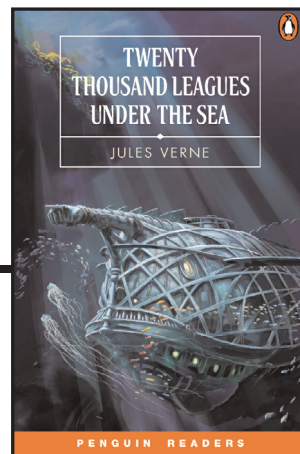


# Penguin Readers Factsheets

## Teacher's Notes

# Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

By Jules Verne



Level 1 – Beginner Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

## Summary

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea tells the story of three men who go to sea in search of a giant whale. Together, they are taken prisoner on board the world's first submarine – the *Nautilus*.

The *Nautilus* travels the world's seas, taking the men on wonderful adventures. They see the plants and creatures of the deep sea and travel to remote islands. They find sunken treasure and they discover the lost world of Atlantis. They even travel under thick ice to the South Pole.

When the *Nautilus* enters a dangerous part of the sea called the Maelstrom, the three men escape in a small boat. They are rescued and taken to Norway but they never find out whether or not the submarine and its strange captain survived the Maelstrom.

## About Jules Verne

Jules Verne was born in Nantes, France, in 1828. His father was a lawyer and he sent his son to Paris to study law at university, too. But Verne soon gave up and started writing. He was not successful at first, and he lived in poverty for ten years before his first success, *Five Weeks in a Balloon* (1862). *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* established him as a very popular author in France. Soon, his books were published in other languages and were enjoyed by readers all around the world. He continued to write until his death in 1905, by which time he had published over sixty works.

## Background and themes

Jules Verne's books are among the first 'science fiction' books ever written. The themes of scientific discovery and technological advance influenced a generation of writers afterwards. When *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* was written, submarines did not exist. Jules Verne also predicted the invention of space travel, television and other technologies we now take for granted.

Freedom and escape are also important themes in the book. Aronnax learns a lot of new things from Captain Nemo on the *Nautilus* and he enjoys his adventures. But, finally, his freedom is more important and he risks his life to escape with the other men.

Finally, the theme of changing human civilization also runs through the book. The Papuans are unsophisticated people who stand for uncivilized society and Atlantis is an example of a great civilization which has perished. Most importantly, Nemo is shown to have shunned civilization because it treated him badly.

## Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the Reader, and supplement those exercises. For supplementary exercises, see the photocopyable Student's Activities pages of this Factsheet. These are primarily for use with class Readers but, with the exception of discussion and pair/group work questions, can also be used by students working alone in a self-access centre.

### ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Ask students to look carefully at the front cover of the book. Can they see a person in the picture? What else can they see? Help students with new vocabulary, then ask them what they think the story is about.

### ACTIVITIES AFTER READING A SECTION

#### Chapters 1–2

Students work in pairs. One student is Aronnax and the other is a New York journalist. Students should work together to write questions and answers about the *Scotia*, the Atlantic and the possible existence of a giant whale. Finally, ask some pairs to act out their conversations for the rest of the class.

#### Chapters 3–5

On the board write 'Living on *Nautilus* is not easy but it is interesting.' In groups, students copy sentences from these chapters to support this sentence under two headings: 'Not Easy' and 'Interesting'. Finally, the groups should read out some of their sentences to the rest of the class.

#### Chapters 6–7

Ask students to write the true story of Captain Nemo. Where does he come from? What did he do before he built the *Nautilus*? Who were his family? Who killed them, and why?

### ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

Is Captain Nemo a good man or a bad man? Students work individually or in pairs to write an answer to this question. Encourage students to give reasons for their answers.

## Word list

It will be useful for your students to know the new words found on page 28 of the Reader. They are practised in the 'Before you read' sections at the back of the book. (The definitions are based on those in the Longman Active Study Dictionary.)

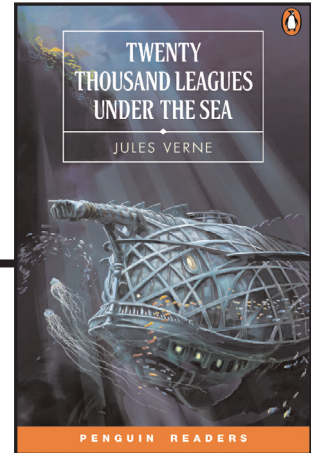


# Penguin Readers Factsheets

## Student's Activities

# Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

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Level 1 – Beginner Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea Photocopiable

These activities can be done alone or with one or more other students. Pair/group-only activities are marked.

### ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Read the Introduction before Chapter 1. Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (✗)?

- Jules Verne was French.
- At twelve years old, Jules Verne worked on boats.
- All of Jules Verne's books are about Captain Nemo.
- Jules Verne wrote about films, televisions and submarines.
- In the story, the *Nautilus* goes to the South Pole.

### ACTIVITIES WHILE READING THE BOOK

#### Chapter 1

Who, or what:

- is twenty-seven metres long?
- is famous for his book about sea animals?
- asks Aronnax about the giant whale?
- goes with Aronnax on the *Abraham Lincoln*?
- didn't watch the water every day?
- stays in front of the *Abraham Lincoln*?
- falls into the sea at the end of the chapter?

#### Chapter 2

1 Who says these sentences? Who are they talking to? Don't look at the book!

- 'You were in the sea and I wanted to stay with you.'
- 'You and I went into the sea at the same time.'
- 'You try. Perhaps he understands English.'
- 'I'm going to escape from this submarine.'
- 'You can never go home.'

2 Look at pages 6–7. What are the place names in your language?

#### Chapter 3

Put these words in the right places in these sentences.

difficult good heavy often only up usually well

- Captain Nemo and his men eat very \_\_\_\_\_.
- Captain Nemo \_\_\_\_\_ reads Aronnax's books.
- A submarine is a \_\_\_\_\_ home for a scientist.
- Every morning, the *Nautilus* went \_\_\_\_\_ for air.
- The *Nautilus* \_\_\_\_\_ stayed about one hundred metres underwater.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ned was unhappy.
- Diving suits are not \_\_\_\_\_ in water.
- It was not \_\_\_\_\_ walking on the sea floor.

#### Chapter 4

1 Put these sentences in the right order from 1 (first) to 7 (last).

- Ned, Conseil and Aronnax go to the Papuan coast.
- The Papuans try to kill the men with spears.
- After five days, the *Nautilus* starts to move.
- The *Nautilus* stops on top of a coral reef.
- The men start putting things in the small boat.
- The *Nautilus*'s doors open, and air comes into the boat.
- The Papuans come up to the *Nautilus* in boats.

2 Look at the picture on page 13. What is the Papuan coast like? Write five sentences in your own words.

#### Chapter 5

Use some books or the Internet to find these places:

India Egypt Crete Turkey Greece Portugal Spain

What do you know about these countries? Have you ever been there? Write one or two sentences about each country.

#### Chapter 6

Answer these questions.

- What is Atlantis?
- Have many people visited Atlantis? Why/why not?
- How does the *Nautilus* get to the South Pole?
- How long does the *Nautilus* stay at the South Pole?
- Why do the men work with knives and spears?
- Why are the men ill?

#### Chapter 7

Something in these sentences is wrong. Can you make it right? Don't look at the book!

- After their visit to the Arctic, the men don't see Captain Nemo very often.
- The *Nautilus* went into the boat very slowly.
- Captain Nemo dies hundreds of seamen because he is unhappy about his family.
- Boats and whales ten metres away can't escape the Maelstrom.
- After the Maelstrom, Aronnax opens his eyes in the boat of a Norwegian seaman.

### ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

- Who is your favourite person in the book? Why?
- Look at the words on page 28. Choose ten words and write some sentences about *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* using those words.

