DOMINOES

Journey to the Centre of the Earth

STARTER LEVEL  250 HEADWORDS
Journey to the Centre of the Earth

Jules Verne

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Jules Verne (1828–1905) was born in Nantes, France, and he started to write for the theatre when he was a student in Paris. His first novel was Five Weeks in a Balloon (1862), and he went on to write more than sixty other science fiction and adventure books. He became one of the most famous writers of his time. His most famous books Journey to the Centre of the Earth (1864), Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea (1869), and Around the World in Eighty Days (1873), are all available as Dominoes.
BEFORE READING

1 Here are some of the people in the story. Match the information about them with the pictures.

a  □  Professor Otto  
Lidenbrock

b  □  Axel

c  □  Gräuben

d  □  Hans Bjelke

1 He comes from Iceland. He’s strong and very quiet.
2 He’s a science teacher at the Johanneum, a school in Hamburg.
3 She’s the daughter of a good friend of Professor Lidenbrock’s.
4 He lives and works with his uncle, Professor Lidenbrock, because his mother and father are dead.

2 Three of the people go on a journey to the centre of the Earth. Which three?

3 What do they find when they go underground? Tick the boxes.

a  □  a sea

b  □  monsters

c  □  trees

d  □  a town
Our story begins on May 24th 1863, at a little house in Hamburg, Germany. On that day, Professor Otto Lidenbrock comes home from work early.

‘Look!’ he says to his nephew, Axel. ‘This wonderful book comes from the old shop near here, and it’s got Arne Saknussemm’s name in the front.’

**professor** an important teacher who also studies a lot  
**nephew** your sister’s (or brother’s) son
‘Who’s Arne Saknussemm? And what’s the book about?’ asks Axel. ‘I can’t read it!’ ‘That’s because it’s in old Icelandic. Saknussemm’s an old Icelandic scientist from the 1500s. And this book’s more than four hundred years older than him!’

Just then, they find a dirty, old paper in the book. ‘Look!’ says Professor Lidenbrock. ‘It’s a secret message – I’m sure!’

Professor Lidenbrock and Axel want to understand the message on the paper. They work on it all afternoon. ‘It’s no good!’ says the professor angrily that evening. ‘I can’t understand it.’ And he goes out of the house for a walk.

**scientist** a person who studies the natural world  
**paper** you write on this  
**secret** something that you don’t tell to everybody  
**message** you write this to someone  
**sure** when you feel that something is true
The **fire** in the room is very warm. Soon Axel feels hot. He moves the paper in front of his face. Suddenly Axel can read the message through the paper. ‘It is a secret message – from Arne Saknussemm,’ he thinks. ‘But it's **backwards.**’

‘Well, Axel,’ says Lidenbrock, ‘can you understand the message now?’ ‘Er... Yes, Uncle,’ says Axel. ‘You must read it backwards.’ ‘Of course,’ says Professor Lidenbrock. ‘Good boy! That’s it!’

Now Axel understands the message, he’s afraid. Just then, his **uncle** comes home. Axel is afraid of his uncle, too.

The professor reads the message: ‘Go down into the **crater** of Snæfells before the last day of June, when the **shadow** of Scartaris **falls** across it, and you can go to the **centre** of the **Earth** – Arne Saknussemm.’

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**fire** this is red and hot, and it burns  
**backwards** beginning at the last letter and going to the first letter  
**crater** a big, wide hole  
**shadow** a dark shape that the sun makes on things  
**centre** the part in the middle  
**Earth** we live on this  
**fall** to go down suddenly  
**uncle** your father’s (or mother’s) brother
‘Uncle,’ Axel asks the professor. ‘Where’s Snæfells?’ ‘In Iceland,’ answers Lidenbrock. ‘It’s an old volcano.’

‘But Uncle, nobody can go to the centre of the Earth and come back alive,’ says Axel. ‘It’s very hot and dark down there – I’m sure.’ ‘Yes, they can. Arne Saknussemm’s message tells us that,’ says Lidenbrock. ‘But is his message true? We must go to Iceland and see.’

‘Now remember, Axel, this is a secret,’ says Lidenbrock. ‘We want to be the first scientists of our time to go to the centre of the Earth!’

volcano a mountain that fire and rocks sometimes come from
Later Axel meets his fiancée, Gräuben. He tells her about his uncle’s secret plan to go to the centre of the Earth. ‘I don’t want to go,’ he says. ‘I want to stay here with you.’ ‘Of course you must go,’ says Gräuben. ‘What a wonderful journey! And when you come back, you can marry me.’

All the next day Lidenbrock and Axel get different things for the journey. At last, late that evening, everything is ready.

At half past five the next morning, the professor and Axel leave for Iceland. ‘Goodbye, Axel,’ says Gräuben. ‘Remember, I’m waiting for you.’ ‘Be quick, Axel,’ calls Lidenbrock. ‘Our train leaves Hamburg at six o’clock. We must be on it.’

**fiancée** the woman that a man wants to marry

**Gräuben** /ˈɡrɔɪbən/

**plan** when you get something ready to do later; to get something ready to do later

**marry** to make someone your husband or wife

**journey** when you go far
READING CHECK

Are these sentences true or false? Tick the boxes.

a  Professor Lidenbrock and Axel live in Hamburg.  ✔  ❌
b  One day Lidenbrock finds an old book at work.  ❌  ❏
c  Arne Saknussemm is an old German scientist.  ❏  ❏
d  Lidenbrock and Axel find a secret message from Saknussemm.  ❏  ❏
e  Axel is happy when he understands the message.  ❏  ❏
f  Lidenbrock and Axel must go to Snæfells before the first day of July.  ❏  ❏
g  Axel doesn’t want to leave Gräuben.  ❏  ❏
h  Lidenbrock and Axel leave Hamburg at six o’clock in the evening.  ❏  ❏

WORD WORK

1 These words don’t match the pictures. Correct them.

- fire
- centre
- crater
- shadow

- scientist
- volcano
- Earth
- paper
- scientist
2 Find words from Chapter 1 to complete the sentences.

- a Axel is Professor Lidenbrock’s n_______.
- b Don’t tell them about this — it’s a s______!
- c Gräuben is Axel’s f_______. They have a p______ to m_______.
- d ‘What’s the biggest city in Iceland?’ ‘I’m not s_______. Is it Reykjavik?’
- e Some of Leonardo da Vinci’s writing is b_______.
  - It begins on the right and finishes on the left.
- f They are going across Africa. The j______ is long and hot.
- g He’s not answering his telephone. Let’s send a m______ to him.
- h Your father’s or mother’s brother is your u______.
- i I don’t want to get on a horse because I don’t want to f______ down off it.

GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Tick two boxes.

- a □ The professor feels bad on the journey to Iceland.
- b □ They meet Arne Saknussemm in Iceland.
- c □ The professor and Axel climb up Snæfells.
- d □ Axel falls into a crater and dies.
- e □ Axel leaves the professor and goes back to Hamburg.
- f □ Snæfells erupts and they can’t go to the centre of the Earth.
Professor Lidenbrock and Axel take a train to Denmark. They’ve got a lot of luggage.

The next day they arrive in Copenhagen. There Lidenbrock finds a ship.

They sail across the sea to Iceland. Lidenbrock feels bad because there’s a storm at sea.

On the 13th of June they arrive in Reykjavik. When they get off the ship, they can see a mountain.

‘Look over there, Axel,’ the professor says excitedly. ‘That’s Snæfells!’

**luggage** bags and things that you take when you go on a journey

**ship** you use a ship to go across the water

**sail** to go across the water

**storm** a lot of rain and very bad weather

**Reykjavik** /rekjoʊˈvɪk/ a big hill

**mountain** a big hill
Many people come to see the boat arrive. The professor and Axel meet a science teacher. His name is Mr Fridrikssen. ‘You can stay at my house,’ he says.

In the evening, the professor and Fridrikssen talk about Iceland. ‘There are lots of interesting things for a scientist to see in Iceland,’ says Fridrikssen. ‘Really?’ answers the professor. He doesn’t want to tell Fridrikssen about his plan.

‘Yes. Do you know Snæfells?’ asks Fridrikssen. ‘It’s a volcano.’ ‘A volcano? That is interesting. Nephew, we must visit this Snæfells mountain.’

‘You can go there on foot, but you need a guide,’ says Fridrikssen. ‘I know a very good man. We can meet him tomorrow.’

science the study of the natural world

guide a person (or thing) that shows or tells people where to go
The next morning they meet Hans Bjelke. ‘Can you be our guide and take us to Snæfell?’ asks the professor. ‘We must arrive there before the 30th of this month.’ ‘Yes,’ answers Hans. ‘I can.’

Soon their luggage is ready. They take a lot of food and water with them.

On the 16th of June they leave Reykjavik. Lidenbrock and Axel are on horses. Hans walks in front, and two more horses take the luggage.
One week later, they are near Snæfells.
‘It’s an old volcano, but old volcanoes sometimes erupt, too,’ thinks Axel.
‘Snæfells has two tops,’ says the professor, ‘and we’re going to the top of Scartaris – over there!’

They leave the horses and begin to go up the mountain. Axel soon feels tired, but the professor is excited, and he stays not far behind Hans.

When they arrive at the top of Scartaris, they are cold, hungry and very tired. It’s midnight, but they can see the light of the sun in the sky.

The next morning, Professor Lidenbrock speaks quietly to Hans. ‘Axel and I are looking for the centre of the Earth. Do you want to come with us?’ ‘Yes,’ says Hans, and the three men begin to go down into the crater.

**erupt** when rocks and fire come out of a volcano  
**top** the highest part of something  
**light** a thing that helps you to see in the dark
READING CHECK

Put the sentences in the correct order. Number them 1–7.

a ☐ When they arrive in Reykjavik they meet Mr Fridrikssen.
b ☐ The next day they begin to climb down the crater.
c ☐ They sail from Copenhagen to Iceland.
d ☐ They climb to the top of Scartaris.
e ☐ Professor Lidenbrock and Axel take a train from Hamburg to Copenhagen.
f ☐ They begin the journey to Snæfells with Hans on the 16th of June.
g ☐ In the evening, they talk about Snæfells with Mr Fridrikssen.

WORD WORK

1 Use the clues to complete the crossword.

a very bad weather
b we eat this
c you take this on a journey; a name for all your bags
d Everest is the tallest of all
e volcanoes do this
f this person knows a country or town very well and can take you here and there in it
g when you go up a hill or mountain in the end you arrive at this
h in this you learn about the Earth, water, the sky, the sun, flowers, trees, and people
i to move across the sea in an old ship
2 In the dark squares in the crossword on page 12 find the name of a famous volcano in Italy.

Name of volcano:
M _______ _______ _______

GUESS WHAT

1 What happens in the next chapter? Tick one box.

a  Hans is afraid and he wants to go back to Reykjavik.

b  The professor is angry because they must turn back.

c  Axel is worried because there’s no food.

2 Which things are important in the next chapter? Tick two boxes.

a  compass  b  knife  c  map  
d  mobile phone  e  lamp  f  gunpowder
When Hans, Lidenbrock, and Axel arrive at the **bottom** of the crater, there are three black **holes** in front of them. ‘Where do we go now?’ asks Axel. ‘I don’t know! We must wait and see,’ says the professor.

They go through the hole and **climb** slowly down.

It is the 28th of June. Suddenly the sun comes out, and the shadow of Scartaris falls on one of the holes. ‘It’s Arne Saknussemm’s **sign**,’ says Professor Lidenbrock excitedly. ‘Come on. We go down that hole to the centre of the Earth!’

It takes them ten and a half hours to arrive at the bottom. What a very long climb! Now they are 2,000 metres from the top of Snæfells.

**bottom** the lowest part of something  
**hole** an opening in something that you can look through or go through  
**sign** something that shows you something important  
**climb** to go up or down using your hands and feet; when you go up or down using your hands and feet
In the morning they eat breakfast, and Professor Lidenbrock looks at his **compass**.

‘Now,’ he says, ‘the journey begins.’ They take **lamps** and go into a big, dark **tunnel**.

They walk for a very long time. Axel and the professor look at the **crystals** in the **walls** of the tunnel. ‘What wonderful crystals!’ Axel says. ‘Yes,’ says Lidenbrock. Hans walks in front of them. He doesn’t say a thing.

**compass** something that shows you north and helps you see where to go  
**tunnel** a long hole that goes through  
**wall** the side of a tunnel or under something  
**lamp** a thing that helps you to see in the dark  
**crystal** a beautiful stone
On the second day the big tunnel stops suddenly. In front of them there are two small tunnels.
‘Which tunnel do we take now?’ asks Axel.
‘The tunnel on the left,’ says Lidenbrock.

They go into the new tunnel. Slowly they walk down it...

...but sometimes the tunnel goes up for a time.

‘Uncle, perhaps this is the wrong tunnel. It’s going up,’ says Axel. But Lidenbrock doesn’t listen, and he doesn’t stop.

After five days of walking, the tunnel stops. ‘We must go back,’ says Professor Lidenbrock angrily. But Axel is worried. ‘We haven’t got any water!’ he says.
They go back to the first big tunnel. Now they go down the small tunnel on the right. But they can’t walk very well because they are all very thirsty.

That night Axel is sleeping when he hears a noise. He opens his eyes at once and sees Hans. Their guide is walking away with the lamp. ‘Where’s he going? Maybe he’s leaving us,’ thinks Axel. He closes his eyes again tiredly.

An hour later, Hans comes back. ‘Water,’ he says quietly to Lidenbrock. ‘Come!’ ‘Axel, get up!’ cries the professor and they quickly follow Hans.

After some time they can hear water through the tunnel wall. Hans makes a hole in it. Water comes out, and at last they all drink. ‘Don’t close that hole, Hans,’ says Lidenbrock. ‘Now this stream can be our guide.’

**follow** to go after something or somebody

**stream** a small river
READING CHECK

Match the two parts of the sentences.

a When the men arrive at the bottom of the crater, they
b When the professor sees the shadow of Scartaris on one hole, he
c They climb down for ten and a half hours before they
d Axel and Lidenbrock are happy when they
e After five days of walking, they go back because
f The men can’t walk well because they
g In the night Hans gets up and
h Hans makes a hole in the tunnel, and water

1 the tunnel stops.
2 looks for water.
3 goes into it.
4 stop in front of three holes.
5 comes out.
6 see the crystals in the tunnel.
7 arrive at the bottom of the hole.
8 are thirsty.

WORD WORK

Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

a She’s a scientist; she studies Christmas ... crystals
b ‘Where do we go now?’ ‘We must flower that sing to the town centre.’

.............

.............

c They were hurried because they didn’t have much food.

d You can see into their garden from the street because there’s a hotel in the garden well.

.............

.............

e Look! We can get water from that little mountain dream.

.............

.............

f Professor Lidenbrock lives in a smell house in Hamburg.

.............

.............

g There’s a little shop at the bottle of our road.

.............

.............

h ‘Where’s north?’ ‘Look at your compose!’

.............

.............

i Can we crime up that hill over there?

.............

.............

j There are lots of cars on the road today. So let’s go through the funnel under the road.

.............

.............

k This lamb isn’t working! I can’t see a thing!

.............
GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Tick the boxes.

a  The three men follow . . .
   1  □  Arne Saknussemm.
   2  □  a new tunnel.
   3  □  the stream.

b  Professor Lidenbrock is happy . . .
   1  □  when they go down.
   2  □  when they go up.
   3  □  when they stop.

c  Axel loses . . .
   1  □  his lamp.
   2  □  Hans and the professor.
   3  □  the luggage.

d  They . . .
   1  □  arrive back in Snæfells.
   2  □  sail across a sea.
   3  □  find the centre of the Earth.
The next day Hans, Lidenbrock and Axel follow the stream down the tunnel. The professor looks at his compass.
‘Where are we now?’ asks Axel.
‘Two hundred kilometres south-east of Snæfells, so we’re under the sea,’ answers his uncle.

When the tunnel goes down, Professor Lidenbrock is very happy.

Sometimes they stop, and the professor writes in his book.
‘How many days is it before we go back?’ asks Axel. ‘We’ve got water now, but not much food!’
‘Be quiet, Axel!’ says Lidenbrock. ‘I’m writing about our journey.’
Axel is walking down the tunnel the next day when suddenly he loses Hans and the professor. He walks back, but he can’t find them. Just then, he falls and breaks his lamp. ‘Oh no!’ he cries.

Axel sits and waits in the dark. At last he hears something. He puts his head near the tunnel wall and listens. ‘I can hear Hans and the professor,’ he thinks. ‘They’re talking. But where are they?’

‘Help!’ cries Axel. ‘Help!!’ The tunnel wall takes Axel’s cries down to the professor and Hans. ‘Axel! Are you OK?’ the professor calls back. ‘We’re far in front of you. Come on down here.’

**break** to make something stop working
Axel begins to walk. But he can’t see anything. Suddenly his foot hits something and he’s falling down.

Axel falls for a long time. When he opens his eyes again, he’s in a very big cave. ‘Axel! You’re alive!’ cries the professor.

‘Yes. But where are we?’ asks Axel. ‘I can see light, and I can hear the sea. Are we under the Earth now or not?’

‘Yes, Axel, we are,’ says the professor. ‘There’s a big underground sea in front of us. We must go across it. Hans is making a raft.’

cave a big natural room under the Earth

underground under the Earth

raft a small ship made from trees
Soon the raft is ready. They put their luggage on it and begin to sail across the underground sea.

They sail for many days, but they don’t see a thing.

Suddenly two sea **monsters** come out of the water. They’re **fighting**.

‘I must tell Gräuben about these monsters when I get home,’ thinks Axel. Hans quickly sails the raft away from them.

**monster** an animal that is very bad to look at

**fight** to hit again and again
READING CHECK

Correct the mistakes.

a  Hans, Lidenbrock and Axel follow the light.

b  When they stop, the professor writes about the luggage.

c  Suddenly Axel can’t find Hans and Mr Fridrikssen.

d  Axel falls and breaks his compass.

e  The wall of the crater takes Axel’s cries to the professor.

f  When Axel finds the professor and Hans again, he can hear a storm.

g  Axel makes a raft and they sail across the sea on it.

h  Axel wants to tell Gräuben about the crystals in the sea.

WORD WORK

1 Find words from Chapter 4 in the monster.

2 Write the extra letters in order to find the scientists’ name for this monster.

P _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
3 Use the words from Activity 1 to complete the sentences.

a When you go to Scotland, you can look for the Loch Ness monster.

b Be careful — don’t .................. the compass! We can’t find the centre of the Earth without it.

c ‘How can we go across the water?’ ‘Let’s make a .................. from old trees.’

d This hotel is very different. Its front door is down in a dark .................., and the rooms in it don’t have any windows because they are all ..................

e I’m very angry with you. I don’t want to speak about it, but I want to .................. you.

GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Read the sentences and write Yes or No.

a Hans’s raft breaks in a very bad storm. .................. b Axel fights a very big sea monster. ..................

c The professor meets a big underground man. .................. d The professor and Axel find a sign from Arne Saknussemm. ..................
Hans, Lidenbrock and Axel sail on the raft across the underground sea. The professor is looking for land. ‘Look at those clouds,’ says Axel. ‘A storm’s coming.’

The raft is sailing very quickly now. There is a lot of lightning in the clouds.

Suddenly some blue and white lightning comes from the clouds. It explodes over them, and breaks the raft.

Just then, the raft hits some rocks. At last they are back on land.

**land** the part of the Earth that is not the sea

**lightning** the light in the sky when there is a storm

**rock** a very big stone

**cloud** a big white or grey thing that rain comes from

**explode** to break suddenly with a big noise
‘How can we go back to Snæfells now?’ asks Axel.
‘Go back? What are you saying? First we must find the centre of the Earth,’ says the professor.

Hans finds the luggage and begins to work on the raft. He wants to make it ready to sail again soon. Lidenbrock and Axel go for a walk.

They walk over some rocks. Suddenly the professor finds a dead body.
‘It’s the body of a man!!’
‘Oh, no,’ thinks Axel. ‘Are there men living down here?’

They walk to the trees in front of them. These trees aren’t green because there’s no sun. Through the trees Axel can see some big land monsters.
‘What are they?’ he asks. ‘Oh no! Look at that! They’re coming nearer!’ he cries worriedly.
‘They’re mastodons!’ laughs the professor. ‘They aren’t living on Earth now, but they are alive down here!’

**mastodon** a type of elephant from five million years ago
Just then the professor stops. ‘Look over there, Axel,’ he says quietly.
In front of them they can see a man. He’s very tall and he’s walking with the mastodons.

‘Quick! Back to the raft, before he sees us!’ cries Axel. The professor runs after him.

Not far from the raft, Axel sees something on the ground. It’s an old knife.
‘Is that your knife on the ground?’ he asks the professor.
‘No,’ answers Lidenbrock. He takes the knife in his hand. ‘But let’s see. Why is it here? Perhaps I know.’

Lidenbrock looks carefully at the rocks near them. Soon he finds something interesting.
‘Look, Axel. The letters A. S. – for Arne Saknussemm!’ says the professor. ‘It’s a sign from his journey here in the 1500s. We must go down this tunnel now.’

**ground** we walk on this  
**knife** a sharp tool used for cutting something  
**letter** we write with these; there are twenty-six of them in English
After that Lidenbrock and Axel go back to the raft. All their luggage is on it, and the raft is ready to sail. ‘Quickly, Hans’ says the professor. ‘Let’s sail to those rocks over there.’

When they get to the rocks, they can see the tunnel with the letters A. S. next to it. ‘Let’s go into this tunnel and follow Arne Saksnessem,’ says Professor Lidenbrock.

They take the lamp and go into the new tunnel. Soon they come to a very big rock. It’s in the centre of the tunnel.

‘It’s no good,’ says the professor. ‘We can’t go through the tunnel. This rock is stopping us.’ Just then, he remembers the gunpowder in the luggage. ‘Let’s blow up the rock,’ he says. ‘Then we can follow Saksnessem.’

gunpowder powder that explodes
blow up to break into small pieces noisily
READING CHECK

Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

a. When they sail across the sea, the professor is looking for . . .
   1. crystals.
   2. sea monsters.
   3. land.

b. The raft breaks in a . . .
   1. shadow.
   2. storm.
   3. volcano.

c. Hans works on the raft and the professor and Axel . . .
   1. go for a walk.
   2. look for food.
   3. make a fire.

d. The professor and Axel . . . when they see a tall man.
   1. run away
   2. are angry
   3. feel happy

e. Axel finds an old . . .
   1. compass.
   2. lamp.
   3. knife.

f. They can’t go through the tunnel because there’s a big . . . in it.
   1. crater
   2. rock
   3. wall

WORD WORK

1. Find ten more words from Chapter 5 in the wordsquare.

2. Use the words from Activity 1 to complete the sentences.

a. A storm is coming – there are big black .......... clouds over there and there’s some white .......... in the sky.

b. A .......... is a big old elephant. It isn’t alive today.

c. The first .......... in Axel’s name is ‘A’.

d. Look! There’s a big .......... on the mountain road in front of us. Let’s stop the car, get out, and move it.
e They want to .................... that old building with .....................
f Arne Saknussemm puts the letters of his name on a rock with a .....................
g ‘We must get off this ship and find food soon. Can you see any .................... in front of us?’ ‘No, I can’t. There’s only sea.’
h Gunpowder can’t .................... without fire.
i What’s that on the .................... at your feet? Is it some money?

GUESS WHAT

What happens in the last chapter? Complete the sentences with the correct names.

a .................... speaks Italian.
b .................... is waiting in Hamburg.
c .................... says goodbye.
d .................... marries Gräuben.
e .................... goes back to Iceland.
f .................... writes a book.
Hans goes back to the raft and brings the gunpowder. He puts lots of it near the rock.

He takes the lamp and **lights** the gunpowder. Then Lidenbrock, Hans and Axel get on the raft quickly and sail away from the tunnel.

Three . . . two . . . one! A few minutes later the rock explodes.

**light** to give fire to something
Suddenly the sea water runs through a big hole in the cave wall and the raft goes with it.

Minutes later the raft is moving very fast through a big tunnel. Lidenbrock lights the lamp, and Axel can now see the luggage. ‘We haven’t got much food there,’ he thinks.

Down . . . down . . . down. The raft goes down with Lidenbrock, Hans and Axel on it.

Then the raft goes over a waterfall. When they arrive at the bottom, water from the waterfall falls on top of them. Everything is dark, and very quiet there. ‘Am I dead?’ thinks Axel.
Hans lights the lamp again. They are in a small tunnel, they can see. ‘Look! We’re going up now!’ says Lidenbrock, excitedly. ‘Up?’ asks Axel. ‘Where’s this tunnel going? Can we get out of it alive?’

‘I don’t know, Axel. But let’s eat,’ says the professor. ‘I’m hungry.’ They eat, but soon there is no more food.

It’s hotter and hotter in the tunnel now. And the raft is going up the hot tunnel very quickly.

Axel looks at the water under the raft. But there isn’t any water now. The raft is moving on lava.

lava the hot liquid that comes out when a volcano erupts
Axel is worried. ‘What’s happening?’ he asks.
“We’re going back to the upper world,” says the professor. “We’re in a volcano and it’s erupting!”

“But where is this volcano?” thinks Axel.

Suddenly the raft comes out of the tunnel and into the sky. It is moving very fast now. A few minutes later it comes back down and hits the ground near a mountain.

**world** where we all live; people live in lots of different countries in the world
'Are we back in Iceland?' asks Axel. 'No. This isn’t Iceland,' says the professor. 'Everything’s green here.'

‘Come on,’ says the professor. ‘This lava’s very hot. Let’s walk away from the mountain.’ Lidenbrock, Axel and Hans get off the raft and begin to walk quickly away from the volcano.

‘Are you back in Iceland?’ asks the professor. ‘No. This isn’t Iceland,’ says the professor. ‘Everything’s green here.’

‘Come on,’ says the professor. ‘This lava’s very hot. Let’s walk away from the mountain.’ Lidenbrock, Axel and Hans get off the raft and begin to walk quickly away from the volcano.

Soon they see a small boy under a tree. ‘What’s the name of this volcano?’ asks the professor. ‘Etna,’ he answers. Finally the boy understands when the professor speaks in Italian. ‘Etna,’ he answers.

‘So, we’re on Etna in Sicily, in the south of Italy,’ says the professor. “That’s 5,000 kilometres from Snæfells.” Hans smiles for the first time on their long journey.
After that they take a boat back to Germany. When they arrive at the professor’s house in Hamburg, Gräuben is waiting.

‘Now you’re a hero, Axel!’ she says. ‘Please don’t leave me again.’

Soon Hans says goodbye, and goes back to Iceland.

Professor Lidenbrock writes a book about his journey to the centre of the Earth. After that he’s a hero for scientists across the world.

And Axel is the happiest man on Earth ... when he marries Gräuben.

**hero** a person who does something important or good
READING CHECK

Choose the correct pictures.

a Hans puts gunpowder near the . . .

b The raft goes down fast and goes over . . .

c The raft begins to move up, and it’s . . . in the tunnel.

d The raft comes out of a volcano in . . .

e Professor Lidenbrook writes a . . . about the journey.
WORD WORK

Find the words in the crystals and complete the sentences.

a It’s cold in here – let’s .................. a fire.

b There’s a very big ....................... between Canada and the USA at Niagara.

c When a volcano erupts, hot ...................... comes out of the mountain.

d How many countries are there in the ......................?

e Professor Lidenbrock can speak three different ...................... – German, Icelandic and Italian.

f Hans is a ...................... when he goes back to Iceland. Everybody loves him there after his journey to the centre of the Earth.

GUESS WHAT

What happens after the end of the story? Choose from these ideas or add your own.

a □ Axel lives happily with Gräuben and he never leaves Hamburg again.

b □ Axel is a professor when he is older and he studies volcanoes.

c □ Professor Lidenbrock goes back underground to study the people there.

d □ Hans is a guide for scientists from different countries when they visit Iceland.

e □ Gräuben wants to go on a journey across the world.

f □ ..............................................

g □ ..............................................
PROJECT A  Underground maze

1 Look at the map on page 41 from the underground maze game ‘Journey to the Centre of the Earth’. Follow the directions below. What do you find?

a  Climb down the crater on the west side of Snæfells.
b  Go west and climb down the first tunnel on your left.
c  At the bottom of the tunnel you find some gunpowder.
d  Take the gunpowder and go east.
e  Go down the next tunnel on your right. You stop because there are some rocks.
f  Blow up the rocks and go down the first tunnel on your right.
g  There’s a monster in a cave. Fight the monster.
h  You hear a waterfall. Walk towards it. Don’t turn right, but keep straight on.
i  At the waterfall, drink some water and then follow the stream down to the underground sea.
j  There’s a raft on the sea. Get on it and sail east.
k  When the sea stops, look to your left, and you can find Arne Saknussemm’s sign, and his . . . . . . .

2 Complete the directions to find Arne Saknussemm’s compass in the maze.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bottom</th>
<th>cave</th>
<th>climb</th>
<th>crater</th>
<th>don’t</th>
<th>drink</th>
<th>east</th>
<th>first</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>monster</td>
<td>turn</td>
<td>stream</td>
<td>up</td>
<td>waterfall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a  Climb down the ................. on the ................. side of Snæfells, near the volcano.
b  Go west and ................. down the first tunnel on your left.
c  At the ................. , go east and climb ................. the tunnel.
d  Climb down into a ................. . There’s a beautiful ................. and a hungry monster.
e  Fight the ................. and ................. some water. It’s warm!
f  Follow the ................. of warm water, and go down the tunnel out of the cave.
g  When you walk across a tunnel on your right and left, stop – ................. follow the stream down.
h Go east, away from the tunnel with rocks in, and climb down the .................
tunnel on your right.

i Halfway down the tunnel ................. left. You can find Arne Saknussemm’s compass.

3 Choose the crystals or the books in the maze. Write directions to find them.

4 Put Arne Saknussemm’s pen in your maze. Write directions to find it. Work with
a partner. Read your partner’s directions. Where is Saknussemm’s pen in his or
her maze?
PROJECT B  Famous caves

1  You can find all these things in caves. Read the definitions a–f and match them with the pictures 1–6.

- a  □  Bat: this little animal sleeps head down in caves in the day and leaves at night to find food.
- b  □  Painting: early people put these pictures on the walls of caves.
- c  □  River: a large stream.
- d  □  Stalactite: this long rock comes down from the top of a cave.
- e  □  Stalagmite: this tall rock goes up from the ground in a cave.
- f  □  Deer: this animal goes into caves at night to sleep.

2  Read the text on page 43 about three caves in Malaysia. Then complete the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where are they?</th>
<th>Gunung Mulu National Park, Malaysia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of cave</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long is it?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How high is it?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special things to see</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors: Yes / No / Only with guide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How can you get there?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gunung Mulu National Park is in Sarawak, southern Malaysia. In this beautiful rainforest there are some wonderful caves.

Deer Cave is one of the largest caves in the world; it is two kilometres long and 120 metres high. You can enter and walk through the cave without a guide. After a rain storm you can see beautiful waterfalls here. Nearly one million bats live in the cave, and when they leave the cave in the evening they look like a black cloud.

Good Luck Cave has the largest underground room in the world. The room is called the Sarawak Chamber. It is 700 metres long and 70 metres high. Visitors cannot go into this cave.

Clearwater Cave is one of the longest caves in the world. It is 107 kilometres long. There is an underwater river and there are wonderful stalactites and stalagmites here. You can visit this cave only with a guide.

You can travel to Mulu National Park by plane or boat. It takes about 40 minutes from Miri, Sarawak, by small plane. By boat it takes nine hours to travel from Miri to Mulu.
3 Use the information in the table to write about another famous cave.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of cave</th>
<th>Altamira Cave</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How long is it?</td>
<td>270 metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How high is it?</td>
<td>6 metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special things to see</td>
<td>cave paintings of deer, horses and bison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors: Yes / No / Only with guide</td>
<td>only with guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How can you get there?</td>
<td>near town of Santillana del Mar; 1 hour by car from Santander, northern Spain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Altamira Cave is in Cantabria, northern Spain. The cave is near the town of Santillana del Mar. In this cave there are some amazing paintings of different animals. 

4 Think about a cave in your country, or choose another famous cave, and find out more about it. Use the table in Activity 3 to help you make notes and then write about your cave.

**THE BLUE GROTTO, CAPRI**

Waitomo Cave, New Zealand

**CARLSBAD CAVERNS, USA**
**GRAMMAR CHECK**

**Prepositions of place**

We use prepositions of place to say where things are.

- in
- on
- over
- under
- behind
- in front of

1. Complete the sentences about the picture with the correct prepositions.

   a. Arne Saknussem is ...**in**... an old room.
   b. There is a crystal .................. Arne Saknussem’s hand.
   c. There’s a fire ..................... Saknussem.
   d. There are bottles and a book .................. the fire.
   e. There’s a table ..................... Saknussem.
   f. There is a book ..................... the table.
   g. There’s a wall ..................... the book.
   h. There is a white pen ................ the book.
   i. There are letters .................. the book.
   j. There’s a lamp ..................... the table.
   k. There is some paper ................ Saknussem’s hand.
GRAMMAR CHECK

Present Simple: questions and short answers

We use **do/does + infinitive** to make Present Simple questions with most verbs.

*Do you like* Journey to the Centre of the Earth?

*Does the story finish happily?*

With the verbs **be, can, and have got** we make questions by changing the word order.

*It’s interesting.*  
*Is it interesting?*

*You can remember it.*  
*Can you remember it?*

*It’s got six chapters.*  
*How many chapters has it got?*

A short answer matches the verb and pronoun in the question.

*Does Axel like eating?* Yes, *he does.*

*Is Axel’s home in Berlin?* No, *it isn’t.*

2 Write Present Simple questions with these words.

a Axel/be/Lidenbrock’s brother/?  
*Is Axel Lidenbrock’s brother?*

b Axel/can/read/old Icelandic/?  


c he/be/young/?  


d he/have got/a fiancée/?  


e he/have got/children/?  


f he/be/worried/about/the journey/?  


g he/feel/ill/on ships/?  


h Axel’s eyes/be/dark/?  


i Axel’s legs/be/long/?  


j Axel and Lidenbrock/visit/Iceland/?  


k Axel/lose/Hans and Lidenbrock/in/a tunnel/?  


l Axel, Hans and Lidenbrock/come/out of/Vesuvius/?  


m Axel/can/marry/Gräuben/?  


3 Look back at the story and answer the questions in 2 with short answers.

*Is Axel Lidenbrock’s brother?* No, *he isn’t.*
Grammar Check

Present Continuous

We use the Present Continuous to talk about things happening now.

*They’re visiting Iceland.*          *He’s falling down.*

We don’t usually use the Present Continuous with *be, have got, see, feel.*

*He’s afraid.*          *He feels happy.*
*He’s got yellow hair.*          *He sees the mountain.*

4 Complete the text about the picture with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Professor Lidenbrock and Axel a) **are standing** (stand) near the Danish ship.
They b) **arrive** (arrive) in Reykjavik. They c) **look** (look) at Snæfells. The professor d) **smile** (smile).
He e) **be** (be) very excited. He f) **listen** (listen) to him. Axel
(g) **not smile** (not smile) and he i) **not be** (not be) excited.
He j) **feel** (feel) worried and afraid. Axel k) **have got** (have got) a bag in his hand. He l) **wear** (wear) a green suit. All
their things for the journey m) **be** (be) in front of them. There
n) **some houses** (be) not far away.
Linkers: and, but, so, and because

and links two parts of a sentence with the same idea.
Axel is Lidenbrock’s nephew and he lives with him.

but links two parts of a sentence with different ideas.
The professor is excited by the journey, but Axel is worried by it.

so links two parts of a sentence talking about the result of something.
They want to find the centre of the Earth so they go to Iceland.
(result of first part of sentence)

because links two parts of a sentence talking about the reason for something.
They learn about Arne Saknussemm’s journey because they read his secret message.
(reason for first part of sentence)

5 Complete the sentences with and, but, so, or because.

a. Lidenbrock can read old Icelandic but Axel can’t understand it.
b. Axel feels hot he moves the old paper in front of his face.
c. He’s afraid of his uncle he’s afraid of Saknussemm’s message, too.
d. Axel isn’t happy about the journey he must leave Gräuben.
e. Axel and Lidenbrock go to Denmark then they go to Iceland.
f. They talk with Mr Fridrikssen they don’t tell him about their secret plan.
g. Hans Bjelke knows all about Snæfells he’s a good guide for Axel and the professor.
h. Hans isn’t a scientist he wants to visit the centre of the Earth.
i. Hans, Axel and the professor go down one of the holes in the crater the shadow of Scartaris falls on it.
GRAMMAR CHECK

Articles: a/an, the
We use the indefinite articles a/an to talk about something for the first time.
Jules Verne is a French writer. It’s an interesting story.
We use an in front of a word that begins with a vowel or vowel sound.
We use the definite article the when there is only one of something.
The sun is in the sky.
We also use the to talk more about something.
Many people know the story. The food isn’t very nice.

6 Complete the sentences with the correct articles, a/an or the.
a  Axel and the professor find
        .......... message in .......... old
        book. .......... message is from Arne
        Saknussemm.

b  Professor Lidenbrock has .......... compass. He looks at .......... compass from time to time.

c  Professor Lidenbrock takes .......... book with him. He writes about
        .......... journey to the centre of the
        Earth in .......... book.

d  Axel falls down .......... tunnel.
        There’s .......... underground sea at .......... bottom of .......... tunnel.

e  Hans makes .......... raft. Then he, Lidenbrock and Axel put .......... luggage on
        it and go across .......... sea on .......... raft.

f  Two sea monsters come out of .......... water. Axel wants to tell Gräuben about
        .......... monsters.

g  They come to .......... very big rock. They have to blow up .......... rock.
**Adverbs of manner**

We use adverbs of manner to talk about how we do things.

- They speak Italian **badly**.
- They arrive home **happily**.

To make regular adverbs we add **-ly** to the adjective.

- bad – **badly**
- happy – **happily**

Some adverbs are irregular.

- He speaks Italian **well**. (adj. **good**)
- He runs **fast**. (adj. **fast**)

---

**7 Complete these sentences with adverbs of manner.**

- a) The professor comes home **excitedly**. (excited) with an old book.
- b) He goes out for a walk .................. (angry) when he can’t understand the secret message.
- c) He and Axel leave home .................. (quick) because their train leaves at six o’clock.
- d) Axel looks up at Snæfells .................. (worried).
- e) He eats dinner ......................... (hungry) at Mr Fridriksson’s house.
- f) Axel and the professor find a good guide .................. (easy) with Mr Fridriksson’s help.
- g) The professor tells Hans .................. (quiet) about his plan.
- h) Hans, the professor, and Axel go down into the crater .................. (slow).
- i) Hans walks ....................... (fast) down the tunnel.
- j) They drink the water from the tunnel wall .................. (thirsty).
- k) The professor looks .................. (careful) at the rocks.
- l) Hans makes the raft .................. (good).
- m) Axel marries Gräuben .................. (happy) when he’s back in Hamburg.
Present Simple: negative

We make most Present Simple verbs negative with doesn’t (does not) or don’t (do not) + infinitive without to.

Hans Bjelke and Mr Fridriksson don’t live in Hamburg.
Hans doesn’t read a lot.

With the verbs be, have got, and can, we add n’t (not) to the verb.
Hans isn’t old. He hasn’t got white hair. He can’t speak Italian.

8 Write these sentences with the verbs in the negative.

a Hans smiles a lot. Hans doesn’t smile a lot.
b His eyes are dark. ................................................
c He talks a lot. ....................................................
d He’s got thin arms and legs. ..................................
e He can read old Icelandic. ......................................
f He’s a science teacher. ...........................................
g He and Mr Fridriksson are Danish. ..........................
h Hans is worried by the journey. .............................
i Hans has got a compass. ......................................
j He’s a bad guide. ...................................................
k He fights the sea monsters. ....................................
l He and Axel kill a mastodon. .................................
m Hans and the professor talk to an underground man. ..................................................
n Hans finds Arne Saksussemm’s knife. ........................
o Hans writes a book about his journey. ......................
p He’s a hero for scientists across the world. ................
q He marries Gräuben in the end. ................................
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Hercules is the strongest man in the world, but one day he does something very bad. The priestess at Delphi tells him: ‘The gods are angry with you. For twelve years you must work for King Eurystheus, and do twelve tasks for him. When you finish, the gods can forgive your crime.’ Some tasks are easier, and some tasks are more difficult. Can Hercules finish all twelve of them? And what happens when he does?

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<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>CEFR</th>
<th>Cambridge Exams</th>
<th>IELTS</th>
<th>TOEFL iBT</th>
<th>TOEIC</th>
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<td>550</td>
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<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
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<td>Starter &amp; Quick Starter</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>YLE Movers</td>
<td>–</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Journey to the Centre of the Earth

In Hamburg, Germany, Professor Otto Lidenbrock comes home with an old Icelandic book. In it there is a message about a journey to the centre of the Earth.

This is the beginning of one of Jules Verne’s most exciting stories.

‘Is this message true? We must go to Iceland and see!’ says Lidenbrock excitedly. But his nephew, Axel, wants to stay at home.

Can Lidenbrock and Axel – and their Icelandic guide, Hans – find the centre of the Earth? And can they all get back alive after their many underground adventures?

Text adaptation by Merinda Wilson
Illustrated by Mark Draisey

This book is supported by a MultiROM, containing a complete dramatized audio recording of the story plus interactive activities.

Series Editors: Bill Bowler and Sue Parminter

Word count 2,674