

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Synthesis

**Directions:** Read "Hunting a Monster" and "Monster of the Deep." Then follow the directions below to prepare for the writing prompt on page 25.

**Part 1:** The writer J.R.R. Tolkein said, "I believe that legends and myths are largely made of 'truth.'" What did Tolkein mean?

**Part 2:** Fill in the boxes below with information that supports the idea that there is "truth" behind the fantastical creatures mentioned in "Hunting a Monster" and "Monster of the Deep." Be sure to cite your sources. We filled in one box for you.

## Bigfoot

## The Kraken

### **The Dragon**

- Stories of dragons may have been inspired by fossils of real prehistoric creatures such as dinosaurs. Also, ancient peoples may have seen crocodiles and thought they were the dragons about which they had heard stories ("Hunting a Monster," 22).

### **The Mermaid**

### **The Loch Ness Monster**