

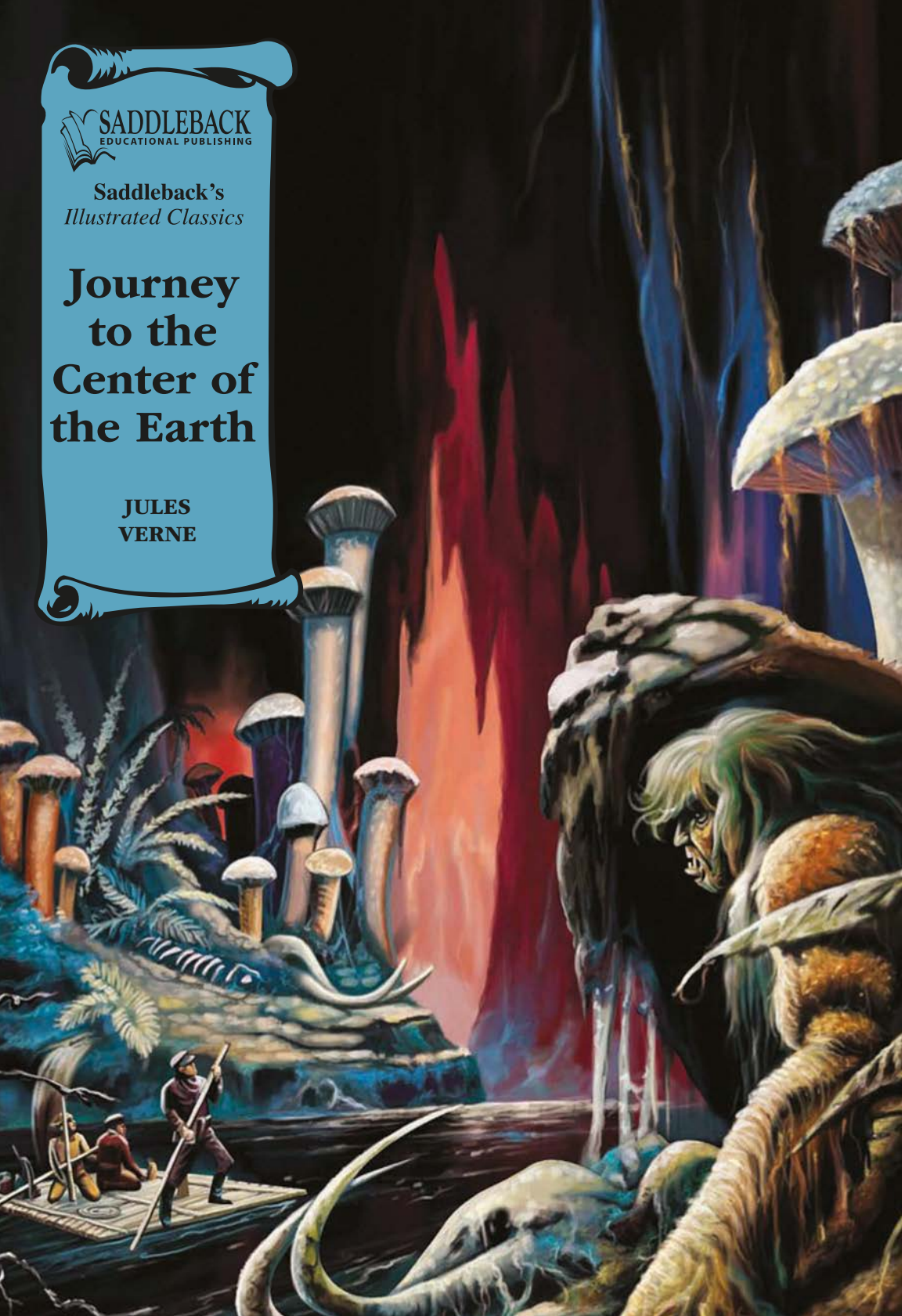


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EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING

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Illustrated Classics

Journey to the Center of the Earth

**JULES
VERNE**



Jules Verne

Born in Nantes, France, in 1828, Jules Verne was the son of an attorney. His father expected him to become an attorney, too, but Verne was addicted to sea travel and scientific study.

Jules Verne was at his peak as a writer of science fiction from 1862 to 1872. In fact, many of the creations of his fantasies described in his books were later actually invented. Submarines, for example, were used by Verne before they were manufactured. In the nineteenth century, Verne was talking about rockets around the moon, television, atomic bombs, polar travel, photography, automobiles and travel to the center of the earth.

Many of his scientific discoveries are embodied in his books. Two of the best known are *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* and *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Twenty-nine years before the Wright Brothers achieved powered flight, Jules Verne, in his imagination, had sent a rocket to the moon in his story *From Earth to the Moon*. He also wrote *The Castaways of the Flag*, *Five Weeks in a Balloon*, *Master of the World*, and *Mysterious Island*.

Jules Verne died in Amiens, France, in 1905.

Jules Verne

Journey to the Center of the Earth



Henry Lawson



Hans



Professor Von Hardwigg



Dr. Fridreksson



Gretchen

At one hundred miles inside the earth, we discovered a giant forest, a herd of prehistoric mastodons, and a giant shepherd tending them! We hid behind a tree, fearful of being discovered.

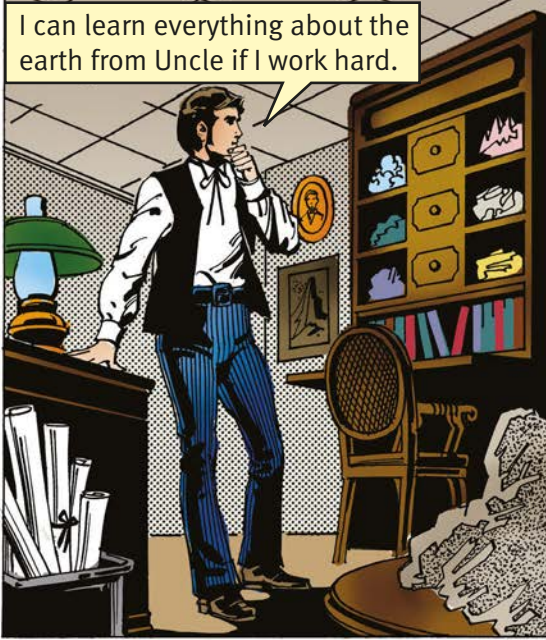
Man has only seen animals like these in museums before.



And here we are alone with them and at their mercy somewhere in the center of the earth!

My strange adventure began in the 1860s in the city of Hamburg, Germany. There I lived and studied with my uncle, Professor Von Hardwigg—a famous scientist interested in minerals and geology.

I can learn everything about the earth from Uncle if I work hard.



Uncle had a beautiful goddaughter whom I hoped to marry.

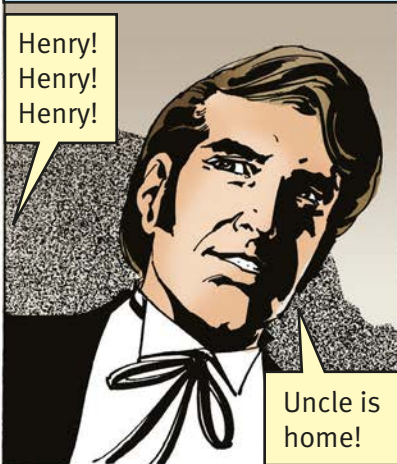
And everything about heaven from my beloved Gretchen!



Uncle was a very smart man ... and also impatient!

Henry!
Henry!
Henry!

Uncle is home!

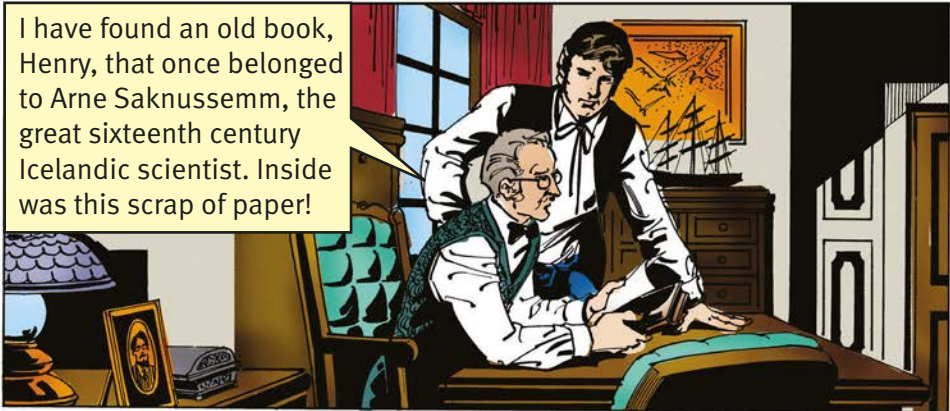


Henry are you coming up?

Coming, Uncle!



I have found an old book, Henry, that once belonged to Arne Saknussem, the great sixteenth century Icelandic scientist. Inside was this scrap of paper!

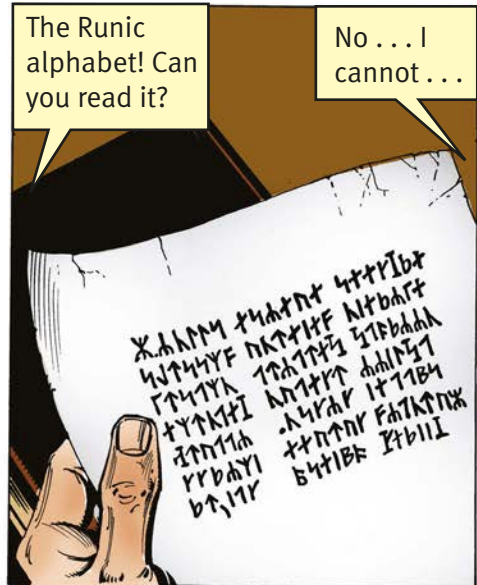


I feel sure it contains some priceless secret—perhaps a discovery made by Saknussem!



The Runic alphabet! Can you read it?

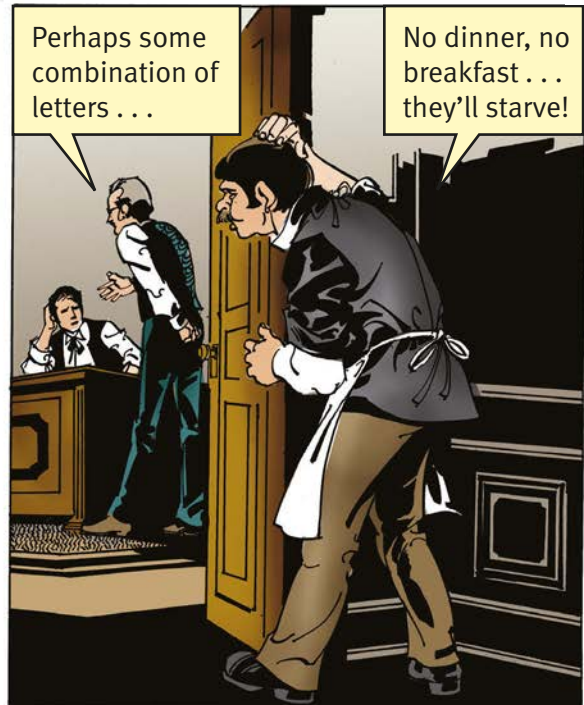
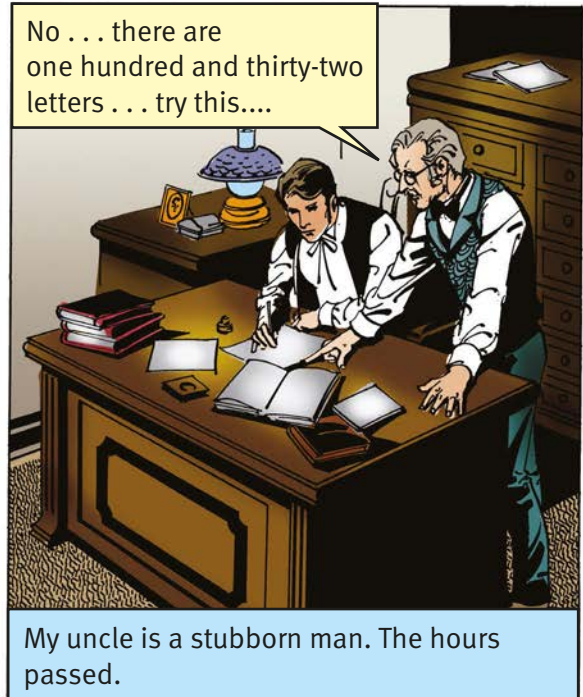
No . . . I cannot . . .



. . . but I will neither eat nor sleep till I decode it!

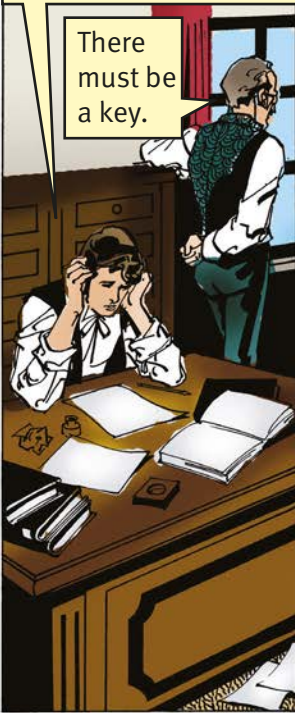
But surely, dear Uncle . . .





No matter how we write the message down, it is nonsense.

There must be a key.



Tired and hot, I fanned my face with our latest attempt.



Uncle!



It makes no sense from left to right, but backwards . . .

Backwards!
Of course!



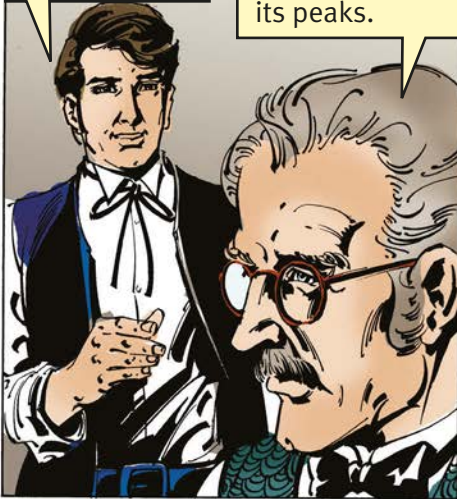
Descend into the crater of Yocul of Sneffels, which the shade of Scartaris touches before the beginning of July, brave traveler, and you will reach the center of the earth. I did it.

Arne Saknussemm



But what does it mean? What are Sneffels and Scartaris?

Sneffels is an extinct volcano in Iceland. Scartaris is the name of one of its peaks.



Before the beginning of July, Scartaris must cast its shadow over the opening of the one crater that led to the center of the earth.



But scientists believe that the deeper you go into the earth, the hotter it becomes. At the center it must be twenty thousand degrees!



I do not believe in the dangers and difficulties! The only way to learn is, like Arne Saknussemm, to go and see!



My uncle leaped with joy. He was wild with delight.

Henry, you have done me a great service! I want you to share the glory!

I'm glad you are happy, sir. . . .



I tried to tell him the paper was a joke and that most scientists believe that the center of the earth was too hot a place for men to live, but he would not listen! Then I rushed to tell Gretchen of Uncle's plan.

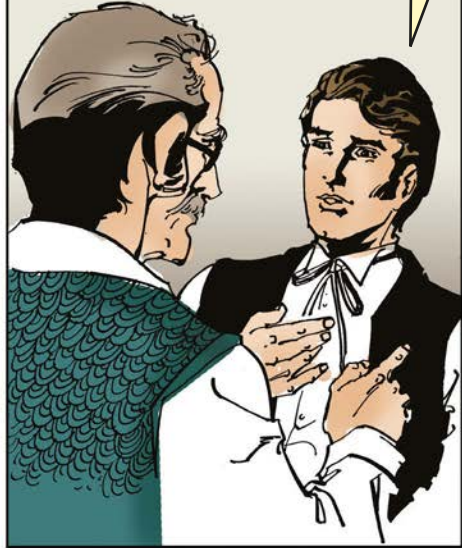
. . . Iceland—to Mt. Sneffels—to the center of the earth!

What a wonderful journey . . . worthy of the nephew of Professor Hardwigg!



Pack my suitcase . . . and your own. We leave at once . . . for the center of the earth!

It's impossible!



I thought you would be against this mad plan.

No, I think it's wonderful. I wish I could go, Henry.



This was the final blow.

Journey to the Center of the Earth

Take a journey into the future of science and imagination, as seen through the eyes of Jules Verne. The adventures of Henry, Hans, and Professor Von Hardwigg take the reader from the surface of a planet they know to a world alien to them located deep inside the earth. Verne shows man's ability to survive even in the most adverse conditions and proves that survival is man's most basic instinct. He brings out the adventurer in all of us.



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