

Cryptid Example

Below is an artist's rendering of **The Loch Ness Monster**. What do you notice?



Source: Grand Rapids Historical Commission

The Loch Ness Monster originates in Loch Ness, Scotland, and is most commonly described as a large dragon or snake that lurks in the frigid waters of Loch Ness. Legend has it that the Loch Ness Monster was created out of spite by the Celtic Winter Queen.

Cryptid Example

Below is a version of **Bigfoot**, imagined by 826 Boston. What do you notice?



Source: 826 Boston

In North America, sightings of Bigfoot (aka Sasquatch) were first reported in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Bigfoot is often described as a giant, hairy man-like creature stalking the woods of the Pacific Northwest. The stories of Bigfoot have rooted themselves in several Pacific Northwest Native American tribes' belief systems: sometimes the figure is viewed is violent, while other times it is seen as helpful.

Cryptid Example

Below is a statue of **Mothman**, seen in Point Pleasant, West Virginia. What do you notice?



Source: Michelle Cassidy/Atlas Obscura

Sightings of Mothman were originally reported in November of 1966, in Pleasant Point, West Virginia, which was a former World War II munitions site. Described as a human-like creature, with giant wings, and glowing red eyes, Mothman's origins remain a mystery—though, common theories include aliens and military experiments.

What is the Loch Ness Monster?

Our friends at 826 Boston's Bigfoot Research Institute seek out stories about all cryptids, not just Bigfoot, and they wanted us to share more information about the Loch Ness Monster (aka Nessie) with you. Read more about Nessie below.

What is the Loch Ness Monster?

The Loch Ness Monster, also known as “Nessie,” is a large water creature said to be hiding in the waters of Loch Ness in Inverness, Scotland. Nessie has been described as a “large, long-necked serpentine water-beast with one or more humps rising from the water”; however, reports of Nessie sightings describe it in a variety of different ways. Some have said “whale-like”; others, describe it as an “upturned boat,” or like a “dragon or prehistoric figure.”

What is the Loch Ness Monster's origin story?

Nessie is a figure from Scottish folklore. She was reportedly created out of anger by the Celtic Winter Queen, also known as the goddess Dark Beira and Cailleach Bheur. One day, Beira became enraged at her maid, Nessa, because she was not on time to perform her duties. Beira turned Nessa into a river—the river Ness, which flows through Inverness and empties into Moray Firth.

When did the first sighting take place?

There are over 1,100 recorded sightings of Nessie! The earliest record of a Nessie sighting is from 565AD, when St. Columba is said to have “driven a beast back into the water.” The first sightings came primarily from people living in Loch Ness, but in the following centuries Nessie has become a beloved figure, beckoning people to area.

Where could the Loch Ness Monster be found?

Nessie is named after the freshwater loch (Scottish Gaelic for “lake”) in which she is said to reside. Loch Ness takes its name from the River Ness, and it's the second largest loch in Scotland. The characteristics of Loch Ness contribute to the reasons why it might be difficult to spot her: The waters of Loch Ness are very dark in color, due to the naturally high peat content, which reduces underwater visibility—there is no visibility at all below 29.5 feet!

Draw Your Cryptid

Draw your cryptid in the space below. If you have time, also draw the scenery around it and any items that are important to its survival.



Describe Your Cryptid

Answer the questions about your cryptid below. Try to be as specific and descriptive as possible.

The Basics

1. **What is your cryptid's name? What kind of creature is it?**
2. **Use sensory details to describe your cryptid: What does it look like, feel like, smell like, etc.?**
3. **Describe its habitat: Does it live in the desert? The mountains? A craterous moon?**
4. **What is your cryptid's diet? How does it get its food?**
5. **Does your cryptid live alone or among other creatures?**

Describe Your Cryptid

Answer the questions about your cryptid below. Try to be as specific and descriptive as possible.

Your Cryptid and Humans

- 1. What does your cryptid do when it feels threatened? Is it dangerous to humans?**

- 2. When was your cryptid first seen by humans? Describe everything we know about that encounter.**

- 3. What time of day is best for spotting your cryptid and why?**

- 4. How does your cryptid stay so mysterious—why hasn't anyone been able to prove its existence?**

Draft Your Questions and Answers

On the lines below, write down the major questions you plan to answer on your poster; these should be big-picture ideas. Then, draft the answers to those questions, using the information you brainstormed on pages 4 and 5.

Question: _____

Answer:

Question: _____

Answer:

Question: _____

Answer:

Question: _____

Answer:

Question: _____

Answer: