



N E S S I E

This prehistoric monster that lives in Loch Ness seems to be a lost relative of the aquatic dinosaurs that became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous period. With its massive body and very long neck, Nessie rarely comes to the surface and avoids all contact with humans. The 35 square kilometers of the 230-meter-deep lake, the largest freshwater reservoir in Great Britain, are sufficient for him.

In this space, Nessie leads an unknown life, as little is known about its habits and diet. It is not even known whether it is a single, extraordinarily long-lived and solitary specimen, or whether it is a species of a few individuals living in isolation in these waters. In any case, we are sure that it is not a violent or dangerous creature, because the lake attracts thousands of visitors every year, who navigate it in boats and even dive down to take at least one photo of one of the most famous mythical creatures in the world.

The first evidence of an underwater creature in the lake dates back to the 1st century, when a Pictish carving depicted an animal very similar to the modern image of Nessie. Six hundred years later, the missionary St. Columba, who was responsible for the Christianization of the Scottish tribes, claimed to have encountered this creature in order



to save his disciples, although he does not provide an accurate description of the creature. Apart from a mention in a magazine in 1868, there is no written record of the life of Nessie until the third decade of the 20th century, when there was a social phenomenon of interest in monstrous creatures (coincidentally or not, immediately after the movie King Kong). With many newspapers posting sentries on the coast and a multitude of monster hunters on the prowl, within two years there were sightings that provided more detailed descriptions and even the first photograph.



Nessie is a creature originating from **SCOTLAND**

Current population: 5.463.300



Scotland is a country occupying the northern third of the British Isles north of Hadrian's Wall. In this area, which was not occupied by the Roman Empire, lived tribes with different languages and traditions, mainly Gaelic, Pictish and Brythonic (all Celtic), but also Anglo-Germanic.

The Scots spoke two very different languages. In the north, in the mountainous regions of the Highlands, Scottish Gaelic developed, a Celtic language related to Irish Gaelic and the Gaelic of the Isle of Man, while in the south, in the Lowlands, a Germanic language simply called 'Scots' developed under the influence of the Anglo-American population.

In the early Middle Ages, all these peoples were united in the Kingdom of Alba, originally under the domination of the northern Picts, but always open to the intense migrations that characterized the British Isles in those centuries. Later, in the 12th century, the axis of power shifted to the southern Angles. From then on, for centuries, Scotland had to constantly fight with the neighboring Kingdom of England to avoid being conquered. Scotland maintained its independence until 1707, when Parliament, against the general opinion of the people, approved the signing of the Act of Union, which established Great Britain.

Scotland was Christianized very early, immediately after the fall of the Roman Empire, and the earlier Celtic religion has been completely

lost. However, there is still a kind of mythology common to Ireland, which includes a variety of fantastic creatures that symbolize the dangers of nature.

Today, the majority of the population speaks only English, although 30% still speak Scots and 1% speak Gaelic. The desire to remain one nation is also evident in an ongoing independence movement in government.

