Today in 1874

MAY 10

a giant squid reportedly attacked a 150-ton ship and dragged it to the ocean's depths.

- A giant squid over 55 ft. (17 m) long was washed up in New Zealand in 1887. Its tentacles were each 50 ft. (15 m) long.
- The Kraken is a mythical Norwegian squid, supposedly over 1.2 miles (2 km) long. It was said to disguise itself as an island and then eat unsuspecting sailors who landed there.
- The squid is a mollusk, just like the octopus, nautilus, and cuttlefish.

Word of the day

tentacle A long, flexible appendage that is used for grasping or movement; from the Latin *temptare* (to handle, or try).

Imagine...

The island you've landed your small boat on is rather peculiar. It's grey, smooth, and treeless. Still, your boat does need repairs after last night's storm. You decide to rest first on a large rock, but you don't feel comfortable; it's as though someone or something's watching you. Then the rock—blinks! Complete the story as a cartoon strip.

Quote of the day

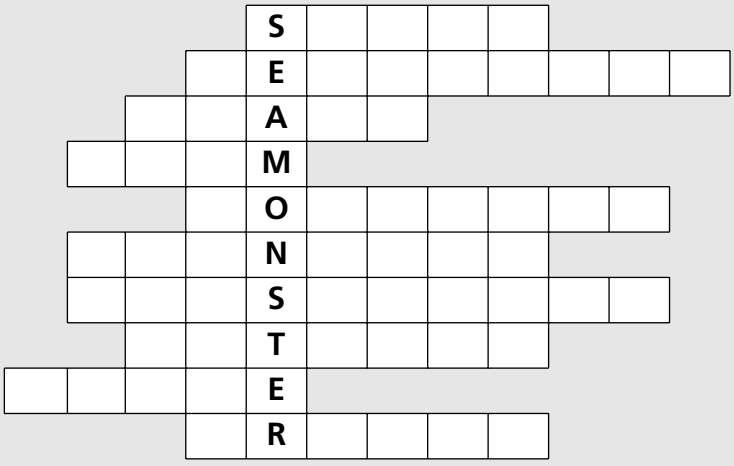
Below the thunders of the upper deep;
Far, far beneath in the abysmal sea,
His ancient, dreamless, uninvaded sleep
The Kraken sleepeth.

Lord Tennyson

Activity of the day

Spot the Sea Monster!

If you're going to survive on the seven seas, you'll need to be able to identify and name these creatures (mythical AND real) of the deep.



common fast-moving, ten-armed mollusk
the largest mythical monster
a carnivorous marine fish with tough skin
giant burrowing marine mollusk
home of the mythical Scottish sea serpent
large venomous ray with barbed spines
a snake-like sea monster
eight-legged sea creature
huge marine mammal
mythical Norwegian seamonster

Answers: squid, leviathan, shark, clam, Loch Ness, stingray, sea-serpent, octopus, whale, kraken