THE WATER HORSE
Legend Of The Deep

Every big secret starts small.

From Walden Media who brought you
The Chronicles Of Narnia

Study Guide
Features lessons that comply with National Standards in English/Language Arts and other key content areas.
A Message from Walden Media

The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep is a poignant fictional story about a phenomenon many people believe to be very real indeed. Loch Ness in Scotland is annually visited by millions of tourists, all hoping to catch a glimpse of “Nessie.” There have been enough sightings of the Water Horse there, beginning with St. Columba in the year 565 AD and continuing through today, that the lure to see for one’s self continues to be powerful.

In our screen version, we have taken Dick King-Smith’s wry little book and broadened its scope to fit the demands of the large screen. The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep lends itself to special effects and the sweep and mystery that is Northern Scotland—features to be found in our film adaptation. It is our hope that this story about friendship, a child’s loneliness, and the power of belief will have many children asking the adults in their lives, “Is the Water Horse real?”

We also hope The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep encourages children—and adults—to ignore the skeptics and the practical-minded and to join forces with the imaginative and the hopeful. We hope our film shows that the best answer regarding flights of pure imagination is always, “But of course!”

Tell us what you think!
Your feedback is valuable. It will help us provide useful educational materials to you. Visit www.walden.com/uhsurvey and fill out a survey about this guide. All responders will be entered into a random drawing to win Walden Media gift baskets. Thanks for your help.
Angus, a young boy living in Scotland during World War II, has grown more and more reclusive since his father went off to war. During his solitary search for seashells on the beach one day, Angus finds a mysterious object. Uncertain of its origin, he takes it home, hiding it for safekeeping. But when it hatches overnight, Angus finds himself the proud but puzzled caretaker of a water horse—a sea creature of Scottish legend and lore. Angus’s new friend has a gentle nature but a ravenous appetite, and Angus affectionately names the creature Crusoe, after the famous castaway. Attempts to keep Crusoe as a pet are foiled by the creature’s rapid growth. Unable to conceal the creature any longer, Angus selflessly returns the water horse to the loch, unknowingly placing it in danger of those who would see it as a threat. Angus desperately tries to protect the gentle, misunderstood creature—before the “secret” of the loch is revealed to the world.

The film features Academy Award® nominee Emily Watson (Corpse Bride, Gosford Park, Angela’s Ashes, Punch-Drunk Love, Breaking the Waves) as Anne MacMorrow, Ben Chaplin (Strange Beauty, The New World, The Truth About Cats and Dogs, The Thin Red Line) as Lewis Mowbray, and David Morrissey (Derailed) as Captain Hamilton. Alex Etel (Millions) plays the young hero, Angus MacMorrow. Also joining the cast is new comer Priyanka Xi as Kirstie MacMorrow, Craig Hall as Charlie MacMorrow, and Emmy Award® winner Brian Cox (Nuremberg) plays the adult Angus MacMorrow.

About the Book

When eight-year-old Kirstie brings home a strange egg from the Scottish shore, her family never expects it to hatch. But the next day, Kirstie discovers a baby sea monster swimming in the bathtub! Part horse, part toad, part turtle, and part crocodile, he is the oddest-looking creature Kirstie and her family have ever seen. Only her grandfather knows what the beastie really is—a Water Horse! This lovable creature is the perfect pet. The only trouble is, he can’t stop growing! He gets bigger. And BIGGER. AND BIGGER. Before long, he’s outgrown nearly every loch in sight. Will they ever find a home that’s large enough for their Water Horse?

The Water Horse is by Dick King-Smith, author of Babe: The Gallant Pig.

The Water Horse is set in Scotland. Scotland is part of Great Britain, which is also called the United Kingdom (UK). Scotland is one of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom. England, Wales, and Northern Ireland are the other three countries.

When people think of Scotland, they usually think of bagpipes, kilts, Braveheart, castles, and stories about creatures living in lakes—or lochs as they are known in Scotland. One famous group of lochs in Scotland lie in what is called the Great Glen. The Great Glen is a large valley that seems to cut Scotland along a diagonal line. It runs from the city of Inverness in the north to the town of Fort William in the south. The Great Glen has three lochs, Loch Lochy, the furthest south, then Loch Oich, and then Loch Ness. Loch Ness is the most northern of the three lochs.

Loch Ness is the largest of these three lochs. In fact, Loch Ness is the largest body of fresh water in Great Britain. Loch Ness is nearly twenty-four miles long and between one and one and a half miles wide. At its deepest point it is 754 feet deep. The bottom of the loch is flat. Loch Ness holds more water than all the other lakes in England and Wales put together. Does it also hold the Water Horse?

For additional activities, visit www.walden.com/waterhorse.
Visit www.thewaterhorse.com for group ticket sales information.
Tell us what you think at www.walden.com/whsurvey.

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t is said that long ago, people living around Loch Ness told their children stories of the kelpie to scare the children away from the dark, deep, dangerous waters of the loch. The kelpie, so people said, was a beast who lived in the loch. When it got hungry, the kelpie would leave its watery home and turn itself into a beautiful horse. The horse would wait for someone to climb onto its back. Then it would gallop straight into Loch Ness—and eat its victim!

The first recorded sighting of the kelpie dates back to 565 by Saint Columba. Saint Columba was an Irish missionary. He was preaching in the Scottish Highlands and one day, needed to cross the River Ness. Here, he came upon a group of local people burying one of their friends. The person being buried “had been most savagely bitten by a water beast” while he was swimming. But Saint Columba was still determined to cross the river and asked one of his followers to swim across and bring back a boat moored to the other side. The man did what he was asked. The beast rose from the water with a mighty roar and went to attack the man. But Saint Columba “raised his holy hand and drew the saving sign of the cross in the empty air; and then, invoking the name of God, he commanded the savage beast, and said: “You will go no further. Do not touch the man.” When the beast heard this, it dove down to the depths and was not seen again.

Other reports of strange things seen in the loch can be found, some more believable than others: in 1650, (a questionable account) and then in the 18th (also questionable) and 19th centuries. But it was a sighting in 1933, that was the start of the Loch Ness monster as it is known today. In April 1933 a Mr. and Mrs. Mackay were driving along the side of Loch Ness. A new road around the loch had just been improved. Mrs. Mackay noticed something in the loch. At first she thought it was ducks splashing and fighting. But as she watched she saw a large beast in the middle of the loch, rolling and diving in the water, making a great commotion. The sighting was reported to Alex Campbell, a local water bailiff and a newspaper reporter. (Campbell claimed to have seen the monster at least 18 times.) The story appeared in the newspaper on May 2, 1933, and the Loch Ness monster as we know it today was born.

What’s in the Loch?
Stories that tell about a creature in the deep waters of Loch Ness have been around for a long time. Read some of the stories about the Water Horse and Loch Ness.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
doubtful—not likely to be true, without a basis in fact
credible—believable, possible; very likely to be true
Are these stories doubtful or credible? Why or Why not?

WRITE A STORY ABOUT LOCH NESS
Write your story as someone who is doubtful or as someone who thinks the stories are credible. Illustrate your story. Use this story starter if you need it: You are driving around Loch Ness with your family or with friends on the brand new road. You stop for a picnic lunch. You have walked down alone, through the trees, to the water’s edge. It is a beautiful, sunny day. The water is flat calm. Suddenly, you see something in the water...
lexander Selkirk was a Scottish sailor born in 1676. He went to sea at age 19 to make his fortune. After a few years, Alexander was made a Sailing Master because he was so good at sailing a ship. But Selkirk soon found himself on a ship that he did not like sailing. Its captain liked getting into battles at sea with other ships. After battles with several Spanish ships, Selkirk feared his ship would be sunk during a battle. Selkirk demanded that the captain put him ashore on the next island they came upon.

So in September 1704, Alexander Selkirk was cast away on an uninhabited island (today known as Robinson Crusoe Island) 400 miles off the coast of Chile. Selkirk took with him some clothing, bedding, a musket with gunpowder, some tools, and a Bible. After he came ashore, he read his Bible and waited for someone to rescue him. But with a heavy sadness, Selkirk soon realized that he would be alone on the island for a long, long time. Selkirk tried to make the best of island life. He made friends with rats, cats, and goats to keep him company. On February 1, 1709, two British ships dropped anchor offshore. Selkirk saw this and lit a torch. He waved it wildly at the ships. When a landing party from the ships rowed to shore, they found a “wildman” dressed in goatskins. Alexander Selkirk had spent four years and four months on the island—all by himself.

In 1713 Selkirk published the story of his adventures. Six years later, Alexander Selkirk’s true story was turned into a fictional story by an author named Daniel Defoe. Daniel Defoe called his novel (and its main character) Robinson Crusoe. Robinson Crusoe pretends to tell the “true” story of an English castaway who washes ashore and spends 28 years on a remote island. In Defoe’s novel, Robinson Crusoe meets all sorts of people before he is rescued. The full title of Daniel Defoe’s novel is:

The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe of York, Mariner: who lived Eight and Twenty Years, all alone in an uninhabited Island on the coast of America, near the Mouth of the Great River of Oroonoque; Having been cast on Shore by Shipwreck, wherein all the Men perished but himself. With An Account how he was at last as strangely deliver’d by Pirates. Written by Himself.

Adapted from: “Alexander Selkirk: The Real Robinson Crusoe?” Please see: www.bbc.co.uk/history/scottishhistory/europe/oddities_europe.shtml

Why did they name me “Crusoe”?

The Water Horse is a castaway— that is, “one cast adrift at sea” — because the found egg was washed up on a Scottish beach. Read about another castaway, a man named Alexander Selkirk. After you learn his story, you’ll see why the Water Horse is given the name ‘Crusoe.’
WRITE ABOUT IT!

What would be the hardest thing about being a castaway?

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___________________________________________________________________________________________
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How would you pass the time?

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What do you think went through Alexander Selkirk’s mind when he saw the two ships coming near his island?

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n June 17, 1993, Edna MacInnes and her boyfriend, David Mackay say they watched a creature in Loch Ness for 10 minutes. Miss MacInnes said that the 40 foot long beast waved around its giraffe-like neck. Then it disappeared! Later on the same day James Mackintosh and his son also spotted a brown thing with a neck like a giraffe break the surface of the loch. Mr. Mackintosh remembers that, “It was an eerie experience, it was swimming quite swiftly away from the shore.”

The Edna MacInnes story was grossly misreported. Nonetheless, stories like these are called “eyewitness reports.” They are told by people who claim they saw the Water Horse with their very own eyes. But are they telling the truth? Why would they lie? How can we know? What is good evidence?

There are hundreds of reports by eyewitnesses. There are photographs taken by people who claim to have seen the Water Horse. But some of them are hoaxes. (A hoax is a trick that is done to fool people—like the man who walked around the edge of the loch making “Nessie prints” with a hippo-foot hunting-trophy. And the famous surgeon’s photo that was modeled on a toy submarine by the same family who did the “hippo-foot” hoax! There is the photograph of the Loch Ness monster curling its neck out of the water. But it is really a photograph of a truck tire!)

Sometimes people see what is called an optical illusion. Put your two index fingers together about an inch away from your eyes. Do you see a little hot dog sitting between your two fingers? This is an example of our eyes playing tricks on us, or an optical illusion.

Scientists have used sonar as a way to track the monster’s movements. Sonar is a way to find objects underwater by using sound bouncing off of the object, the way bats use sound to fly around in the dark. Scientists have also turned to nature. They study the water temperature, the depth of the loch, the climate of the area, and other forms of life found in the loch. They want to see if the loch could keep a creature alive.

Millions and millions of people visit Loch Ness in Scotland. They take pictures. They ride boats across the loch. But most of all, they look. They say they would like to believe in the monster. If only—

Adapted from “Searching for Nessie”: www.nessie.co.uk/search3.html.

In April 1934 the most famous photograph of Nessie was obtained by a London surgeon. There is some doubt about whether the photo is real or a hoax.

Evidence—Something that proves or disproves something else; something that makes plain or clear; in a court of law, data that is presented to a court or a jury in proof of facts. This may include eyewitness reports, records, documents, photographs, or objects.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE WATER HORSE

On Tuesday, December 11, 2007, Walden Media celebrates the mystery and the magic of Crusoe, The Water Horse. Join students and teachers across the country to create “eyewitness reports” of Crusoe appearing in local communities.

Visit www.walden.com for more information.

Special thanks to Scotland’s national tourist board VisitScotland for generously donating a trip to Scotland for an educator sweepstakes. Visit www.findthewaterhorse.com for more activities and a chance to win a family trip to Scotland.

BUILD YOUR OWN WATER HORSE

Here is a drawing of Crusoe that was used in making the movie The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep.

In the drawing, about how long (in centimeters) is the Water Horse? You read that on June 17, 1993, Edna MacInnes and her boyfriend David Mackay say they watched a creature in Loch Ness that was about 40 feet long. How long was the creature they believe they saw in centimeters? What will you have to do to find out? Using the measurements here, draw your own Water Horse on butcher-block paper, opened up shopping bags, or large sheets of cardboard from boxes. When you have finished drawing the Water Horse, ask an adult to help you cut out the drawing.

CONVERSION CHART
1 inch = 2.54 centimeters
1 foot = 30.48 centimeters
1 centimeter = .39370 inch

For additional activities, visit www.walden.com/waterhorse.

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UnLoCH the MysteriousNESS to Being a Good Friend

Use these ten words to complete the crossword puzzle.

selflessNESS  kindNESS
forgiveNESS  openNESS
happiNESS  respectfulNESS
helpfulNESS  truthfulNESS
inclusiveNESS  goodNESS

ACROSS
3   Showing care and honor toward
4   Acting to let someone know you forgive them
5   Acting without concern for yourself
6   Friendliness; helpful and thoughtful; showing gentleness
7   Acting in a way that lends a hand or shows support

DOWN
1   Being joyful; full of gladness or cheerfulness
2   The quality of being honest
8   Showing honesty and directness; sincere
9   The quality of being kind and decent or good
10  Acting in a way that makes sure everyone is included

Answers to crossword puzzle can be found at www.walden.com/waterhorse.

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What story would you tell about the Water Horse? Do you want people to believe in the monster? Why or why not? How can you explain something that most people will not see for themselves? What evidence will you put in your exhibition? What kind of information will it have? Where will you get it?


Please see the list of books about the Loch Ness monster on page 13 of this Study Guide.

This activity is adapted from www.lochness.com courtesy of The Loch Ness Exhibition Centre.
ACTIVITY 1
About the Setting: The Great Glen and Its Lochs
English/Language Arts: NCTE/IRA Standard 1: Reading for Perspective
Social Studies: NCSS Standard 3: People, Places, and Environments

ACTIVITY 2
What’s in the Loch?
English/Language Arts: NCTE/IRA Standard 4: Communication Skills
Visual Arts: CNAEA Standard 1: Understanding and Applying Media, Techniques, and Processes

ACTIVITY 3
Where Crusoe Gets Its Name
English/Language Arts: NCTE/IRA Standard 1: Reading for Perspective;
Standard 3: Communication Skills

ACTIVITY 4
What Do You Think?
English/Language Arts: NCTE/IRA Standard 4: Communication Skills
Visual Arts: CNAEA Standard 1: Understanding and Applying Media, Techniques, and Processes
Character Education: Chicago Public Schools Character Standard 6: Honesty and Truthfulness
Mathematics: NCTM Standard NM-MEA.3-5. 1: Understand measurable attributes of objects and the units, systems, and processes of measurement.

ACTIVITY 5
UnLOCH the MysteriousNESS to Being a Good Friend
English/Language Arts: NCTE/IRA Standard 5: Evaluation Strategies
Character Education: Chicago Public Schools Character Standard 1: Caring

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Meet the author of The Water Horse, DICK KING-SMITH

Dick King-Smith was born and raised in Gloucestershire, England. After twenty years as a farmer, he turned to teaching and then to writing children’s books that have delighted readers in this country and on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean too. Dick King-Smith is the author of many books for children, including Mr. Ape, Martin’s Mice, and Babe: The Gallant Pig, which was also made into a major motion picture.

The inspiration for writing The Water Horse came to Dick King-Smith as a result of visiting friends who lived near Loch Ness. “I’d always been fascinated by the concept of a monster somewhere in that enormous loch,” he says. “That’s really where my thinking about The Water Horse started. That and the fact that I’m particularly fond of that part of Scotland. For me, there’s something about the misty, very tranquil sense to that place. I think that is an attractive part of it. If you’re thinking about the sea, well the sea is either calm or rough; lochs one thinks of as tranquil places, with a flat, placid surface that might suddenly be broken by the emergence of a strange-looking head, perhaps. Or a body. Or a tail.”

Other LOCH NESS Books

FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS

Nessie and the Little Blind Boy of Loch Ness

Nessie: the Loch Ness Monster
by Richard Brassley, London: Orion Books, 2003. Fun and wonderfully engaging, the tale is told in a way that should captivate younger readers.

Moray the Dolphin’s Adventure in Loch Ness
by Marit Brunskill, Dalkeith, Scotland: Scottish Children’s Press, October 1998. This is the enchanting story of a bottlenose dolphin called Moray, who lives in the Moray Firth and leaves to visit his good friend, Nessie, the Loch Ness monster!

The Loch Ness Monster: Scotland’s Mystery Beast
by Jack Demolay, New York: Rosen Publishing Group, August 2006. This is a Jr. Graphic Mystery book about the historic sightings and present day efforts to locate this mysterious beast.

FOR OLDER STUDENTS

Loch Ness
by Adrian Shine. The director of the Loch Ness Project weighs in on the subject.

Hamish McHaggis and the Search for the Loch Ness Monster

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