



Teacher Created Resources®

Paired Reading Passages

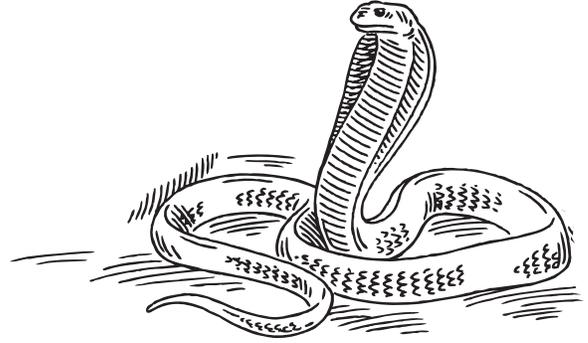
Grade 5



www.teachercreated.com

The Snake that Escaped

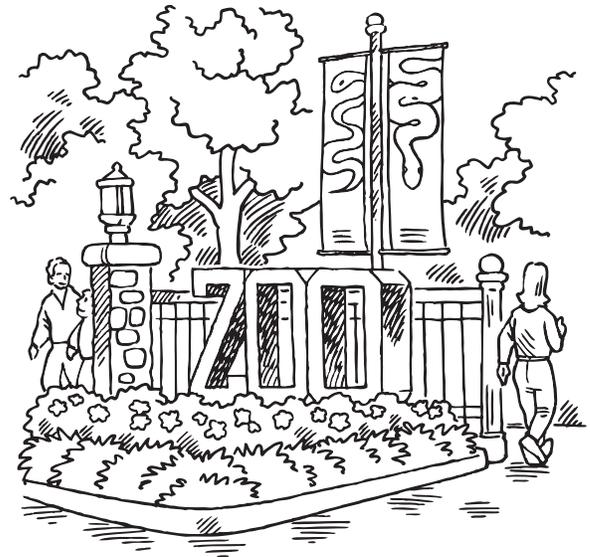
A zookeeper was working in the Reptile House, cleaning a cage that contained a spitting cobra that measured three-and-one-half feet long. There was a tiny drain at one end of the cage sealed by a rubber stopper. The zookeeper removed the drain's stopper so water could go down the drain. Then, a radio call came in asking for assistance. The zookeeper went to help.



When the zookeeper returned to the cobra cage, the cobra was gone! In the zookeeper's rush to help, he had forgotten to put the drain plug back in! Somehow, the snake had squeezed its way into the drain! The zookeeper quickly made a sign. He hung it on the door of the Reptile House. The sign said, "Closed for Repairs."

Zookeepers set baited hooks. They spread talcum powder out on every flat surface. They checked every day for signs that the snake had slithered past. Zookeepers checked out every snake "sighting." One sighting turned out to be a broken fan belt on a highway. Another sighting was in the basement of a house close to the zoo. The "snake" behind the furnace ended up being another broken fan belt.

The cobra was found 40 days after it got loose. It was in a crawl space of the Reptile House. The funny thing about the escaped snake is what it did to zoo attendance. Knowing that a snake was loose, one would think that attendance would go down. Instead, the number of visitors to the zoo shot up!



The Escape Artist

“Orangutans eat fruit, right?” asked Benjamin as he walked into the kitchen.

“They sure do,” answered his Aunt Opal. “In fact, they are the largest mammals in the world that survive mainly on fruit. They spend about eight hours every day looking for food.”

Benjamin’s aunt looked at Benjamin as he opened up a bag and began to fill it with oranges, apples, and bananas. “What are you going to do,” she joked, “feed an orangutan?”

“Well,” said Benjamin, “I think there might be one sleeping on my bed. It must have climbed up the tree outside my window.”

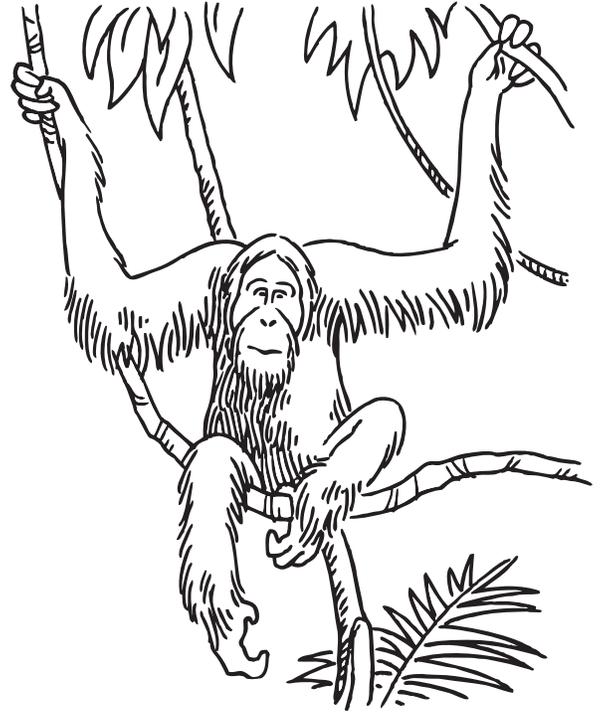
Benjamin’s aunt started to laugh. “Benjamin,” she said, “You don’t have to make up stories to get food. Here, if you’re that hungry, take these peaches, too.”

“Thanks,” said Benjamin, rushing out of the kitchen.

When Benjamin’s mother came home from work she said, “Where’s Benjamin? I want to tell him about an unbelievable orangutan. This orangutan is very intelligent and quite the escape artist. It took a while for the zookeepers to figure out how he was escaping. He was picking his lock with a bent wire that he hid in his mouth between escapes! Even more unbelievable is how the orangutan got the wire. He traded his biscuits for it with the orangutan in the next cage that was being put on a diet!”

“How do you know about this orangutan?” asked Benjamin’s aunt.

“Oh,” Benjamin’s mother answered, “I heard about it on tonight’s news. It’s escaped again.”



Show What You Know

The following are questions based on the passages “The Snake that Escaped” and “The Escape Artist.” If needed, you may look back at the passages to answer the questions.

1. The cobra was found a little over

- (A) one month after it got loose.
- (B) two months after it got loose.
- (C) three months after it got loose.
- (D) four months after it got loose.

2. One cannot tell from the story that orangutans

- (A) can climb trees.
- (B) eat mostly fruit.
- (C) spend about eight hours every day sleeping.
- (D) are bigger than other mammals that eat mostly fruit.

3. What do both stories have in common?

- (A) They both are about animals that escaped.
- (B) They both are about mammals that escaped.
- (C) They both are about artists that escaped.
- (D) They both are about reptiles that escaped.

4. One reason there were sightings of the snake outside the zoo might be that

- (A) baited hooks had been put out.
- (B) news of the escape was on the nightly news.
- (C) the Reptile House was closed 40 days for repairs.
- (D) the powder showed signs of a snake slithering past.

5. What answer below is not a likely reason the orangutan was called an escape artist?

- (A) It escaped several times.
- (B) It used a tool to escape.
- (C) It escaped because of a mistake.
- (D) It traded for something to help it escape.

Show What You Know (cont.)

6. Answer the questions concerning the story “The Snake that Escaped.”

- a. What escaped? _____
- b. Where did the escape take place? _____
- c. When did the escape take place? _____
- d. Why did zookeepers look at fan belts? _____
- e. How did the escape happen? _____

7. You are not told that the orangutan is in Benjamin’s room, but as you read, you come to suspect that it is. Write down three things from the story that make you think there really might be an orangutan in Benjamin’s bed.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Write three or more sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. “The Snake that Escaped”

9. “The Escape Artist”

10. What would you do if you found a snake or an orangutan in your room? Would you go into your room? Would you try and feed the animal? Would you act the same for each animal? Tell why or why not. *(Use a separate piece of paper. Your answer should be one paragraph long.)*

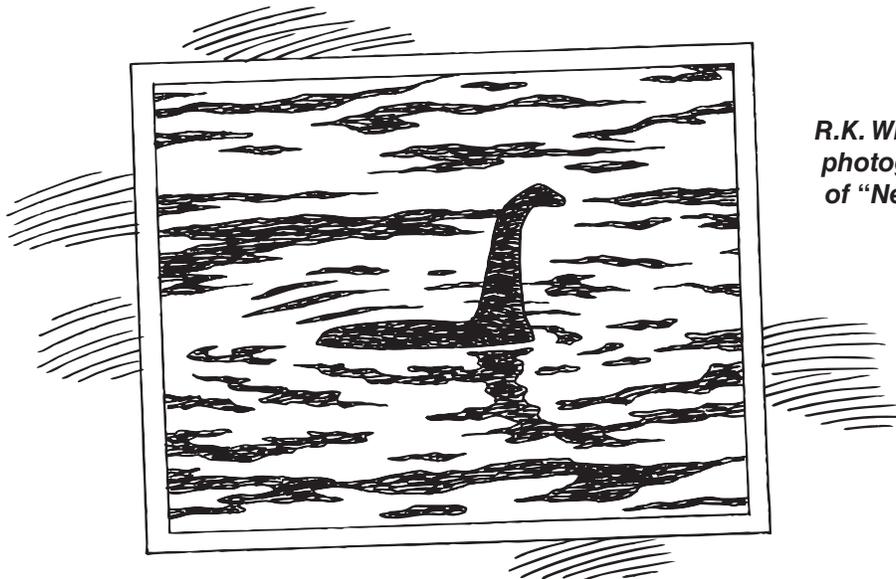
Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster

Loch Ness is a lake in Scotland. The lake is massive, or huge. Its deep water is very cold and pitch black. The water is dark and murky because it is filled with dark brown particles of peat, a very soft coal. But Loch Ness isn't famous for its massive size or dark water. It's famous for Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster.

Nessie started with a legend. The legend goes that in 565 C.E., an Irish monk named Saint Columba saw a man swimming in Loch Ness. Columba saw a huge beast rise up from the water. On the attack, it headed straight toward the man. Columba commanded the beast to retreat. The beast retreated, sinking back down into the murky water, and the man was saved.

Over the years, people have reported sightings of Nessie. Perhaps the most famous sighting was by R.K. Wilson. Wilson was a respected doctor. Wilson took a picture of Nessie on April 1, 1934. The photograph was published all around the world.

Years later, a man named Alastair Boyd proved that the photograph was a fake. The picture was of nothing but a toy! It was a toy submarine onto which Wilson had molded a long neck and monster head. Many people were angry at Boyd. They still believed the photograph was real. The funny thing is that Boyd believes Nessie is real. He is sure that in 1979 he spotted her rising out of the dark water.



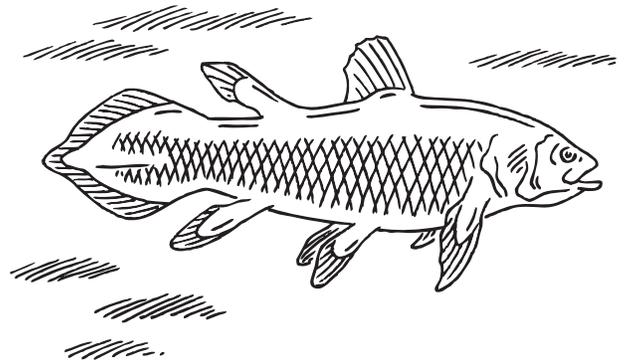
*R.K. Wilson's
photograph
of "Nessie"*

A Nessie Bone

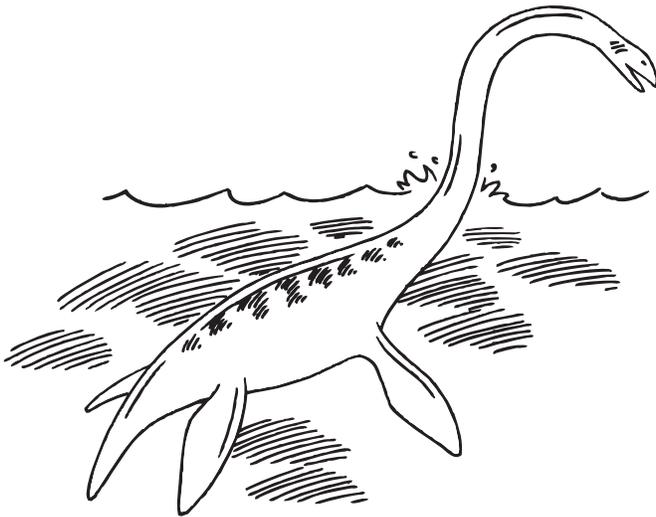
Tashiki was excited. His family was going to Loch Ness. Tashiki said, "I want to take Nessie's picture. I know Nessie isn't a trick, and I want to prove that she's real and not a hoax."

At Loch Ness, while Tashiki was taking a walk around the lake, he spotted a strange object sticking out of some mud close to the shore. Tashiki dug it up and showed it to his father. His father said, "Tashiki, this looks like a fossilized bone. It looks like a fossilized plesiosaur backbone!"

Tashiki was very excited because he knew that a plesiosaur was a type of reptile that died out millions of years ago and were extinct. Still, some people thought Nessie was a plesiosaur. Tashiki said, "Maybe Nessie really is a plesiosaur. Maybe she is the last living plesiosaur. Maybe she is like a coelacanth. The coelacanth is a fish that scientists believed was extinct. They said it died out 70 million years ago. Then a fisherman caught a coelacanth in 1938, proving the scientists wrong."



coelacanth



plesiosaur

Tashiki and his father took the bone to a scientist. The scientist studied the bone. She said, "Yes, this is a fossilized plesiosaur bone. But it can't be Nessie. I have done tests on the bone. The tests show that this bone came from somewhere close to the ocean. Most likely, someone left it at Loch Ness for someone else to find."

Tashiki said, "Dad, I am beginning to think Nessie is a very clever hoax."

Show What You Know

The following are questions based on the passages “The Loch Ness Monster” and “A Nessie Bone.” If needed, you may look back at the passages to answer the questions.

1. What is not true about Loch Ness?

- (A) It is small.
- (B) Its water is cold.
- (C) It is in Scotland.
- (D) It is filled with peat.

2. When something is a hoax, it is

- (A) real
- (B) a bone
- (C) extinct.
- (D) a trick.

3. Both stories are about

- (A) what may or may not be a fish.
- (B) what may or may not be a fossil.
- (C) what may or may not be in Loch Ness.
- (D) what may or may not be in a photograph.

4. From the stories, one can tell that

- (A) the legend is true.
- (B) Nessie cannot be extinct.
- (C) some people have been tricked.
- (D) scientists are wrong about Nessie.

5. It would be very hard for Tashiki to take an underwater picture of Nessie because

- (A) the water is too cold.
- (B) the water is too murky.
- (C) the water is retreating.
- (D) the water is millions of years old.

Show What You Know (cont.)

6. Write the three dates in the story “The Loch Ness Monster.” Jot down notes about each date in the boxes below.

7. Fill in the chart. Tell how Tashiki felt about Nessie at the beginning of the story and the end. Tell why.

	<i>How Tashiki Felt</i>	<i>Why?</i>
<i>Beginning</i>		
<i>End</i>		

Write three or more sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. “The Loch Ness Monster”

9. “A Nessie Bone”

10. Think about Nessie. Do you think she could be real, or do you think she is a hoax? Write one paragraph telling why you think the way you do. Use at least one example from the stories to help prove your point. *(Use a separate piece of paper.)*

Answer Key (cont.)

Unit 20

1. A
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. *What:* a three-and-a-half foot spitting cobra; *Where:* in the zoo Reptile House; *When:* the zookeeper was cleaning the cage and left because of a radio call; *Why:* people thought the fan belts were snakes; *How:* the zookeeper forgot to put the plug in the drain
7. Ben gets fruit; Ben tells his aunt that he thinks there is one on his bed; Ben's mom hears that one has escaped from the zoo.

Unit 21

1. A
2. B
3. A
4. C
5. D
6. 1. swimming, 2.4 miles (4 km); 2. bike ride, 112 miles (180 km); 3. marathon run, 26 miles, 385 yards (42.2 km)
7. 1: Ms. Teal; 2: Tim; 3: Ralph

Unit 22

1. A
2. D
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. 565 C.E.: legend started of Nessie's first sighting; *April 1, 1934:* fake photograph taken by respected doctor of Nessie; 1979: person who proved photograph was faked believes he saw Nessie
7. *Beginning:* might be real; found bone
End: thought a hoax; someone had moved bone to lake

Unit 23

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. *Where:* log cabin in Kentucky; *What:* honesty, freeing the slaves, his words; *When:* 1861–1865; *Why:* they all wanted something; *How:* said he had something to give everyone when he had an infectious disease
7. 1: Daniel Boone, 1734, blazed Wilderness Road, "I've never been lost . . ."
2: Thomas Edison, 1847, inventor, "Genius is one percent inspiration . . .";
3: Muhammad Ali, 1942, boxer, "Float like a butterfly . . ."

Unit 24

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. D
6. resting in a hollow log
7. *Beginning:* fox wants cheese in crow's mouth
Ending: crow sings and cheese falls down to fox

Unit 25

1. C
2. D
3. C
4. D
5. B
6. *merchant ship:* heavier, slowed down, on river up the coast, longer trip, two weeks faster; *mail ship:* lighter, went faster, coast, shorter trip, two weeks longer
7. *Beginning:* people think Murry is simple-minded because of how he dresses and the time he spends in mountains;
Middle: asks Elders why they have to move, told they need something never seen before, (could have "climbs trees" here);
End: (could have "climbs tree" here), brings back robin egg that is about to hatch and gives to elder