



STING

BEFORE YOU READ

What do you know about Sting? Can you name any of his records?

STING

Gordon Matthew Sumner was born in 1951 in Newcastle-on-Tyne in the north of England. After quite a strict education, young Gordon himself became a teacher. At the same time, he taught himself the guitar, playing Beatles and Rolling Stones hits. He then began to play with several small groups. He often wore yellow and black striped T-shirts which earned him the nickname 'Sting' since people thought he looked like a wasp!

In 1976, Sting went to London to try his luck. One year later, he and Stewart Copeland formed 'Police'. The group has now disappeared, but their successes such as Roxanne, Can't stand losing you, and Message in a bottle, have become classics. Sting's first solo was Spread a little happiness in 1982. In 1983, Police made their last tour together with the album Synchronicity, which contained hits such as Every breath you take and Wrapped around your finger. It was Number 1 in the United States and Great Britain. When the group split up, Sting started his career as an actor in David Lynch's film Dune.

Around 1980, long before the idea became fashionable, Sting created an association called Outlando's Trust for the underprivileged. He then took part in the Amnesty International tour with Phil Collins, Eric Clapton and others. He made his political position clear, for example, in 'Invisible Sun' about Northern Ireland.

In 1985, Sting took part in the Live Aid concert at Wembley to help collect money in aid of famine victims in Ethiopia. This was followed by the Band Aid record 'Do they know it's Christmas?' The group Police came back together again for three concerts in the United States for Amnesty International. At the end of 1986, Sting—solo again—took part in the Amnesty Conspiracy of Hope tour with Bob Dylan, Peter Dinklage, and U2.

He went on to make records in aid of the disabled. He opened the show for the liberation of Nelson Mandela at Wembley in 1988, and toured for Amnesty in 'Human Rights Now' with Bruce Springsteen, Tracy Chapman and Youssou N'Dour. Sting then disappeared from the world of music to devote his time to the struggle for the Amazonian Rainforest with Chief Raoni. The Rainforest Association, that he helped to found, now has offices all over the world.

In 1991, Sting released the album The Soul Cages. His career as a musician had been relaunched. Since then, he has continued to combine music with his other preoccupations—acting, ecology, concern for human rights. He shows no signs of slowing down.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

☞ Answer the questions:

- Where did Gordon Sumner get his nickname from?
- Which successful group was Sting a member of?
- What other career has Sting been involved in, apart from music?
- What has Sting done in support of Human Rights?
- What has Sting done in support of ecology?

VOCABULARY

☞ Find words that mean the following:

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|
| a. varios | b. avispa | c. éxito | d. de moda |
| e. marginados | f. hambre | g. discapacitados | h. lucha |

GRAMMAR

☞ Write the missing words:

Sting trained become a teacher and played guitar in his spare time. He played the group Police but later left group and went solo. He has had very varied career which has included acting and work defence of Human Rights. He has worked favour of ecological groups and has lent his name many good causes. Despite all this activity, he has also managed get married and have several children!



NESSIE, THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

PRE-READING TASKS

- 1.— Have you ever seen a monster or a strange creature? Explain.
- 2.— How would you react if you saw a monster?
- 3.— Where is Loch Ness and why is it famous?

NESSIE, THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

Loch ('lake' in Scottish) Ness is situated in Scotland. It is 36 Kms long and between 2 - 4 Kms wide. It is also very deep, nearly 230 metres at its deepest point.

Some people say there is a monster called "Nessie" living in Loch Ness. For centuries there have been sightings of large animals in the lake. As early as 565 AD, Saint Columba said he saw a monster in the lake. People also saw monsters or "floating islands" in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Many people today do not believe there is a monster in Loch Ness, but many others think it is real. Some even say that the monster could be the devil himself.

A road to the lake was opened in 1933. Many people could then visit the area, which became a popular tourist attraction. Since that time, more than 4,000 people claim they have seen the creature. There are photographs, films and even recordings of the sounds made by Nessie under the water which suggest that the monster exists.

Mr Campbell, a man who has observed the lake for over 50 years and says he has seen the monster many times, described it as "a huge animal with a small head, a thin six-foot long neck, a big hump, about 30 feet long from nose to tail, and dark brown or grey-black in colour".

During the Second World War, an Italian newspaper reported that a bomb attack on the lake had killed the beast.

Every year more and more people claim they have seen Nessie. The monster usually appears in calm sunny weather. Perhaps this is because Nessie wants to get a sun-tan!

Some people say they have seen not one but several creatures. A £100,000 underwater camera took photographs of large animals twelve separate times in August 1972. So it could be that there is a group of these animals in the lake.

Many unanswered questions remain. How did the creatures get into the loch? How did they survive for so many years? Why haven't any dead monsters been found? However, one thing is sure; there is something very strange in Loch Ness.

MATCH COLUMN A AND COLUMN B

A

- 1.— Saint Columba saw the monster
- 2.— A road leading to Loch Ness was opened
- 3.— Nessie is
- 4.— Loch Ness is

B

- a.— about 30 feet from one end to the other.
- b.— 230 metres deep.
- c.— in the 6th century.
- d.— in the thirties.

MAKE A QUESTION

The underlined part is the answer.

- 1.— Nessie lives in Loch Ness.
- 2.— 4000 people have seen the monster.
- 3.— Loch Ness is 36 kms long.
- 4.— In August 1972 a camera found animals in the lake.
- 5.— People believe in Nessie because they have seen pictures.

FIND THE SYNONYMS

A

- 1.— loch
- 2.— monster
- 3.— believe
- 4.— picture
- 5.— huge
- 6.— large
- 7.— popular

B

- a.— well-known
- b.— photograph
- c.— enormous
- d.— big
- e.— think
- f.— lake
- g.— beast

SAY WHETHER THESE SENTENCES ARE TRUE OR FALSE

- 1.— People described the monster as a floating island in the past.
- 2.— You can see Nessie when it is foggy and rainy.
- 3.— Scientists have not found any evidence of the existence of Nessie.
- 4.— Nessie was seen for the first time in the 16th century.



THE HISTORY OF SURFING

PRE-READING TASKS

1. Which sports do you practise?
2. Have you ever practised surfing?
3. How do you think surfing originated?

THE HISTORY OF SURFING

Surfing, the sport of riding breaking waves on a surfboard, originated in prehistoric times in the South Seas. The sea was the most important force in the lives of the people of Hawaii and the other islands of the Pacific Ocean. It had strong religious and social connotations. From the 15th century onwards, surfing was important because it showed that one could "master" the sea. There were many competitions and challenges to the death between rival chiefs.

The British captain James Cook was one of the first foreigners to see surfing when he went to Hawaii in 1778. He was very impressed by this spectacular sport and Europeans were fascinated by the stories the sailors brought home. The reaction of the first missionaries to Hawaii, however, was quite different. They did not approve of surfing and actually banned it in 1821. But, despite the efforts of the missionaries, the Hawaiian people never abandoned the sport. Important people made elaborate boards of solid wood; young boys surfed on banana trunks.

In 1920 a famous Hawaiian swimmer called Duke Kahanamoku started the first surfing club in Waikiki. He gave surfing demonstrations all round the USA and in Australia - on a solid wood board that weighed 60 kilos! He was universally loved and admired. When he died in 1968, the sport was popular all over the world.

The International Surfing Federation was founded in 1962 in Peru and world championships have been held since then in North America, Peru, Hawaii, South Africa and Australia.

Today surfing has become a way of life. It has its music, its clothes, its hi-tech equipment, its new champions. The original Hawaiian surfers would be surprised at the modern clothes and equipment but one thing has not changed: the magic of the perfect wave.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

☞ Answer these questions:

- Where did surfing originate?
- How was surfing used by rival chiefs?
- How did the first missionaries react to surfing?
- How did surfing become popular in countries like Australia and America?

VOCABULARY

☞ Which sports are the following words related to?

- court.
- course.
- track.
- field.
- pool.

GRAMMAR

☞ Fill in the blanks with the prepositions from the box:

FOR FROM TO IN BY OF AT

- She was impressed their determination.
- As a result his indecision, they lost a lot of time.
- Mr Green tried hours to persuade his wife to change her mind.
- Surfing was also popular the Middle Ages.
- He decided to study English intensively October June.
- The first time he got a plane was when he went to Paris.