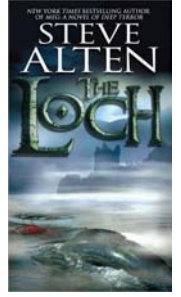


## The Loch

# CURRICULUM & PROJECT IDEAS



Dear Teachers:

One of the goals of the ADOPT-AN-AUTHOR program is to assist teachers by providing a pool of easily accessible curriculum and project ideas. Materials will grow as more teachers e-mail me their ideas over the coming school year. I hope you participate.

**THE LOCH** is a fictional thriller that follows one man's journey into resolving the mystery of the Loch Ness Monster. The science incorporates breaking new thought-provoking evidence straight out of Loch Ness, and the support materials and web sites will really get your students (and adults) thinking. The novel also touches upon the history of Loch Ness and the battle between Scotland and England.

From a grade-level standpoint, **THE LOCH** is recommended for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

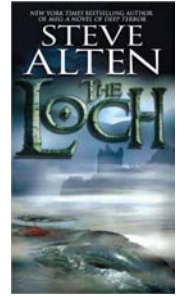
### **The Storyline:**

Loch Ness holds secrets, ancient and deadly. Does a monster inhabit its depths, or is it just a myth? Why, after thousands of reported sightings and dozens of expeditions, is there still no hard evidence?

Marine biologist Zachary Wallace knows, but the shock of his near-drowning as a child on Loch Ness has buried all memories of the incident. Now, a near-death experience suffered while on expedition in the Sargasso Sea has caused these long-forgotten memories to resurface. Haunted by vivid night terrors, stricken by a sudden fear of the water, Zach finds he can no longer function as a scientist. Unable to cope, his career all but over, he stumbles down a path of self-destruction . . . until he receives contact from his estranged father . . . a man he has not seen since his parents divorced and he left Scotland as a boy. Angus Wallace, a wily Highlander who never worked an honest day in his life, is on trial for murdering his business partner. Only Zachary can prove his innocence—if he is innocent—but to do so means confronting the nightmare that nearly killed him seventeen years earlier. Incorporating the latest research and “new evidence” that leads to real answers concerning the monster's identity, best-selling author Steve Alten weaves a tale of horror about the most publicized and controversial creature ever to exist.

One of the best and most unique aspects of the Adopt An Author program is having direct access to a *New York Times* Best-Selling author. I invite your students to e-mail me directly at [MEG82159@aol.com](mailto:MEG82159@aol.com)

All of my novels are part of the ACCELERATED READER program and the SCHOLASTIC READING COUNTS programs.



As a former educator, it is my goal to provide teachers with a very unique program that combines thrilling novels with exciting curriculums and opportunities for students to converse with a best-selling author. I am personally financing this entire venture. This is my commitment to you. All I request is that (once you see the results) you simply spread the word about the program throughout your school and among your peers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or input.

I think you will be impressed!

–Steve Alten

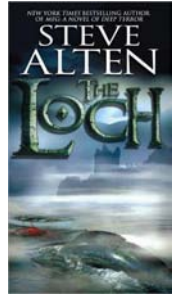
## THE LOCH CURRICULUM MATERIALS

Because students also have access to this section, answer keys for the curriculum will only be provided (at your request) to the teacher's e-mail address registered in the Adopt An Author program.

### **Materials are divided as follows:**

1. Characters
2. Chronological Event Questions
3. Vocabulary
4. True-False Questions
5. Discussion Points
6. Projects
7. Multiple Choice Questions
8. Map of Loch Ness

## THE LOCH – CHARACTERS



### Major Characters:

Zachary Wallace

Angus Wallace

Brandy McDonald

True McDonald

David Caldwell

Max Rael

Alban McDonald

### Minor Characters:

Sheriff Holmstrom

Judge Hannam

Adam Wallace

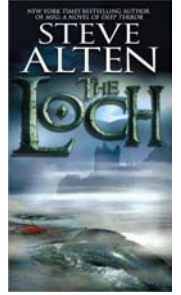
Theresa Cialino

Johnny Cialino

Tiani Brueggart

Calum Forrest

## THE LOCH – CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS



1. Name two qualities that make the Sargasso Sea so unique: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Zachary Wallace was born in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. How large is the giant squid? Feet long: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Zachary discovers the post-trauma of his second near-death experience has caused two major problems: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
5. Zachary is summoned to Scotland by \_\_\_\_\_, his half-brother.
6. Angus is on trial for \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Loch Ness is \_\_\_\_\_ miles long, \_\_\_\_\_ mile(s) wide, and \_\_\_\_\_ feet deep.
8. Angus states that his partner died by \_\_\_\_\_.
9. When the Sheriff takes Zachary to the first attack site, Zachary's real fear is that \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ has committed suicide.
10. Zachary begins his investigation (*choose one*): a) by boat; b) on foot; c) by helicopter \_\_\_\_\_
11. What animal is trying to climb aboard the zodiac? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Who does the Highland Council hire instead of Zach? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What is the water bailiff's name? \_\_\_\_\_
14. To capture the monster, the Council plans to pen off what section of Loch Ness? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. The river that Zach camps by is: \_\_\_\_\_
16. What is Zach searching for? \_\_\_\_\_
17. What species attacks Zach as he is sleeping? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Who saves Zach? \_\_\_\_\_
19. What does Zach find after he examines the species' brain? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. Why does Zach want access to the sonar array? \_\_\_\_\_
21. Angus's name for the monster is: \_\_\_\_\_.
22. What clue does Alban McDonald give Zach to ward off the monster? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

23. What key clue does Zach tell David about getting the sonar array to work? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

24. Who is feeding the monster? \_\_\_\_\_

25. How does David die? \_\_\_\_\_.

26. What does Zach think the monster is? \_\_\_\_\_

27. What does Zach hope to accomplish by diving in Loch Ness? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

28. How does Angus escape from prison? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

29. How do Angus and Alban reach Zach? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

30. Where is Zach trapped? \_\_\_\_\_

31. What object(s) is/are the Templar Knights guarding? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

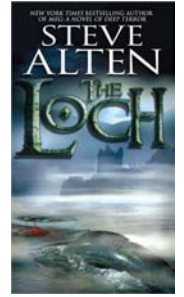
32. What does Zach find that proves Angus to be innocent? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

33. What is the relationship between the Sargasso Sea and the monster? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

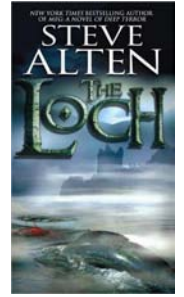
## THE LOCH – VOCABULARY



Page numbers correspond with the paperback version of this book. The words listed appear on those pages, though they may also appear in other places throughout the book.

p. 7	sargassum	p. 166	unison	p. 338	transom
p. 12	adaption	p. 167	aghast	p. 343	lurched
p. 13	metaphor	p. 168	chastised	p. 345	proximity
p. 14	embellishments	p. 174	credentials	p. 350	periphery
p. 17	echolocation	p. 178	environs	p. 352	benign
p. 18	cephalopods	p. 199	luxuriating	p. 360	luminescent
p. 18	phytoplankton	p. 202	crusade	p. 370	proprietor
p. 27	siphonophore	p. 203	recanted	p. 371	extracting
p. 28	mutation	p. 207	solidify	p. 376	contemplating
p. 50	excruciating	p. 211	quaint	p. 379	insinuate
p. 53	obstructing	p. 223	exploiting	p. 386	genocide
p. 54	perspective	p. 226	haggis	p. 394	bizarre
p. 60	capsized	p. 226	incarcerate	p. 400	hypothetically
p. 68	hydrophobia	p. 227	mezzanine	p. 401	strenuous
p. 70	repress	p. 228	cordoned	p. 404	rendezvous
p. 71	consequences	p. 235	validity	p. 411	perimeter
p. 73	night terror	p. 235	tinderbox	p. 414	crofters
p. 77	barrister	p. 239	perceive	p. 415	subsidized
p. 83	sobriety	p. 244	cowering	p. 419	enveloped
p. 85	misconstrued	p. 247	embodiment	p. 430	starboard
p. 86	Gaelic	p. 252	Guivre	p. 432	inverted
p. 89	manipulated	p. 254	nothosaur	p. 435	latticework
p. 91	massacre	p. 265	impact	p. 436	derrick
p. 92	turmoil	p. 267	adjacent	p. 443	teeming
p. 95	ramparts	p. 268	erratic	p. 445	heinous
p. 97	topography	p. 276	treacherous	p. 448	berserk
p. 102	fatigue	p. 278	tarpaulin	p. 473	anomalous
p. 105	prematurely	p. 280	rampage	p. 476	newt suit
p. 116	glistening	p. 282	diverting	p. 477	umbilical
p. 117	mesmerizing	p. 291	emitting	p. 479	appendages
p. 118	reputable	p. 294	exploits	p. 491	traverse
p. 118	subliminal	p. 294	inebriated	p. 493	foliage
p. 129	siege	p. 295	rescinding	p. 497	crevice
p. 130	ricocheting	p. 300	plesiosaur	p. 498	unfathomable
p. 132	lager	p. 305	incessant	p. 508	extinguish
p. 135	melancholy	p. 307	curator	p. 509	invigorate
p. 138	hyperventilated	p. 310	sturgeon	p. 519	oscillating
p. 142	surreal	p. 311	converge	p. 520	gargantuan
p. 149	upheaval	p. 325	tartan	p. 524	hordes
p. 159	lingering	p. 330	tarmac	p. 526	vindicated

## THE LOCH – TRUE–FALSE QUESTIONS



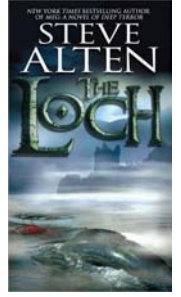
- True  False    1. The Sargasso Sea borders the Bahama islands.
- True  False    2. Giant squids have never been captured nor filmed alive.
- True  False    3. Bloops swim too deep to be whales.
- True  False    4. Hydrophobia is the fear of the deep.
- True  False    5. Night terrors affect REM sleep.
- True  False    6. A social vampire sleeps all day and parties all night.
- True  False    7. The King of Scotland was nicknamed Longshanks.
- True  False    8. The Masons influenced our constitution.
- True  False    9. Angus is being held in a jail cell in Urquhart Castle.
- True  False    10. Zachary refuses to stay with Brandy on her boat because he is afraid of the monster.
- True  False    11. Angus claims the monster ate his partner.
- True  False    12. Zachary wrote a dissertation about Loch Ness, but it was never published.
- True  False    13. Zachary gets migraine headaches whenever he sees the monster.
- True  False    14. Tiani was eaten because she was feeding the creature garbage.
- True  False    15. Zachary walks the shoreline in search of clues.
- True  False    16. The Black Knights are hunting the monster.
- True  False    17. Eels are amphibious fish.
- True  False    18. Zach remembers that sound chased off the monster when he was nine years old.
- True  False    19. The water bailiff tells Zach to search the Moray Firth.
- True  False    20. Zach overcomes his fear of water when Brandy's life is in danger.

## THE LOCH – TRUE–FALSE QUESTIONS

- True  False    21. Zach means to kill the monster when he dives the Loch.
- True  False    22. Aldourie castle is a 21<sup>st</sup> century mansion.
- True  False    23. The Black Knights were protecting the remains of the character (William Wallace) Mel Gibson played in the movie Braveheart.
- True  False    24. Zach figures out the Bloops are the same creatures as Nessie.
- True  False    25. Angus is found guilty, but later is freed.

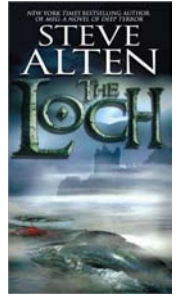


## THE LOCH – DISCUSSION POINTS



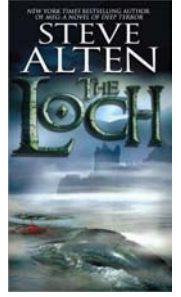
1. Before you read The LOCH, did you believe in the Loch Ness Monster?  
Do you now?
2. According to the theories in the book, Guivres were born in the Sargasso Sea, migrate to fresh water lakes, then return to the Sargasso Sea.
  - A. What other creatures begin life in Loch Ness and eventually return to Loch Ness to spawn?
  - B. What other lake monsters could also be Guivres?
3. Discuss the influences the Templar Knights have had on modern society.
4. Do you think Angus is guilty or innocent?
5. If you were paid \$5 million to prove the Loch Ness Monster was real, how would you go about it?
6. Why do you think the Highlanders want people to believe Nessie is a plesiosaur?
7. Go to <http://www.lochnesstooth.com/> Do you think this is real or a hoax? If you think it is a hoax, how did they do it. If it is real, what does it mean?
8. Why do you think the Highlanders might try to cover up this and/or similar incidents?

## THE LOCH – PROJECTS



1. Create a detailed sketch of a scene in the book.
2. Write a biography on one of the main characters.
3. Discuss Adam Wallace's journal entries..
4. Give a two minute speech about the novel in front of the class.
5. Create a collage based on the novel.
6. Contact the author via e-mail and interview him.
7. Create a book cover design or movie poster.
8. Make a papier mâché a replica of the Loch Ness Monster.
9. Map Loch Ness and the scenes in the novel.
10. Cast characters for The LOCH movie.
11. Plan a trip to Scotland. Where would you want to go? What would you want to see?
12. Website assignments:
  - a) Download images of Loch Ness.
  - b) Write to the author.
  - c) Research the history of sightings of the Loch Ness Monster.
  - d) View a "trailer" for The LOCH at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qf\\_a5sjkK0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qf_a5sjkK0)
  - e) Go to the website: <http://www.lochnesstooth.com/> and write your opinion of what you see.

## THE LOCH – MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS



1. Many ancient ships were destroyed in the Sargasso Sea because of:
  - A. Giant squids
  - B. Sea monsters
  - C. Lack of wind
  - D. Fog
  
2. Zachary Wallace hates discussing Loch Ness because:
  - A. He nearly drowned there.
  - B. He doesn't want to be thought of as a Nessie hunter.
  - C. He hates his father.
  - D. It gives him migraines.
  
3. Zach's psychiatrist advised him to:
  - A. Change jobs.
  - B. Take drugs.
  - C. Drink
  - D. Return to Loch Ness
  
4. Zach hates his father because:
  - A. Angus cheated on his mother.
  - B. Angus was a bad father.
  - C. Angus could be a violent drunk.
  - D. All of the above.
  
5. Zach refuses to stay aboard Brandy's boat because:
  - A. It is not seaworthy.
  - B. The monster is nearby.
  - C. He is a prude.
  - D. He is afraid of the water.
  
6. Angus brought Zach to Scotland because:
  - A. He needed Zach to find the monster.
  - B. He wanted Zach's support.
  - C. He wanted Zach to testify on his behalf.
  - D. All of the above.
  
7. The monster attacks Tiani Brueggart because:
  - A. The Loch ran low on food.
  - B. She was annoying the monster.
  - C. She fell into the water.
  - D. It thought she was a deer.
  
8. Zach finally goes after the monster because:
  - A. He was going to kill himself and grew angry.
  - B. He wanted revenge.
  - C. He wanted to save Angus.
  - D. He wanted to prove himself to Brandy.
  
9. Active sonar fails to find the monster because::
  - A. The Loch is too big and deep.
  - B. The sound chases the monster into its lair.
  - C. Active sonar doesn't work in fresh water.
  - D. The monster is too thin to be detected.
  
10. The monster is:
  - A. A species of giant eel.
  - B. A Guivre.
  - C. A wingless dragon.
  - D. All of the above.

# THE LOCH MAP OF LOCH NESS

