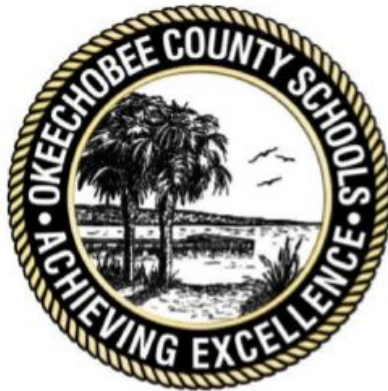


Sixth Grade

ELA & Mathematics

Week 1 Packet



First & Last Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____



Read the scientific account. Use the Study Buddy and Close Reading to guide your reading.



As I read, I'm going to underline clues that help me infer the author's viewpoint about chupacabras.

Close Reading

According to the author, why do people hope that chupacabras are real? **Underline** a sentence that shows the author's explanation.

What examples of new discoveries does the author give? **Underline** the evidence that new creatures have been discovered.

Genre: Scientific Account

Tales of Chupacabras by Cynthia Burnham

- 1 Legend tells of the chupacabra, a monster that sucks the blood of livestock. *Chupacabra* means “goat sucker” in Spanish. For many in the southwestern United States and Mexico, these tales are more than just stories; they have been accepted as fact. In Puerto Rico in 1995, hundreds of livestock fatalities were blamed on the chupacabra.
- 2 Some describe chupacabras as two-legged, lizard-like creatures with claws, spikes, and piercing red eyes. Others insist they are hairless, four-legged creatures that are part kangaroo, part dog, and part rat. Many similar beasts have been brought to labs for DNA testing, but most have been coyotes with mange, a disease that strips animals of fur.
- 3 Why do we want these mythical beasts to be real? Surely not because we want livestock to fall prey to vampires! Perhaps it is because of our natural desire to shed light on the unknown. Scientists constantly identify new life-forms. According to the World Wildlife Federation, more than 1,200 species of plants and vertebrates were discovered in the Amazon rain forest between 1999 and 2009. Given this fact, the idea that undiscovered species could exist empowers our imaginations and gives us hope.
- 4 Although we have explored much of this planet, there are still creatures that lurk in the underbrush, evading recognition. That is a thrilling concept. So even as evidence mounts against the existence of chupacabras, a part of us hopes that one will creep from the shadows and boggle our minds.



Hints

Think about the word choice in each sentence. Which choice helps you infer what the author actually thinks about chupacabras?

Which sentence offers support for why people hope chupacabras are real?

What kinds of life-forms were discovered between 1999 and 2009? What is the author's purpose for including this evidence?

Use the Hints on this page to help you answer the questions.

- 1** A student makes the following claim about the author of "Tales of Chupacabras."

The author believes that chupacabras are imaginary even though she would like to think they exist.

Which sentence from the text best supports this claim?

 - A** "*Chupacabra* means 'goat sucker' in Spanish."
 - B** "Some describe chupacabras as two-legged, lizard-like creatures with claws, spikes, and piercing red eyes."
 - C** "Why do we want these mythical beasts to be real?"
 - D** "Scientists constantly identify new life-forms."
- 2** Which sentence from the text explains why the author thinks people want to believe in chupacabras?

 - A** "For many in the southwestern United States and Mexico, these tales are more than just stories: they have been accepted as fact."
 - B** "Legend tells of the chupacabra, a monster that sucks the blood of livestock."
 - C** "Others insist they are hairless four-legged creatures that are part kangaroo, part dog, and part rat."
 - D** "Perhaps it is because of our natural desire to shed light on the unknown."
- 3** Explain how the examples of recent scientific discoveries support the idea that chupacabras may one day be found. Use details from the text in your explanation.



Read the scientific account. Then answer the questions that follow.

Looking for the Loch Ness Monster

by Stuart Clyburn

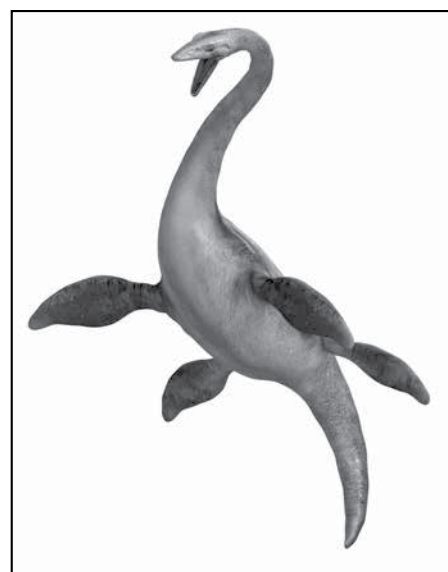
1 The word *loch* is a Scottish Gaelic word for *lake*. And there are a whole lot of lochs in Scotland—more than 500 of them! But one loch, Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands, is known around the world. The reason for its fame is not its great size or beauty. People know the name *Loch Ness* because it is said to be the home of a mysterious, giant creature known as “the Loch Ness monster.” Whether the creature really exists or not has been a matter of great debate for decades.

2 What does “Nessie,” the popular nickname for the monster, supposedly look like? By most accounts, she has a small head on a very long neck. Her body is broad and rounded, with four flippers and a long tail. If you know your prehistoric creatures, you might be thinking: Nessie sounds like a *plesiosaur*, a giant sea reptile that lived hundreds of millions of years ago. One common theory about Nessie is that she actually *is* a plesiosaur. Other explanations for Nessie are far less dramatic. Some people think that the “mysterious” creature people have mistaken for a monster may have been nothing more than a walrus, seal, or eel.

3 How could a creature as big as a plesiosaur hide in a lake? Well, Loch Ness is a huge body of water. It’s the second largest loch in Scotland, based on the surface area of its water. Loch Ness covers more than 21 square miles, and only Loch Lomond is bigger. But if you look at the volume of water, Loch Ness is the biggest. And that’s because it’s deep—about 755 feet at its deepest point. This single loch contains more water than all the freshwater lakes in England. In other words, it’s one big place to hide.

4 Some people who believe in Nessie say that she’s made her home in the region for more than a thousand years. A book written in the seventh century tells about an Irish monk who saw a giant “water beast” in the River Ness in 565 C.E. No one thought much about that story until 1933. A couple was driving home along the loch late one night. They said they were forced to stop when a giant, dragon-like creature crossed the road and slid into the water. Their story appeared in newspapers. Soon, many more people claimed to have seen the monster. The following year, in 1934, a doctor from England took a photo that became famous worldwide. The poorly lit, grainy photo shows what looks like the head and long neck of a plesiosaur-like creature rising from the water. The photo served as “proof” of the monster until 60 years later—when it was revealed to be a fake.

5 Since the 1930s, dozens of serious, scientific searches have been undertaken to find the Loch Ness monster. One early effort involved placing scouts with cameras and binoculars around the loch for five weeks. Later searches relied on the use of sonar. This method involves bouncing sound waves through the deep



an artist's depiction of a plesiosaur



waters of the loch to detect moving objects. In 2003, the famous British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) sponsored one of the most thorough searches ever. Scientists used 600 sonar beams and satellite tracking. What did they find? Nothing of note, really. They concluded that Nessie was a myth.

6 After so many attempts, you have to wonder why people keep looking for the Loch Ness monster. It may just be that there's something exciting about the idea of mysterious creatures living so close to us, always just out of view. There's a word for such creatures: *cryptids*. It comes from a Greek word meaning "to hide." The Loch Ness monster is one of many cryptids that have captured the public imagination. Others include Bigfoot in North America, the Yeti in the Himalaya Mountains, and the chupacabra in the southwestern United States and Mexico.

7 Many animals whose existence we take for granted today might once have been considered cryptids. Komodo dragons and giant squids were once thought to be tall tales. Until 1902, people regarded stories of "giant ape-men" living in Africa as just a myth. Today, we know them as mountain gorillas. The odds of "Nessie" turning out to be real may not be quite as good. But if it were true, we'd all love it, wouldn't we? It's exciting to think that a real live monster lives deep in a loch in Scotland.

1 According to the account, what is one reason many people believe the Loch Ness monster does not exist?

- A** The earliest sighting of the Loch Ness monster occurred in 565 C.E.
- B** The photo taken in 1934 has been proven to be a fake.
- C** Plesiosaurs, like the dinosaurs, lived hundreds of millions of years ago.
- D** Sonar beams and satellite tracking found no evidence in the loch.

2 Which detail provides evidence that a creature as huge as a plesiosaur could really hide in Loch Ness?

- A** Loch Ness has a surface area of 21 square miles and is 755 feet deep.
- B** The Loch Ness monster might actually be an ordinary walrus, seal, or eel.
- C** Dozens of scientific searches of Loch Ness have been conducted.
- D** The Loch Ness monster is known as a cryptid, a word whose root word means "to hide."

Answer Form

1 (A) (B) (C) (D)

2 (A) (B) (C) (D)

3 (A) (B) (C) (D)

4 (A) (B) (C) (D)

**Number
Correct**

4



3 Which statement is **best** supported by the account?

- A** It is illogical to think that a plesiosaur could still be living in Loch Ness today.
- B** Someday, scientists will prove that no giant creatures live in Loch Ness.
- C** Some people want to believe in the Loch Ness monster and ignore scientific evidence showing it does not exist.
- D** People have always been fascinated by the idea of strange creatures such as Bigfoot and the Loch Ness monster.

4 Despite the great interest in the Loch Ness monster, it is highly unlikely that such an animal actually exists. Which sentence from the passage **best** supports this conclusion?

- A** "Whether the creature really exists or not has been a matter of great debate for decades."
- B** "Some people who believe in Nessie say that she's made her home in the region for more than a thousand years."
- C** "Since the 1930s, dozens of serious, scientific searches have been undertaken to find the Loch Ness monster."
- D** "Many animals whose existence we take for granted today might once have been considered cryptids."

5 Some people firmly believe that the Loch Ness monster is actually a plesiosaur. Use at least **three** details from the account to explain why some people believe this.

**Self Check*****Go back and see what you can check off on the Self Check on page 1.***

Understanding Ratio Concepts

➤ **Complete each problem about ratio relationships.**

- 1 Ms. Omar runs the school tennis club. She has a bin of tennis balls and rackets. For every 5 tennis balls in the bin, there are 3 tennis rackets. Draw a model to show the ratio of tennis balls to tennis rackets.

Write the following ratios.

tennis balls to tennis rackets _____

tennis balls to total pieces of tennis equipment _____

- 2 Christian has a collection of 18 shark teeth. He identified them as 6 tiger shark teeth, 8 sand shark teeth, and the rest as bull shark teeth.

What does the ratio 6 : 8 represent in this situation?

What does the ratio 4 : 18 represent in this situation? Explain your reasoning. Include a model in your explanation.

- 3 How are part-to-part ratios different from part-to-whole ratios?

Using Equivalent Ratios

► **Solve each problem.**

- 1 Josie is training for a race. The ratio of the number of minutes she runs to the number of miles she runs is 24 to 3. She plans to run 10 miles. How many minutes will it take her?
-

- 2 A chef planning for a large banquet thinks that 2 out of every 5 dinner guests will order his soup appetizer. He expects 800 guests at the banquet. Use equivalent ratios to estimate how many cups of soup he should prepare.
-

- 3 Fred is making a fruit salad. The ratio of cups of peaches to cups of cherries is 2 to 3. How many cups of peaches will Fred need to make 60 cups of fruit salad?
-

- 4 A community garden center hosts a plant giveaway every spring to help community members start their gardens. Last year, the giveaway supported 50 families by giving away 150 plants. Based on this ratio, how many plants will the center give away this year in order to support 65 families?
-

- 5 The first week of January, there are 49 dogs and 28 cats in an animal shelter. Throughout the month, the ratio of dogs to cats remains the same. The last week of January, there are 20 cats in the shelter. How many dogs are there?
-

- 6 A wedding planner uses 72 ivy stems for 18 centerpieces. When she arrives at the venue, she realizes she will only need 16 centerpieces. How many ivy stems should she use so that the ratio of ivy stems to centerpieces stays the same?
-

Understanding Rate Concepts

- 1 It takes Maya 30 minutes to solve 5 logic puzzles, and it takes Amy 28 minutes to solve 4 logic puzzles. Use models to show the rate at which each student solves the puzzles, in minutes per puzzle.

If Maya and Amy had the same number of puzzles to solve, who would finish first? Explain.

- 2 A garden hose supplies 36 gallons of water in 3 minutes. Use a table of equivalent ratios to show the garden hose's water flow in *gallons per minute* and *minutes per gallon*.

How many gallons of water does the hose supply in 10 minutes? Explain.

Understanding Rate Concepts *continued*

- 3 Max travels to see his brother's family by car. He drives 216 miles in 4 hours. What is his rate in miles per hour? Use a double number line to show your work.

Suppose he makes two stops of 10 minutes each during his journey. Will he be able to reach the town in 4 hours if he keeps the speed the same?

Using Unit Rates to Find Equivalent Ratios

► **Solve each problem. Show your work.**

- 1 Rachel mows 5 lawns in 8 hours. At this rate, how many lawns can she mow in 40 hours?

- 2 A contractor charges \$1,200 for 100 square feet of roofing installed. At this rate, how much does it cost to have 1,100 square feet installed?

- 3 It takes Jill 2 hours to run 14.5 miles. At this rate, how far could she run in 3 hours?

- 4 Bobby catches 8 passes in 3 football games. At this rate, how many passes does he catch in 15 games?

- 5 Five boxes of crackers cost \$9. At this rate, how much do 20 boxes cost?

- 6 It takes a jet 2 hours to fly 1,100 miles. At this rate, how far does it fly in 8 hours?

Using Unit Rates to Find Equivalent Ratios *continued*

- 7 It takes Dan 32 minutes to complete 2 pages of math homework. At this rate, how many pages does he complete in 200 minutes?
- 8 Kendra gets a paycheck of \$300 after 5 days of work. At this rate, how much does she get paid for working 24 days?
- 9 Tim installs 50 square feet of his floor in 45 minutes. At this rate, how long does it take him to install 495 square feet?
- 10 Taylin buys 5 ounces of tea leaves for \$2.35. At this rate, how much money does she need to buy 12 ounces of tea leaves?
- 11 In problem 10, how would your work be different if you were asked how many ounces of tea leaves Taylin could buy with \$10?

Using Unit Rates to Compare Ratios

► **Solve each problem. Show your work.**

- 1 Shawn sells 36 vehicles in 4 weeks. Brett sells 56 vehicles in 7 weeks. Who sells more vehicles per week?

- 2 The table shows the gas mileage of two vehicles. Which vehicle travels more miles per gallon?

Car	Miles	Gallons
Pickup Truck	120	8
Minivan	180	10

- 3 Joe and Chris each have a lawn mowing business. Joe charges \$40 to mow 2 acres. Chris charges \$30 to mow 1.2 acres. Who charges more per acre?

- 4 The table shows the time it took two athletes to run different races. Who ran faster?

Athlete	Seconds	Meters
Ellen	28	200
Lindsay	60	400

Using Unit Rates to Compare Ratios *continued*

- 5 Branden and Pete each play running back. Branden carries the ball 75 times for 550 yards, and Pete has 42 carries for 380 yards. Who runs farther per carry?

- 6 The table shows the price of two cereal brands and the number of ounces per box. Which is the better price per ounce?

Cereal	Ounces	Price
Brand A	18	\$2.50
Brand B	24	\$3.50

- 7 Describe two different ways you could change the values in the table so that the answer to problem 6 is different.

Using Unit Rates to Convert Measurements

► **Solve each problem. Show your work.**

- 1 Susan has a 12-inch board for constructing a wooden chair. The directions say to use a board that is 29 centimeters long. Is her board long enough to cut?
(1 inch = 2.54 centimeters)

- 2 Kevin uses 84 fluid ounces of water to make an all-purpose cleaner. The directions call for 4 fluid ounces of concentrated soap for every 3 cups of water. How many fluid ounces of soap should he use? (1 cup = 8 fl oz)

- 3 Shannon test-drives a car in Germany and drives 95 kilometers per hour. What is her speed in miles per hour? (1 kilometer \approx 0.62 mile)

- 4 Keith works 8 hours per day for 5 days per week. Melba works 2,250 minutes each week. Who spends more time at work?

Using Unit Rates to Convert Measurements *continued*

- 5 Jason runs 440 yards in 75 seconds. At this rate, how many minutes does it take him to run a mile? (1 mile = 1,760 yards)
- 6 Boxes of granola are on sale at a price of 2 for \$4.50. There are 12 ounces of granola in each box. What is the unit price in dollars per pound?
- 7 Sam is delivering two refrigerators that each weigh 105 kilograms. There is an elevator with a weight limit of 1,000 pounds. Can he take both refrigerators on the elevator in one trip? (1 kilogram \approx 2.2 pounds)
- 8 For every 140 feet that Kelly rides on her bicycle, the wheels turn 20 times. About how many times do the wheels turn in 5 miles? (1 mile = 5,280 feet)