

OUTSIDE PRESENTER

NESSIE AND OTHER LAKE AND SEA CURIOSITIES

AGES

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Learn about the legends and lore of our local lakes and rivers! A presentation could be geared to any age group. You could also make sea creature crafts or hold a drawing contest. Easily adapted to a virtual program, or prerecord the talk to share on the library's website. See Printables for a coloring sheet that could be completed while listening to an in-person presentation. Suggested runtime: 60 min.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials: Projector, screen, laptop with PowerPoint, large gathering space, audience chairs

Sea and Lake Legends

The Kraken

According to Scandinavian folklore, the kraken is an enormous tentacled sea monster. Some people theorize that stories of the kraken may have originated from sightings of giant squids, which may be 40–50 feet long.

Mermaids

In Greek mythology, Triton is usually represented as a merman, with the upper body of a human and the tailed lower body of a fish.

Moby Dick/Leviathan

Possibly a giant sperm whale, described as having “a peculiar snow-white wrinkled forehead, and a high, pyramidical white hump” (from *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville).

Loch Ness Monster

The Loch Ness monster, also known as Nessie, is said to be a large marine creature similar to a plesiosaur, a marine reptile that went extinct some 65.5 million years ago. It's believed by some people to inhabit Loch Ness, Scotland.

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Bessie, or The Lake Erie Monster

A lake monster in Lake Erie (OH/MI), reported by multiple people between 1817–1993. Bessie has varying descriptions, but is generally considered to be serpentine, at least 30–40 ft long, at least a foot in diameter, with a grayish or brownish color.

Tahoe Tessie

Tessie is a large, snake-like creature that allegedly resided in Lake Tahoe (NV/CA). Multiple sightings over the years have produced varying reports; Tessie ranges in color from turquoise to black, sometimes has scales and sometimes not, and has been reported as being between 10–80 feet long.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Invite a speaker from a nearby aquarium or university (possibly a crypto-zoologist) to talk about myths related to local bodies of water.

RESOURCES

Web

“The Lake Monsters of America” from *Atlas Obscura*:

<https://bit.ly/2SBu35Z>

“Native American Lake Mythology” from *Native Languages*:

<https://bit.ly/34orQO8>

“Mythical Lake Monsters of the Northwest” from *Seattle Magazine*:

<https://bit.ly/3urWm47>

“Kraken” from *Wikipedia*: <https://bit.ly/34kl0bc>

and: <https://bit.ly/2Sz1o1q>

Mermaid facts and legends from *Live Science*: <https://bit.ly/3uql2cm>

“Triton” from *Britannica*: <https://bit.ly/3fO1IBF>

“Leviathan” from *Britannica*: <https://bit.ly/2Szp7Pi>

The story behind *Moby Dick* from the NOAA: <https://bit.ly/2QVetBM>

“Loch Ness Monster” from *Britannica*: <https://bit.ly/2Te7pB0>

“Bessie” from *Wikipedia*: <https://bit.ly/3fPReSb>

“Tahoe Tessie” from *Fandom*: <https://bit.ly/3bZd3xp>

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BooksNon-fiction

Forgotten Sea Serpents (2020) by Malcolm Smith (adult)

I Know What I Saw: Modern-Day Encounters with Monsters of New Urban Legend and Ancient Lore (2019) by Linda Godfrey (adult)

Cryptid Creatures: A Field Guide (2019) by Kelly Milner Halls (adult)

Chasing American Monsters: Over 250 Creatures, Cryptids & Hairy Beasts (2019) by Jason Offutt (adult)

People are Seeing Something: A Survey of Lake Monsters in the United States and Canada (2016) by Denver Michaels (adult)

When Monsters Come Ashore: Stories of the Loch Ness Monster on Land (2018) by Roland Watson (adult)

Nevada Myths and Legends: The True Stories behind History's Mysteries (2019) by Richard Moreno (adult)

Forgotten Sea Serpents (2020) by Malcolm Smith (adult)

Touching This Leviathan (2021) by Peter Wayne Moe (adult)

The Book of Mythical Beasts and Magical Creatures (2020) by Stephen Krensky (children's)

The Loch Ness Monster (Behind the Legend) (2017) by Erin Peabody (children's)

Sea Monsters: From Kraken to Nessie (2017) by Krystyna Poray Goddu (children's)

The Great Book of Monsters of the Deep (Volume 4) (2020) by Giuseppe D'Anna and Anna Láng (children's)

Giant Squid (2016) by Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann (children's)

The Very Short, Entirely True History of Mermaids (2020) by Sarah Las-kow and Reimena Yee (children's)

Fiction

Moby Dick (1851) by Herman Melville (adult)

The Mermaid and Mrs. Hancock (2019) by Imogen Hermes Gowar (adult)

Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters (2009) by Ben H. Winters, Jane Austen (adult)

Into the Drowning Deep (2018) by Mira Grant (adult)

The Loch (2015) by Steve Alten (adult)

The Kraken Wakes (1953) by John Wyndham (adult)

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The Water Horse (2007) by Dick King-Smith (adult)
Bessie: The Monster in Lake Erie (2018) by Deborah Tadema (adult)
Mrs. Caliban (2017) by Rachel Ingalls (adult)
The Brides of Rollrock Island (2012) by Margo Lanagan (YA)
The Surface Breaks (2018) by Louise O'Neill (YA)
A Song Below Water (2020) by Bethany C. Morrow (YA)
The Kraken's Rules for Making Friends (2016) by Brittany R. Jacobs (children's)
The Mermaid Atlas (2020) by Anna Claybourne and Miren Asiain Lora (children's)
Malamander (2019) by Thomas Taylor (children's)
Spindlefish and Stars (2020) by Christiane M. Andrews (children's)
Sea Monster Surprise (Geronimo Stilton) (2016) by Geronimo Stilton (children's)
Let Sleeping Sea-Monsters Lie and Other Cautionary Tales (2012) by Eva Ibbotson (children's)

Printables

Kraken Coloring Sheet for Children
Sea Monster Coloring Sheet for Teens/Adults



