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The Time Machine

H.G.
WELLS



H. G. Wells

Herbert George Wells, an English novelist, historian, journalist, and author of science fiction stories, was born in 1866. His father was a shopkeeper, and his mother worked occasionally as a housekeeper. After completing his early formal schooling, Wells worked as a teacher. He later received a scholarship to study at a school with a special focus on the sciences.

His training as a scientist is shown in his imaginative science fiction stories. Wells described trips in airplanes and submarines when such modes of transportation had not yet been invented. *The Time Machine* describes a trip into the future, and *The War of the Worlds* is an account of an invasion from Mars. Several of his science fiction works have been the basis of popular movies.

Though he is best known for his science fiction stories, Wells wrote a variety of other works. He was a strong believer in education and wrote three lengthy books in which he tried to bring important ideas in history and science to the general public. His numerous books, articles, and essays also show his bold support of social change.

H. G. Wells died in 1946.

H. G. Wells

The Time Machine



Eloi



Weena



Time Traveller



Morlocks



Professors



My invention had worked. Here I am in the world of the future. I wondered what it would be like. My Time Machine had carried me thousands of years beyond the time in which I lived. I am going to explore the world and its people in the year 801,702 A.D.



Just call me the Time Traveller. The year is 1896. I have the most unbelievable story to tell; yet every word is true. I am an inventor and one night I invited some friends over to make an important announcement. But first I had to explain something....

A line has one dimension. It has length. A square has two dimensions. It has length and height.

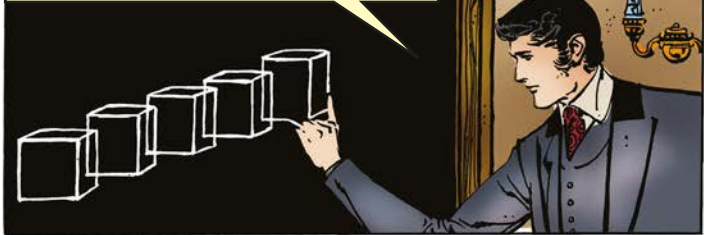


That's right.

A cube has three dimensions. It has length, height, and thickness. It's solid; you can hold it.



A cube lasts over a period of time, so there must be a fourth dimension...time.



Let me show this another way. Here is a boy of eight... then fifteen...then a man of thirty, and a man of fifty. They are the same person but they don't live at the same time. They follow one another along the time dimension!



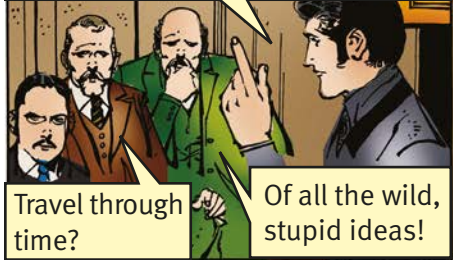
Time dimension? We have known only three dimensions for years!



Have we? Up until the invention of the balloon, man lived in a flat world, in two dimensions. Only the balloon, rising upward, gave us three dimensions.

Then came my shocking tale.

Since we only recently discovered or used the third dimension, maybe we have also not tried to travel through the fourth dimension of time, into the past or future.



Travel through time?

Of all the wild, stupid ideas!

But I was prepared to back up my idea.

This is only a model of my travelling machine! And it works!



Surely, you're joking!

I asked one of them to come forward and...

The black lever is for stopping. But press that tiny white lever for the future and you will see what happens. It is already becoming invisible as it leaves time and...



...disappears into the future!

My word!

It must be a trick!



I wasn't surprised when they didn't seem to believe it.

Bah! Some magic trick, that's all.

Any stage magician can do the same.

You don't believe me, gentlemen? Follow me to my workshop where I've almost finished a full-sized Time Machine I will ride myself.

Look here! Are you perfectly serious?

I was never more serious in my life. I will travel through time! Those dials will show me the days, weeks, months, and years as I travel into the past or future!

I knew they wouldn't believe me, but I invited them to return in one week.

I'll be back from my time trip then, and you'll hear the story!

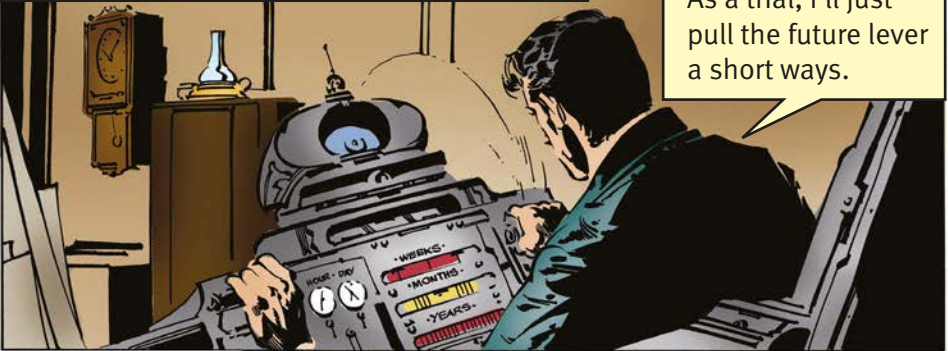
Fiddlesticks!

You should be a fairy tale writer, not an inventor.

The next morning, I busily tuned up the machine, oiled it carefully, and set the dials for zero. But I must say I was worried.

Even though the model disappeared how do I know it really followed the time dimension into the future? Well, I'll soon find out!

Trembling in excitement, I sat in the machine.



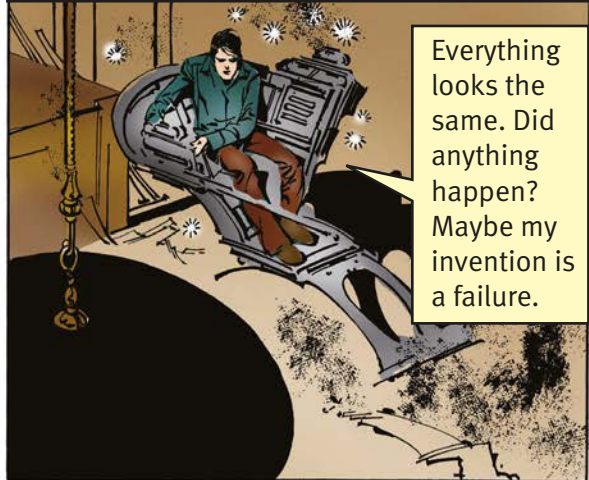
As a trial, I'll just pull the future lever a short ways.

A moment of dizziness... of spinning around....

My head is spinning! I'll turn the other dial and stop myself quickly.



Everything straightened out, but I was disappointed.



Everything looks the same. Did anything happen? Maybe my invention is a failure.

Wait! The clock shows almost 3:30! It was about 10:00 a moment ago!



Then I did travel into the future for...five-and-a-half hours! All so quickly. It works!



Eagerly, I turned the future dial again for a longer trip, and I saw a strange thing happen!



My housekeeper came in and went out the back door, moving like a rocket! That means time is passing at high speed for me!

Then everything around me changed, and I could hardly believe what I saw.



Heavens! It's like moving through a strange universe. It's all so strange... as if I'm being turned inside out.

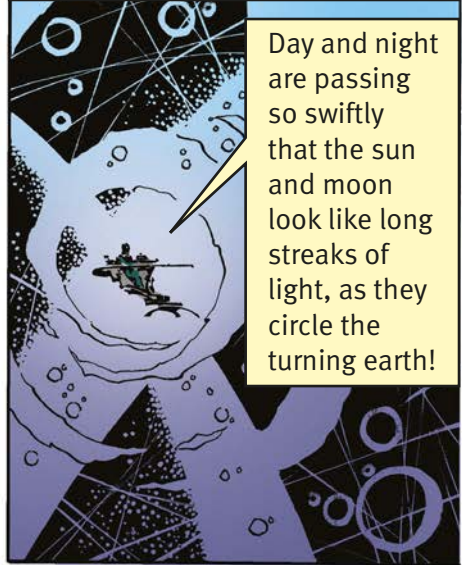
But then I got hold of my nerves and came out of my dizzy spell.

It seems some time in the near future the building I lived in is being torn down. I'm entering the open air even though I'm standing still.



Able to see around now, I saw still more unbelievable things as the days spun by at greater and greater speed.

Day and night are passing so swiftly that the sun and moon look like long streaks of light, as they circle the turning earth!



It looks like the land the house stood on was turned into a park. Trees are growing up as fast as weeds; the years are spinning by now!



Now I see a future city with beautiful towers around me! But it's fading away quickly as I keep moving into the time zones ahead!



The Time Machine

What would it be like to travel thousands of years into the future? How would Earth have changed? Would people have changed too?

Step aboard *The Time Machine* and journey to the year 802,701. Learn how humankind has evolved into two races—one simple and child-like and the other strange and terrifying.

Then join the Time Traveler as he travels still further, revealing the final secrets of Earth's future.



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