

Journey To The Centre of The Earth



By

Jules Verne

**A Novel Study
by Joel Michel Reed**

Journey To The Centre of The Earth

By Jules Verne



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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on three or four chapters of *Journey To The Centre of The Earth* and is comprised of five of the following activities:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language Activities
5. Extension Activities

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the units activities are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

- Students can work on the activities at their own pace.
- Every activity need not be completed by all students.
- A **portfolio cover** is included (Page Seven) as well as a **Checklist** (Page Six) to keep a record of completed work.

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. Students will also be expected to provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations. It is critical as well that students be able to relate events and the feelings of characters to their own lives and experiences and describe their own interpretation of a particular passage.

A strength of the unit is that students can work on the activities at their own pace. Select different activities from each section. Every activity need not be completed by all students.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *anagrams*
7. Use of singular / plural nouns
8. Listing compound words
9. Identifying parts of speech
10. Determining alphabetical order
11. Identify *personification*
12. Identify/create *similes*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Identify *cliffhangers*
5. Identify the climax of the novel.

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Complete a character comparison
3. Relating personal experiences

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research assignment
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Write an author biography
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete an observation sheet
9. Write a short story
10. Decipher a series of cryptograms

Art Activities

1. Create a storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Create a mural
4. Design a cover for the novel
5. Create a comic strip
6. Tell (and Draw) it Like it Is

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Synopsis

Once an ancient book is opened by the eccentric Professor Lidenbrock, his life – and the life of his nephew Axel – is changed forever. An old piece of paper has tumbled from the book: a priceless parchment that will lead them on an incredible adventure. So begins a voyage thousands of feet under the sea as the pair embark on a terrifying journey to find what lies at the centre of the earth. (Courtesy of Puffin Classics)

A complete synopsis and other helpful reviews can be found on the following website:

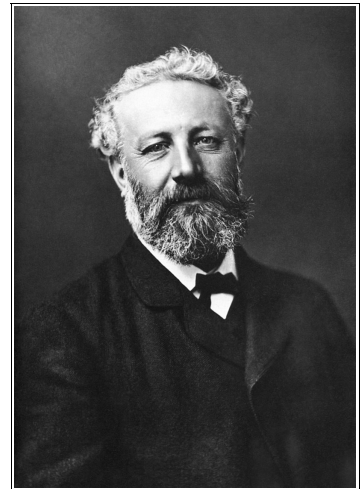
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journey_to_the_Center_of_the_Earth

Author Biography

Jules Verne

Jules Gabriel Verne - 8 February 1828 – 24 March 1905) was a French novelist, poet, and playwright.

Verne was born to bourgeois parents in the seaport of Nantes, where he was trained to follow in his father's footsteps as a lawyer, but quit the profession early in life to write for magazines and the stage. His collaboration with the publisher Pierre-Jules Hetzel led to the creation of the ***Voyages extraordinaires***, a widely popular series of scrupulously researched adventure novels including ***Journey to The Center of The Earth*** (1864), ***Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea*** (1870), and ***Around The World In Eighty Days*** (1873).



Biography courtesy of Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules_Verne

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Student Checklist

Student Name _____

Assignment	Grade / Level	Comments

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Name: _____

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Chapters 1-4



Before you read the chapter:

The **antagonist** in most novels features a character who is recognized as the “bad guy”. What do you think makes for an especially interesting **antagonist**?



Vocabulary:

The reader is introduced to a number of unique words and phrases in our novel. Draw a straight line to connect the vocabulary word to its definition. Remember to use a straight edge.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Impatient | A. Having an uncooperative attitude towards authority or discipline. |
| 2. Empathetic | B. Showing a lack of respect for people, or religious traditions. |
| 3. Formidable | C. Showing an ability to understand and share the feelings of another. |
| 4. Recalcitrant | D. The natural colour, texture, and appearance of a person's skin |
| 5. Infirmary | E. A text written in code. |
| 6. Complexion | F. Having a tendency to be quickly irritated or provoked. |
| 7. Meticulous | G. A stiff, flat, thin material made from the skin of an animal. |
| 8. Irreverent | H. Physical or mental weakness. |
| 9. Parchment | I. Showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise. |
| 10. Cryptogram | J. Inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable. |

Questions



1. Briefly describe the setting of our story as Chapter One begins.

2. Circle the correct narrative that our novel follows, and the reason for your choice.

First Person Second Person Third Person

3. What was Otto Lidenbrock's job at the Johannaemum?

4. In your own words, how would you describe Otto's personality?

5. According to Otto, who was Arne Saknussemm?

6. Why was Axel hesitant to share the secrets of the document with his uncle?

Language Activity



A. Chapter Four contained a literary devices called a **cliffhanger**. A cliffhanger usually occurs at the end of a chapter when the author leaves the reader in suspense. How is this true in Chapter Four? Why do you think the author ended the chapter this way?



B. PERSONIFICATION is giving human qualities to something that is not human. The following is an example of personification taken from Chapter Two: "*Faced with this difficulty, he was obviously going to lose his temper, and I was steeling myself for a violent scene when the little clock on the mantelpiece struck two.*"



Why do you think personification is a popular literary device used by many authors?

Create your own example of personification.

C. The Eight Parts of Speech

Find at least two examples of each of the eight parts of speech from these chapters and list them in the appropriate section of the chart below.



Interjections	
Nouns	
Pronouns	
Conjunctions	
Prepositions	
Adjectives	
Adverbs	
Verbs	

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Chapters 5-7



Before you read the chapter:

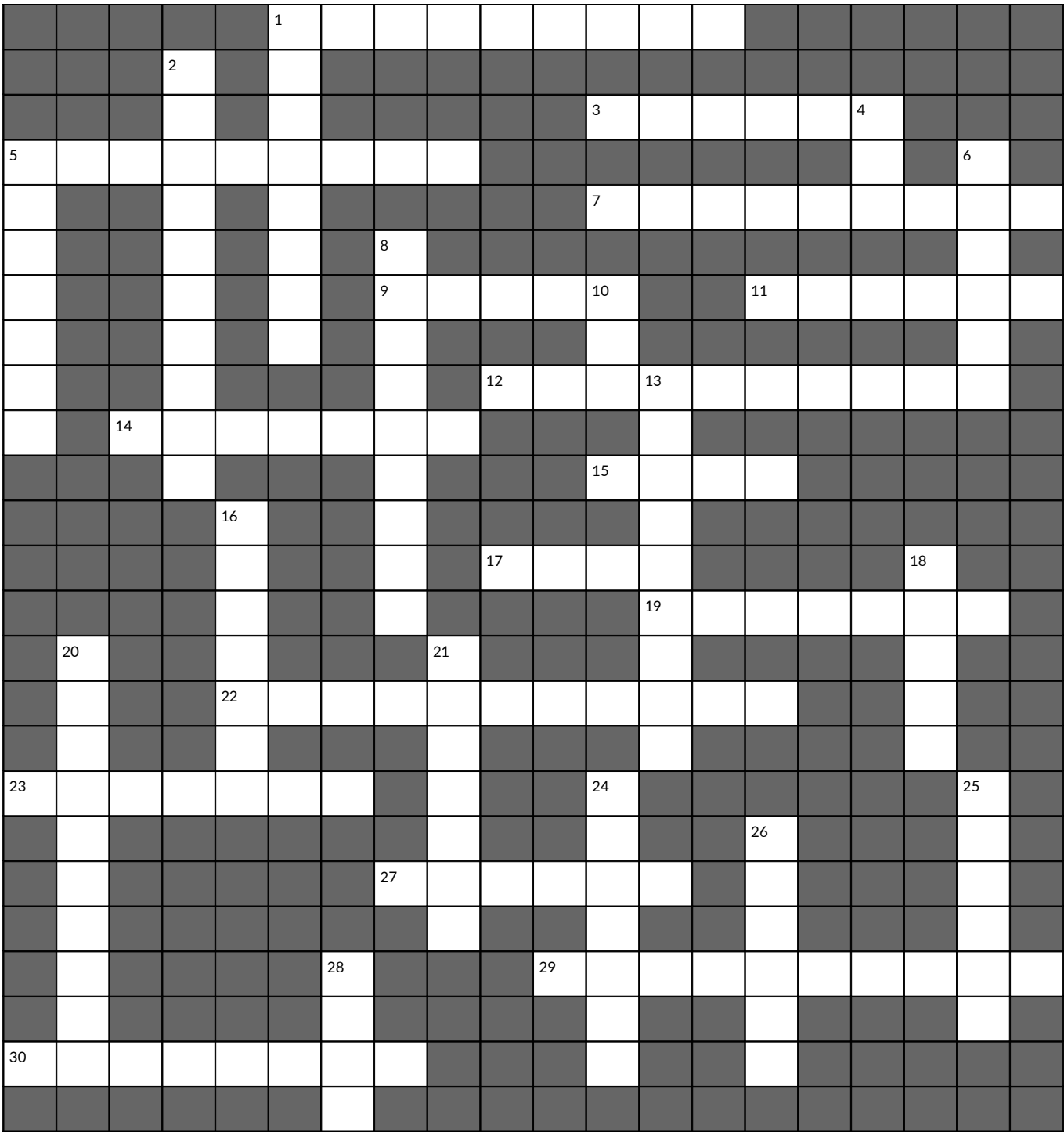
The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. What do you think makes for an especially interesting **protagonist**?



Vocabulary:

All of the words in this Crossword Puzzle are taken from our novel. Use the words in the box to complete the puzzle. (Try not to look at the answers at the bottom of next page!)

ACROSS	DOWN
1. A stiff, flat, thin material made from the skin of an animal, and used as a writing surface.	1. A precious metal with the symbol <i>Pt</i> .
3. A person with exceptional intelligence.	2. A pair of glasses.
5. An unconventional or strange person.	4. A large expanse of salt water.
7. Also referred to as a co-worker.	5. An animal no longer in existence.
9. A mechanical device used to tell time.	6. A building in which objects of historical, scientific, or artistic interest are exhibited.
11. A written, typed, or printed communication.	8. A person who has expert knowledge of one or more of the natural or physical sciences.
12. A text written in code.	10. A device used to open locks.
14. The home nation of Professor Lidenbrock.	13. An instructor at a university or college.
15. A combustible black or dark brown rock consisting chiefly of carbonized plant matter.	16. A large cone-shaped mountain.
17. An alcoholic drink made from grape juice.	18. The brother of one's father or mother.
19. A person who performs duties for others.	20. A trip taken for a particular purpose.
22. The study of history through excavation.	21. The person in command of a ship.
23. The science which deals with the physical structure and substance of the earth.	24. An island nation located in the North Atlantic Ocean. Capital city: Reykjavik.
27. A precious metal with the symbol <i>Ag</i> .	25. An idea intended to explain something.
29. A room or building used for experiments.	26. The official language of Israel.
30. A large volcano located in Iceland.	28. A precious metal with the symbol <i>Au</i> .



Questions



1. What drove Axel to reveal the secrets of the document to his uncle?

2. How did the Professor react when Axel expressed his doubts about the document?

3. Describe the significance of the following statement made by the Professor: *“Science is eminently perfectible, and each new theory is soon disproven by a new one.”*

4. What objection did Axel present to the Professor in regards to traveling deep below the surface of the earth? How did the Professor respond?

b. Do you think the Professor's theory of the centre of the earth has any scientific merit? Be sure to defend your answer.

Language Activities



A. The following is a list of novels written by the author of *Journey To The Centre of The Earth*, Jules Verne. Your task is to unscramble the letters in order to reveal the titles of each novel.

Scrambled Novel Title	Unscrambled Novel Title
NEJRUOY OT ETH NRTEENC FO ETH HEART	JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH
ORFM ETH RAEHT OT ETH NOMO	
ENETTH HSUNODTA GSULDEEA DURNE HTE ASE	
NORUAD HET LDWOR NI TYEIHG YDAS	
HET SMRISYTUOE DLASIN	
HTE MAEST USHEO	
HITEG DHRUEDN UELSGEA NO TEH ZANMAO	
SVIANNOI FO HET AES	
EHT NHEVASDI ODMIADN	
NI RCESAH FO EHT AYSCTAWSA	

B. Copy out any three sentences from these chapters and underline the **verbs** and circle the **adverbs**.

Extension Activity



Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the last several chapters of *Journey To the Centre of The Earth*. You may wish to practice on a separate piece of paper.



1	2
3	4
5	6