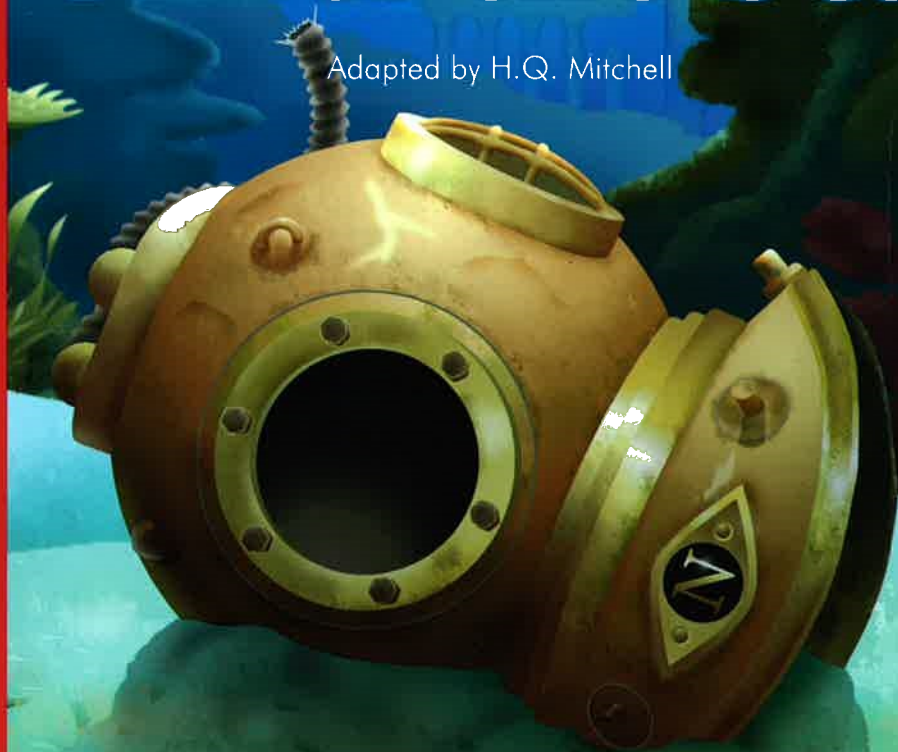


TOP READERS

JULES VERNE

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

Adapted by H.Q. Mitchell



level

2


mm publications

Introduction

Jules Verne (1828-1905) was born and raised in the port of Nantes in France. He was an enormously popular author who is considered the founding father, along with H.G. Wells, of science fiction. He was noted for writing about space, air and underwater travel well before they became commonplace. Without a scientific education or his own experience as a traveller, Verne spent much of his time researching material for his books. His unlimited imagination took his readers on a voyage to the moon in *From the Earth to the Moon* or in another direction as in *A Journey to the Centre of the Earth*. Both books were hugely successful with readers.

In *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, Jules Verne combined science and invention into fast paced adventure. In this, one of his most famous works of fiction, he introduced the amazing character of Captain Nemo and his elaborate submarine, the Nautilus. *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* is a great, adventurous tale of three men imprisoned on a magical submarine that crosses all the world's seas. Before they free themselves from the mysterious Captain Nemo, they have numerous fantastic adventures at sea. It is a story both of survival and of man's battle to overcome the forces of nature.

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea is considered one of Jules Verne's masterpieces. It has been made into a film several times. The most famous of these is the Walt Disney version in 1954, starring Kirk Douglas as Ned Land and James Mason as Captain Nemo.

Contents

Chapter 1.....	4
Chapter 2.....	7
Chapter 3.....	10
Chapter 4.....	13
Chapter 5.....	16
Chapter 6.....	20
Chapter 7.....	24
Chapter 8.....	28
Chapter 9.....	32
Chapter 10.....	36
Activity Section.....	41
Chapter 1.....	42
Chapter 2.....	44
Chapter 3.....	46
Chapter 4.....	48
Chapter 5.....	50
Chapter 6.....	52
Chapter 7.....	54
Chapter 8.....	56
Chapter 9.....	58
Chapter 10.....	60

CHAPTER 1

IT WAS THE SUMMER OF 1866, WHEN SOME STRANGE EVENTS in the oceans frightened people all over the world. Those who worked at sea were especially worried. There were rumours about “an enormous thing”, a huge sea monster which appeared near ships in different places. Nobody had ever seen anything like it before. The creature was as long as two hundred feet and moved extremely quickly – one day it was spotted off the coast of Australia, and three days later, it was seen more than 2,000 nautical miles away! Some time later, there was news of a collision between the monster and a ship and, six months after that, something very disturbing happened – the creature hit two ships in the Atlantic!

On both occasions the passengers were saved but the public became very angry and frightened because of what had happened. Travel between Europe and the United States was no longer safe. The American government decided to take action and gave orders to find the creature. The best American warship, the *Abraham Lincoln*, was soon armed under the command of Captain Farragut and prepared to leave for the North Pacific where the creature was last seen.

Dr Pierre Aronnax, who was in New York at the time, received an invitation to join the expedition. Dr Aronnax was a well-known scientist, a lecturer at the Museum of Paris and an expert on Natural History. He accepted immediately as he did not want to miss this opportunity. After all, he had already published an article, suggesting that the creature was probably a huge narwhal, and he wanted to see if his theory was true. His faithful servant, Conseil, followed him on all his journeys and he was to go on this one as well. Conseil also knew a lot about science and was very helpful to Dr Aronnax. Best of all, he never complained about anything. They quickly packed their luggage and rushed to board the ship. The ship was to set sail in twenty-four hours. Captain Farragut was expecting them.

“Welcome aboard, Professor. Your cabins are ready,” he said.



The ship's interior was nice and they were pleased with the size of their cabins.

"We will be very comfortable here", Dr Aronnax said to Conseil.

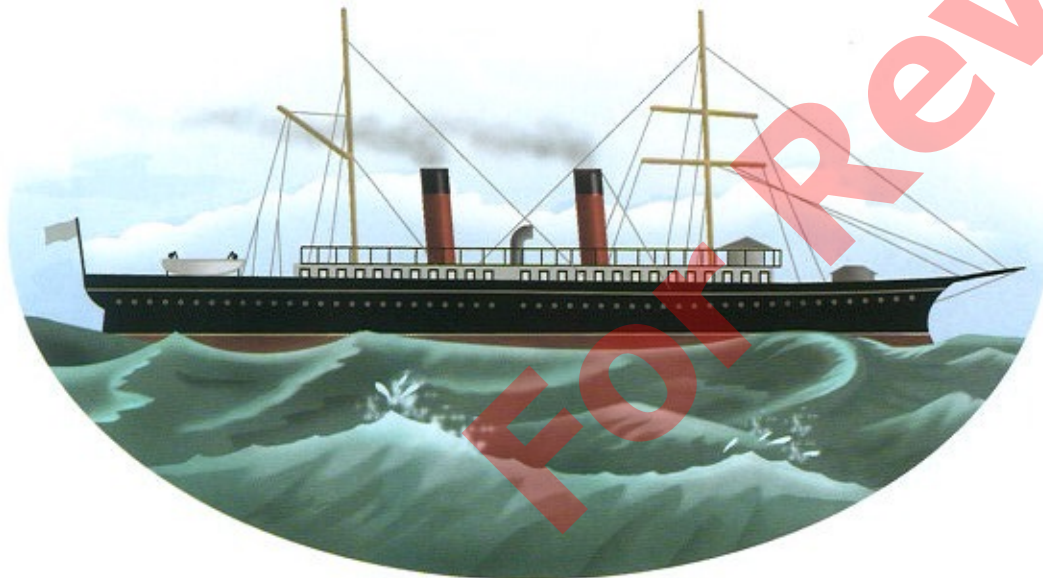
"If it pleases Monsieur, then it pleases me", Conseil cheerfully replied.

At that moment, Captain Farragut ordered his crew to cast off. He was anxious to reach the open seas and find the creature. He sent for his engineer.

"Are you ready to go?" he asked him.

"Yes sir", the engineer replied.

"Go ahead then. Full steam!" said the captain and the engineer gave the order to the engine room. The departure of the *Abraham Lincoln* was a big event for thousands of people. The huge warship sailed out of the harbour to the cheers of the crowd. An amazing adventure began as the cheers faded and the *Abraham Lincoln* sailed away into the dark waters of the Atlantic.



CHAPTER 2

NOT EVERYBODY BELIEVED DR ARONNAX'S THEORY ABOUT the giant narwhal, but Captain Farragut was not one of them. This fine sailor had no doubt that the sea monster existed and he had sworn to kill it. His crew, all of them strong and experienced seamen, shared their Captain's view and were anxious to find the creature. The ship had the best equipment, from harpoons to exploding bullets, but best of all, it had Ned Land on board. Ned was a Canadian with a sharp eye and a strong arm and he was the best harpooner on earth. He was a big man who spoke very little and he could become very angry if someone did not agree with him. Of all the men on board, Ned Land was the only one who didn't believe the creature really existed.

"Tell me", Dr Aronnax asked him one day, "why don't you believe there is a sea monster?" The two men had become good friends during the many days at sea.

“I have harpooned many whales and I have seen many sea animals. None were powerful enough to damage the iron plates of a ship”, answered the Canadian. As much as they argued, Ned wouldn’t change his mind.

Days passed and then months, and the ship sailed from the Atlantic to the Pacific. However, there was no sighting of the creature. The crew became tired and restless and wanted to give up the search and return home. Captain Farragut was in a difficult position.

“I promise you that if we don’t find the monster in three days, we will head for the Atlantic and go back home”, he told his men. The crew cheered and agreed to continue for three more days. It was 5 November and they had been sailing for over four months.

Two days went by and they didn’t see the monster. The third day found the *Abraham Lincoln* off the coast of Japan, with the crew silently watching the horizon. As night was falling, a voice cried out.

“Ahoy! There it is at last!” It was the voice of Ned Land.

Then he turned to Aronnax and said, “I guess I was wrong after all. The sea monster does exist.”

Everybody came running towards Ned and looked at what he was pointing at. In the darkness, they saw something long swimming in a strange blue light below the surface of the sea.

A minute later, they all started shouting. “It’s moving! It’s coming straight at us!”

The creature came nearer, circled the ship and then suddenly disappeared! The men were amazed. All night long the crew was on their feet – nobody thought of sleeping. The next morning the creature appeared again. Now they could see it more clearly.

“It’s over 250 feet long”, shouted Dr Aronnax in excitement. At that moment, two jets of water shot up out of the sea at a great height. The creature was waiting for the men’s reactions. The crew was waiting for the Captain’s orders. A battle was about to begin.

“Full steam ahead!” ordered Captain Farragut.



CHAPTER 1

Comprehension

1 Choose a, b or c to answer the following questions.

- How long was the monster?
 - 2,000 feet
 - 6 feet
 - 200 feet
- Who was Dr Pierre Aronnax?
 - Captain of the *Abraham Lincoln*
 - A well-known scientist
 - The ship's engineer
- What did Dr Aronnax do before boarding the *Abraham Lincoln*?
 - He wrote an article
 - He packed his bags
 - He asked to see his cabin
- Who watched the *Abraham Lincoln* leave?
 - The mysterious creature
 - Dr Aronnax's assistant, Conseil
 - A lot of people

2 Read the sentences. Write T for True and F for False in the boxes.

- The creature didn't travel very quickly.
- The *Abraham Lincoln* was a warship.
- Dr Aronnax gave Conseil an invitation to join the expedition.
- Dr Aronnax believed that the mysterious creature was a very big sea creature.
- The *Abraham Lincoln* sailed towards the Pacific Ocean.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words 1-6 with their meanings a-f.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1. events | a. crash |
| 2. enormous | b. bags and suitcases |
| 3. collision | c. very, very large |
| 4. interior | d. happenings |
| 5. luggage | e. inside part |
| 6. narwhal | f. big sea creature |

4 Complete the following sentences using the prepositions in the box.

over to of on in

- Jenny was born in the summer _____ 1983.
- People travel from all _____ the world to visit the Pyramids of Egypt.
- Mary is not here. She is _____ London for the weekend.
- Give this _____ James, please.
- John will spend the summer _____ an expedition to the North Pole.

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- What other sea creatures do you know of?
- Have you ever travelled by ship? Where did you go?
- What kind of magazine articles do you read?
- Do you believe the people on the *Abraham Lincoln* will find the monster?

6 Imagine you are the captain of the *Abraham Lincoln*. Just before you leave on your expedition, write an invitation to Dr Aronnax asking him to join you on your search for the narwhal. (60-80 words)

CHAPTER 2

Comprehension

1 Answer the following questions.

1. What had Captain Farragut decided to do to the sea monster?

2. Who was Ned Land?

3. Where did the ship sail?

4. For how long had they been sailing on 5 November?

5. Where was the *Abraham Lincoln* when they first saw the sea monster?

2 Match the two halves of the sentences below.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Dr Aronnax | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. wanted to go back home. |
| 2. Captain Farragut | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. was amazed at the size of the creature. |
| 3. Ned Land | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. appeared on 8 November. |
| 4. The crew | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. was the first person to see the creature. |
| 5. The sea monster | <input type="checkbox"/> | e. believed Dr Aronnax's theory. |

Vocabulary

3 Choose a, b or c to complete the sentences.

1. There was a _____ of six sailors on the sailboat.
a. seaman b. view c. crew
2. John's car was badly _____ in the accident.
a. damaged b. harpooned c. sworn
3. We must do our best to make this project work, don't you _____?
a. agree b. believe c. head
4. Don't talk to me about ghosts. I don't believe they _____.
a. cheer b. argue c. exist

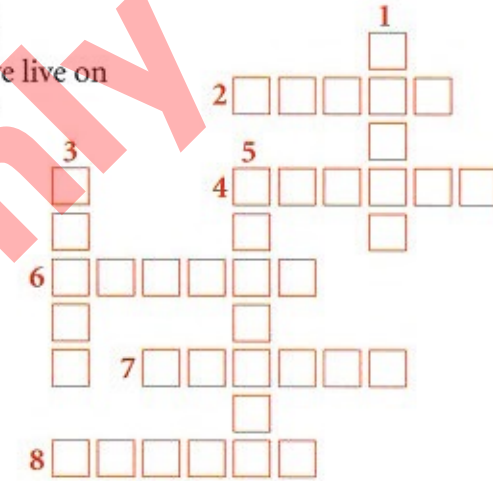
4 Complete the crossword with words from Chapter 2.

DOWN

1. A very large sea animal
3. The world, the planet we live on
5. The top part or area of something
e.g. water

ACROSS

2. The opposite of day
4. A person who works on a ship
6. Come back
7. Look for
8. What you shoot from a gun



Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

1. If you were in Captain Farragut's place, what would you do to calm the crew?
2. How do you think you would feel after four months of travel at sea?
3. How do you think the crew felt when they saw how big the creature was?
4. What do you think the creature will do?

6 Imagine that you are a crew member on the *Abraham Lincoln*. Write a short letter to a friend of yours describing the events that took place on the last day of the search for the monster. (60-80 words)