils, called paleontologists, found shark teeth measuring over seven inches long, they named this creature, "Megalodon." These huge teeth have been found all over the world. Before scientists classified them as teeth, many people who found them thought they were the tongues of dragons. Paleontologists determined this shark lived in the Cenozoic Era over 15 million years ago. This was several million years after the Jurassic period, when many dinosaurs lived, yet the Megalodon was bigger than the well-known Tyrannosaurus Rex! Its teeth, however, were about the same size as a T. Rex's. Many scientists believe the Great White Shark is related, as its teeth are very similar, but don't get longer than three inches.



The Megalodon did exist. It was not a myth. What is a myth is that it could still exist today. They are extinct, but there are some people who believe drawings made of sharks that washed up on beaches many years ago prove that the giant shark is still around. Most likely, these sketches were of rotting whale sharks. One way scientists know the Megalodon isn't still around is that only fossils of the teeth have been found—none that were recently shed, and sharks are constantly shedding teeth. You don't need to worry about these sharks at your nearby beach!

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Use both texts to answer the following questions

1. How does the photograph in Legend Loch Ness help support the passage?

- It shows how large Nessie really was.
- It shows evidence that made people believe Nessie was real.
- It shows Nessie's flippers.
- It shows how large the lake, Loch Ness, really was.

3. In paragraph 4 of **Legend of Loch Ness**, what does the word **skeptic** mean?

- a. someone who believes a hoax
- b. photographers who take pictures for newspapers
- c. people who tell stories
- d. someone who doubts what many others believe

5. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- The Megalodon grew to be twenty feet.
- Megalodon teeth could be seven inches long.
- The Megalodon was a shark that lived in the Cenozoic Era.
- The Megalodon's jaw was nine feet tall and eleven feet wide.

7. How are the ideas in both texts organized?

- a. through compare and contrast to show the differences of the sea monsters
- b. by cause and effect to show why they are both extinct
- c. with descriptions of the evidence people have of the creatures
- d. as a problem/solution to show how people found them still living

f 2. Why do people believe Loch Ness exists?

- It looks like a dinosaur.
- Scientists found its fossils.
- People have heard stories, seen photographs, and detected a large object with sonar.
- People took an underwater photograph of the monster.

4. What can the reader conclude about the Mangelorians after reading both texts?

- It lived after the Plesiosaur did.
- It was as large as people believed Loch Ness was.
- The Megalodon probably ate Nessie.
- Nessie was not a myth, but Megalodon was.

6. Which detail from the text supports that the Megalodon could not still exist?

- a. No one has seen it.
- b. No one has found any of its teeth recently shed, only the fossils.
- c. It never existed- it is a myth.
- d. It wouldn't have anything to eat.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Support your answer to the question with evidence from both texts.

Compare the Loch Ness Monster to the Megalodon.



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# FOR EVERY PAIR:

two levels of each passage for differentiation

digital (self-grading) and printable formats

seven multiple choice questions (each question assessing a different standard)

one constructed response essay prompt

two styles of articles:  
2-column and full page



## LEGEND OF LOCH NESS

Could there really be a giant monster living in a Scottish lake? Is it possible that a Plesiosaur, a reptile from the Jurassic period, survived all this time and still exists? There isn't much proof, but some people believe it's true. These people believe the stories that have been told about the monster living in the lake, Loch Ness. Scientists will tell you, though, the monster, called "Nessie," is just a **hoax**.

The first story was told in the year 565. An Irish monk, Saint Columba, came across some people who were burying a man. The man had been attacked by a water beast. Columba sent a man to swim through the water. When the beast came up, the monk made the sign of the cross. He ordered the monster to leave the man alone. The monster stopped and swam away. Columba's men called it a miracle.

Although people still tell Columba's story, the sightings of Nessie starting in the early 1900s were what grabbed the attention of many. One early story happened on July 22, 1933. George Horne and his wife reported that a 25-foot-long monster with a long, thin neck was seen in the lake. The monster was seen on the road in front of their car.

The evidence that changed many people's minds is a photograph taken by Robert Kenneth Wilson, a London doctor. He said he was looking out over Loch Ness when the monster came out. He grabbed his camera and took a picture. However, skeptics believe it could have been an otter or a bird. The way the photo is cropped, it is hard to decide how big the creature really is.

In 1954, a boat's crew picked up on its sonar a large object that was following the boat. Sonar is a form of technology that uses reflected sound pulses to "see" underwater objects. It is similar to how bats and whales use echolocation. Sonar showed the object was 479 feet below. It followed the boat for nearly 2,600 feet. They believed it had to be Nessie... do you?



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Use both texts to answer the following questions.

1. How does the photograph in **Legend of Loch Ness** help support the passage?  
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b. It shows evidence that made people believe Nessie was real.  
c. It shows Nessie's flippers.  
d. It shows how large the lake, Loch Ness, really was.
2. Why do people believe Loch Ness exists?  
a. It looks like a dinosaur.  
b. Scientists found its fossils.  
c. People have heard stories, seen photographs, and detected a large object with sonar.  
d. People took an underwater photograph of the monster.
3. In paragraph 4 of **Legend of Loch Ness**, what does the word **skeptical** mean?  
a. someone who believes a hoax  
b. photographers who take pictures for newspapers  
c. people who tell stories  
d. someone who doubts what many others believe
4. What can the reader conclude about the Megalodon after reading **both** texts?  
a. It lived after the Plesiosaur did.  
b. It was as large as people believed Loch Ness was.  
c. The Megalodon probably ate Nessie.  
d. Nessie was not a myth, but Megalodon was.
5. Which of the following statements is **NOT** true?  
a. The Megalodon grew to be twenty feet.  
b. Megalodon teeth could be seven inches long.  
c. The Megalodon was a shark that lived in the Cenozoic Era.  
d. The Megalodon's jaw was nine feet tall and eleven feet wide.
6. Which detail from the text supports that the Megalodon could not still exist?  
a. No one has seen it.  
b. No one has found any of its teeth recently shed, only the fossils.  
c. It never existed- it is a myth.  
d. It wouldn't have anything to eat.

How are the ideas in **both** texts organized?  
a. through compare and contrast to show the differences of the sea monsters by cause and effect to show why they are both extinct  
b. with descriptions of the evidence people have of the creatures as a problem/solution to show how people found them still living

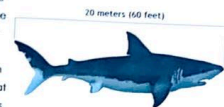
## MEGALODON: NOT A MYTH

Megalodon means, "big tooth." When scientists who study fossils, called paleontologists, found shark teeth measuring over seven inches long, they named this creature, "Megalodon." These huge teeth have been found all over the world. Many people who found these teeth before scientists thought they were the tongues of dragons. Paleontologists determined this shark lived in the Cenozoic Era over 15 million years ago. This was several million years after the Jurassic period, when many dinosaurs lived. The Megalodon was bigger than the Tyrannosaurus Rex! Its teeth, however, were about the same size as a T. Rex's. Many scientists believe the Great White Shark is related to the Megalodon. A Great White's teeth are very similar, but they don't get longer than three inches.

Based on the fossils that have been found, scientists guess, or estimate, that the Megalodon grew to be as large as sixty feet. Just the jaw alone is eleven feet wide and nine feet tall.

The Megalodon did exist. It was not a myth. It is a myth that it could still exist today, they are extinct. But, there are

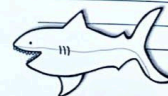
some people who believe drawings made of sharks that washed up on beaches many years ago prove that the giant shark is still around. Most likely, these drawings were actually of rotting whale sharks. One way scientists know the Megalodon isn't still around is that only fossils of the teeth have been found. Sharks are always shedding, or losing, teeth and then growing new ones. There haven't been any new teeth found. You don't need to worry about these sharks at your nearby beach!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Support your answer to the question with evidence from both texts.

**Compare the Loch Ness Monster to the Megalodon.**



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# TWO LEVELS PROVIDED OF EVERY PASSAGE

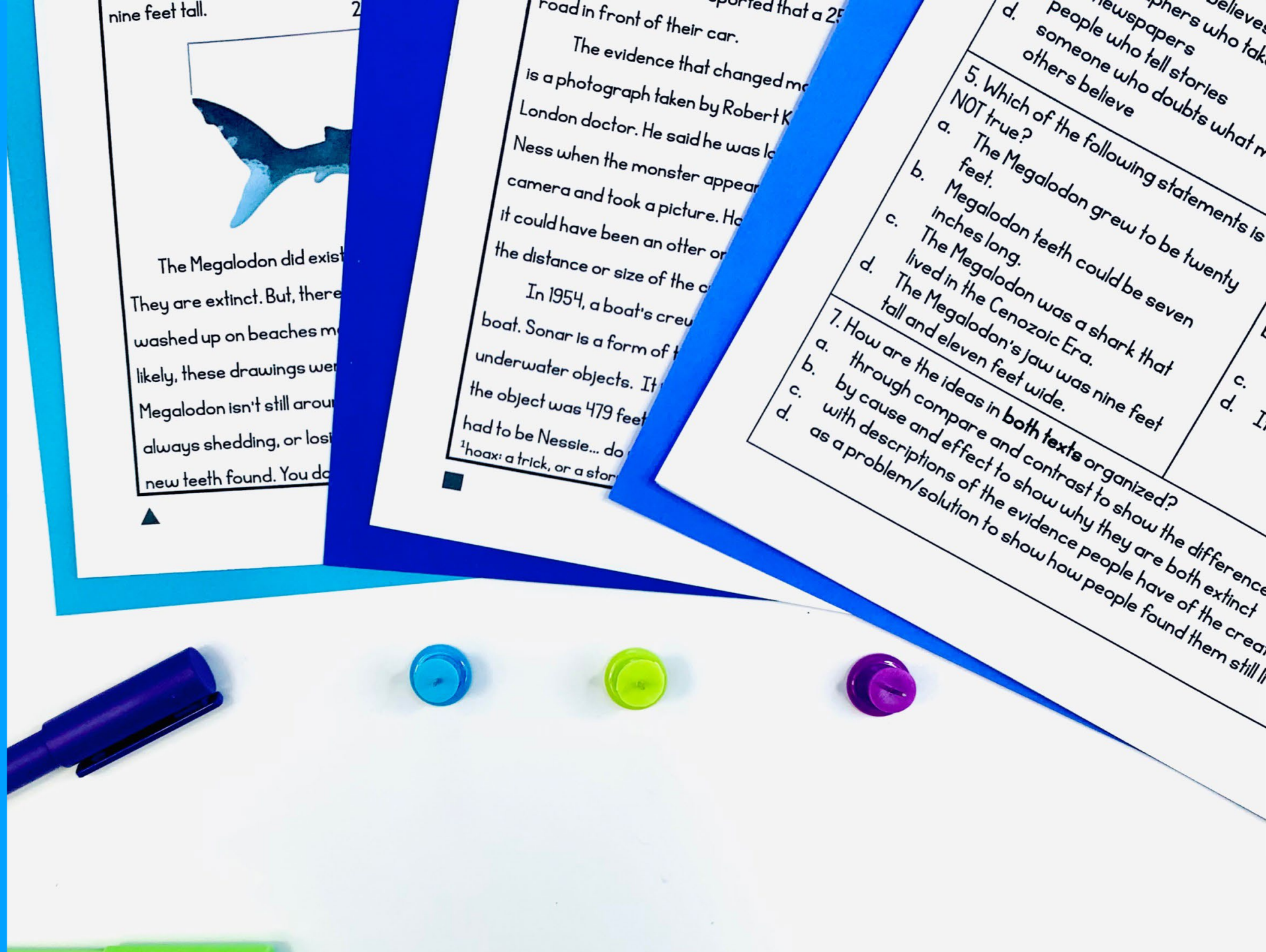
on grade level for 4-5

AND

on grade level for 6-7

discreet symbols on the  
passages to denote the  
level of passage

the same questions can  
be answered no matter  
the level given





# PASSAGES INCLUDED:

★ Loch Ness and Megalodon

★ giant squid, and lion's mane jellyfish and anglerfish

★ mermaids:  
informational passage  
and also an excerpt from  
The Little Mermaid by  
Hans Christian Andersen

# ANSWER KEYS NOTE CORE STANDARDS

## Megalodon: Not A Myth

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## LEGEND OF LOCH NESS

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The first story dates back to the 6th century in the year 565. An Irish monk, Saint Columba, came across some people who were burying a man that had been attacked by a water beast.

The evidence that changed many people's minds is a photograph taken by Robert Kenneth Wilson, a London doctor. He said he was looking out over Loch Ness when the monster appeared, so he grabbed his camera and took a picture. However, skeptics believe it could have been an otter or a bird. The way the photo is cropped, it is hard to determine the distance or size of the creature.

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It showed the object was 479 feet long, and followed the boat for nearly 17 feet. They believed it had to be there... do you?



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## MYTHS OF MERFOLK

Mermaids and mermen, known as merfolk, have existed in legends and myths for centuries. Most people are familiar with the famous Disney mermaid, Ariel, who longed to be out of the ocean and on land with humans, and saved Prince Eric from his shipwreck. This Disney movie was created from the old fairytale written by Hans Christian Andersen, *The Little Mermaid*. But in stories told by sailors, mermaids were actually bad luck and were known to cause shipwrecks!

Depending on the story, the things merfolk might cause were different, but they were almost all tales of bad fortune. Some folklore said merfolk would cause storms and shipwrecks. Other stories were about how mermaids would drag men down to their underwater kingdom, drowning them. (However, some myths point out that the mermaids didn't know humans can't breathe underwater, so it was not an evil intention.) Still other tales told of mermaids singing on rocks, luring the sailors to point their ships at the rocks, hypnotizing them with their beautiful voices, and causing them to crash.

The most famous merman in mythology is Triton. He was a Greek god, known as the messenger of the sea. He would blow into a conch shell like a trumpet to raise or calm the sea. He also carried a trident: a large three-pronged spear that resembles a fork.

There are many sailors, even Christopher Columbus, that have reported seeing mermaids on their journeys. When sailors started seeing these half human, half mermaid creatures, they were most likely seeing dolphins. Perhaps, seen from a distance, it is possible that one could confuse the large marine animals for a human. Or, maybe these were stories they told to entertain themselves, or even **hallucinations** after having been out on the ocean for weeks, sometimes months. Whatever the case, stories of mermaids prove that you can't always believe what you hear!



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## GIANT TENTACLES

The tale of the giant kraken, a tentacled sea monster that swallowed ships whole, was a legend. But it was most likely created because of sightings of a real animal, the giant squid. This marine giant has been found as long as 59 feet. That's longer than a semi-truck! That also means its eyes are as large as your head! The giant squid's eyes are the largest of any animals in the world.

Eyes so large help the animal see in the deep areas of the ocean where it lives. Most other animals couldn't see anything at all 3,000 feet below the surface. Even though it is so gigantic, it is rarely seen by humans because of the depth of where it lives. Many agree, though, that the most fascinating thing about the giant squid is its eight arms and its two tentacles, which are longer than its arms. The two long tentacles are used to catch prey and bring it to the arms that bring it to the squid's beak, which is in the center of all of the arms. The giant squid's



powerful beak can crush just about anything it catches. Even though they have been portrayed as monsters in stories and movies, they really are shy, gentle creatures that would not attack humans, but instead would release an ink substance that would hide it long enough to get away.

Another giant tentacled creature of the ocean is the lion's mane jellyfish. It is nothing like the giant squid, even though it has tentacles. It doesn't have eyes or a brain, it is just a mass of the cold northern

Use both texts to answer the following questions. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
1. What can you infer after reading **Giant Tentacles**?  
a. All animals with tentacles sting.  
b. Giant squids do not have good vision.  
c. Jellyfish are the smartest sea animals.  
d. **Giant squids would be afraid of humans.**

2. How are the ideas in **Deep Sea Discoveries** organized?  
a. through compare and contrast to show the differences of deep sea animals  
b. by cause and effect to show what makes bioluminescence and life that lives there  
c. with descriptions of the deep sea as a problem/solution to show how they found the giant squid  
d. as a problem/solution to show how

3. In paragraph 1 of **Giant Tentacles**, what does the word portrayed mean?  
a. shown  
b. hidden  
c. buried  
d. changed

4. After reading both texts, which phrase best describes a **giant squid**?  
a. a gentle giant that lives in the deep ocean  
b. a creature only seen in movies  
c. has no eyes or brain  
d. has long stinging tentacles

5. In **Deep Sea Discoveries**, what is NOT one way scientists have found creatures that live in the deep?  
a. They have gone down in submersible watercrafts.  
b. **They have used bioluminescence.**  
c. They have used special cameras to take video and photographs.  
d. They have done all of these things.

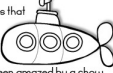
6. Why did the author include information about fireflies and glow worms in **Deep Sea Discoveries**?  
a. **People are more familiar with these animals, so they can understand bioluminescence.**  
b. They live underwater with anglerfish.  
c. They are the anglerfish's prey.  
d. They are what scientists use to attract giant squids.

7. How are **giant squids** and **lion's mane jellyfish** similar?  
a. They both have large eyes.  
b. **They both have tentacles.**  
c. They both live in large groups.  
d. They both have suction cups.

## Deep Sea Discoveries

Most people wouldn't think that there is any life in the lowest layer of the ocean. That's because there is hardly any sunlight. But actually, there is much life in the deep sea! In fact, the strongest creatures on Earth live in the deepest part of the ocean. Some of the odd creatures living there are the giant squid and the anglerfish.

How did people discover these animals so deep in the ocean? Some marine biologists (people who study life in the ocean) have gone down in submersible watercrafts to explore. Some have sent down special cameras that can video and photograph in deep water. That is how the giant squid was found! Even though there is no sunlight that deep, there is still light. Scientists who have explored the deep have been amazed by a show of swirling, flashing lights. This light comes from the bodies of animals. It's called bioluminescence. Fireflies and glow worms are creatures on land that use bioluminescence. All bioluminescent animals produce light because they have a special



so that uses bioluminescence is the something that belongs in a science have huge mouths filled with sharp a female has a spine coming out of her is a fishing rod. The end of the "rod" has a up and attracts prey. She will wiggle close, attracted to the light. Then, she and swallow it whole! Male anglerfish do as they are parasites<sup>1</sup>. They attach to the

other organisms by living in them or on them

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## GRADES 4-6

### LEGEND OF LOCH NESS

Could there really be a giant monster living in a Scottish lake? It is possible! For example, e-writers from the Internet would like to tell you that Loch Ness is a monster. They say it lives in the lake and it would like to eat you. These people believe the stories that have been told about the monster living in the lake. Loch Ness is a lake in Scotland. It is a very old lake. The first story was told in the year 565. It was about a monster living in the lake. Loch Ness is a lake in Scotland. It is a very old lake. The first story was told in the year 565. It was about a monster living in the lake.

### MEGALODON: NOT A MYTH

Megalodon means "big tooth." When scientists who study fossils, called paleontologists, found shark teeth, they realized they were from a very big shark. They called it megalodon. These teeth have been found all over the world. Many people who found these teeth believe it is a shark. They think these teeth belong to a shark that lived in the ocean. They think these teeth belong to a shark that lived in the ocean. They think these teeth belong to a shark that lived in the ocean.

## IN PRINT & DIGITAL FORMATS

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