

# Lake legend

## Language

Pronoun reference; conditional use of *should*; verb–noun collocations

## Level

Intermediate to upper intermediate (equivalent to CEF level B2–C1)

## Comment

This lesson is about legendary – and real – creatures living in lakes. It focuses on the recent story of efforts to save a giant turtle in a lake in Vietnam.

## How to use the lesson

- 1 Draw on the board or show the students a picture representing the Loch Ness Monster or a similar legendary creature. Ask them what it is, where it lives and if they believe it could exist. Get them to talk in pairs about any stories they read or seen in films about strange animals.
- 2 Give out the worksheet. Students read the text to complete exercise 1. Encourage them to read quickly to improve their skimming skills. In feedback, consider asking students to summarise the main points of each paragraph.
- 3 Exercise 2 gives detailed reading practice. Encourage students to underline in the text where they found the answer, so that they can explain their answers in feedback.
- 4 Exercise 3 highlights the way the words *this*, *such*, *it* and *its* are used to refer to earlier ideas in a text. This awareness is a key for students at this level to write more coherently and will be especially useful should they go on to write academic essays. As a follow-up exercise, students could find other examples of these and other words which refer to earlier ideas in the text.
- 5 Exercise 4 focuses on the conditional use of *should*. The meaning is a little weaker than *if* – it's rather like 'if, by any chance'. In feedback, encourage the students to say the whole sentences with appropriate intonation. They could also be asked to make up their own sentences like question 3, as the structure is often used in this way to make requests of this type.
- 6 Exercise 5 focuses on verb–noun collocation. As a way of seeing how much of the story they remember, ask students to try to remember the nouns or noun phrases that go with these verbs. Then they can check back and write in the missing noun phrases. For homework, you could ask students to choose four of these expressions and write their own sentences.
- 7 Exercise 6 gives students conversation practice focusing on the theme of the reading. Encourage them to discuss the questions in pairs or small groups and after this ask some students to share their ideas with the class.
- 8 For homework, students could find out more about the how the turtle is getting on (see *Related websites* below). They could also write a letter trying to persuade the other students to join them in cleaning up a lake, river, park etc in their local neighbourhood.

**Answer key**

**1**

1 para 3                      2 para 2                      3 para 4                      4 para 1

**2**

- 1 F (it's an Old English poem about a battle with a sea monster)
- 2 T
- 3 T
- 4 F (its age is not known but it weighs approximately 200 kg)
- 5 T (the grammar of *thought to weigh* was covered in eLesson 61: Saving time)
- 6 T
- 7 F (they are clearing the lake of rubbish in order to clean the water)

**3**

- 1 a story of mysterious creatures living in its deep, dark waters
- 2 a snake-like creature
- 3 this turtle snatched a sword from the hands of a King and returned it to the Gods
- 4 Hoan Kiem Lake
- 5 the turtle
- 6 creatures like the turtle
- 7 should they sicken ...
- 8 the lake

**4**

1 c                      2 d                      3 a                      4 e                      5 b

**5**

- 1 a terrible undersea monster
- 2 road projects
- 3 a sword from the hands of a king
- 4 a remarkable treasure
- 5 its skin
- 6 the resulting wounds
- 7 this warning
- 8 rubbish

**Related websites**

The following websites might be useful, for either yourself or your students.

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-12952474>
- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/mar/04/turtle-hanoi-hoan-kiem-lake>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/09/world/asia/09hanoi.html>
- <http://www.victoriafalls-guide.net/african-mythology.html>
- <http://www.scotland-calling.com/loch-ness-monster.htm>
- <http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/423466/147106>