

# TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

JULES VERNE

# LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY KATHY SAMMIS

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## SYNOPSIS

### Part One

**Chap. 1:** In 1866, word spread around the globe that a number of ships have encountered "an enormous thing," presumably some sort of mammoth cetacean, in many of the world's oceans. Speculation about the actual nature of this thing has run rampant. Then, in April 1867, the Cunard vessel *Scotia* is struck by something that cuts out an enormous section of its hull beneath the water line.

**Chap. 2:** Narration is taken over by Professor Aronnax of the Paris Museum of Natural History, who is in New York at the time of the *Scotia* incident, on his way back to France from a scientific expedition. Aronnax, author of a scholarly work titled *The Mysteries of the Great Ocean Depths*, is greatly intrigued by the controversy about whether the "enormous thing" is a sea monster or a submarine vessel. Aronnax inclines toward the existence of a giant narwhal. The U.S. government commissions Commander Farragut to outfit the frigate *Abraham Lincoln* to track down and destroy the monster and invites Aronnax to join the expedition.

**Chap. 3:** An eager Aronnax (age 40) tells his imperterbable, steadfastly loyal servant Conseil (a "lad" of 30) to pack quickly for the trip. (Conseil is an engaging stock comic figure who, in spite of his name, never gives Aronnax advice and always refers to his master in the third person, as in "Did Monsieur call me?"). When the *Abraham Lincoln* leaves New York harbor later that day of July 2 or 3, Aronnax and Conseil are aboard.

**Chap. 4:** Also on board is the Canadian Ned Land, "the prince of harpooners," a big, strong man and a veteran of many successful whaling voyages. Unlike everyone else on board, Ned does not believe in the existence of a giant cetacean. In a device he repeats many times throughout the novel, Verne achieves his objective of imparting scientific information to his readers by means of a discussion between Aronnax and Land about the pressure of water at various depths and the classification of cetaceans.

**Chap. 5:** Starting on July 6, the *Abraham Lincoln* cruises around the Pacific Ocean searching for the monster. After three fruitless months, the formerly eager crew members become completely disillusioned and discontent. On November 2, Captain Farragut promises they will turn back if they have not made contact with the creature by November 5. Just at dusk on that day, Ned Land spots the creature.

**Chap. 6:** The creature, glowing brilliantly underwater, rushes at great speed toward the frigate, circles, withdraws. The next morning, the monster appears a yard above the surface, revealing its long black body and shooting jets of steam and water high into the air. As the *Abraham Lincoln* pursues, the creature stays maddeningly ahead at an even distance. That night, though, the frigate approaches the

seemingly sleeping monster. Ned Land's harpoon bounces off the creature's surface. A "fearful jolt" then flings Aronnax into the sea.

**Chap. 7:** Faithful Conseil leaps into the water to join Aronnax, and together they manage to stay afloat until they reach Ned, who also fell overboard and is perched on an "island" that is actually a steel vessel shaped like an immense fish. At daylight, the craft begins to sink, then stops; hulking, masked men emerge from a hatch and drag Aronnax, Land, and Conseil down inside the vessel.

**Chap. 8:** The three friends find themselves locked into a small cabin; Ned reacts with furious indignation. The captain of the vessel then enters the cabin; Aronnax is impressed with the admirable character traits this man emanates from his fine body. However, the Captain converses with the sailor who accompanies him in an incomprehensible language and shows no sign of understanding when Aronnax, Land, and Conseil in turn tell him their story in French, English, German, and Latin. The Captain leaves and dinner arrives. Each implement bears the motto *mobilis in mobili* ("mobile within the mobile element") in a circle around the letter *N*.

**Chap. 9:** Ned Land characteristically frets and fumes in the small compartment, while Conseil counsels adaptation. Ned is all for immediate escape attempts, while Aronnax says they must wait to see how things turn out, what their actual circumstances will be.

**Chap. 10:** The Captain returns the following day and explains the situation. He has broken completely with human society for reasons he declines to reveal, and now lives his life entirely in and on the ocean. He has decided to let the three "intruders" stay aboard his vessel, with freedom to move about at will. However, the Captain—called Nemo ("nobody" in Latin)—keeps the existence of himself and his ship a secret from the world, so Aronnax, Land, and Conseil will never be allowed to leave. Nemo draws Aronnax in with the prospect of an around-the-world undersea journey that will vastly expand the Professor's knowledge of sea life. At lunch, Nemo explains to Aronnax that all the needs of life aboard the ship, the *Nautilus*, are supplied by the sea, detailing things such as food, clothing, bedding, and toiletries. Nemo waxes poetic about the wonders and bounty of the sea, and points out that beneath the sea one can find perfect peace and complete freedom, for the undersea world is free of the control and violence of land-based despots.

**Chap. 11:** Nemo introduces Aronnax to the wonders of the *Nautilus*. The library contains 12,000 volumes. The enormous saloon features art masterworks and a museum-quality collection of natural rarities which Aronnax describes in great detail in a series of densely informational paragraphs, a knowledge-imparting device Verne uses multiple times throughout the novel whenever Aronnax encounters undersea sights and life forms.

**Chaps. 12-13:** Nemo shows the *Nautilus's* navigational

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instruments to Aronnax, reveals that electricity drives all of the vessel's mechanisms, gives specifications of the boat's construction and ability to withstand water pressure at great depths, and explains how the boat is navigated. The Captain declares with passion, "I love her as though she were a part of me!...I have complete confidence in the *Nautilus*, since I am her captain, her builder, and her engineer!"

**Chap. 14:** At midday on November 8, the *Nautilus* begins its round-the-world "voyage of exploration," starting about 300 miles off the coast of Japan. Nemo disappears, but Ned and Conseil join Aronnax in the saloon, where sliding panels set in its sides open to reveal large viewing windows; searchlights illuminate the breathtaking undersea landscape for a mile around the *Nautilus*. Conseil and Land spar about how to classify fish, and Aronnax describes for the reader some of the many types of fish he is thrilled to be viewing.

**Chaps. 15-17:** For the next week, Aronnax immerses himself in natural science studies in the saloon and enjoys fresh air and sea views on the above-water platform when the *Nautilus* is on the surface. Nemo remains out of sight. On November 17, though, Nemo invites Aronnax to come on a hunting party "in the forests of the Isle of Crespo." The "forests" are underwater, so each hunter dons a diving suit with its own air supply. Aronnax is fascinated by all the creatures and plants he encounters on the expedition, which he catalogues for us in detail.

**Chaps. 18-21:** During the ensuing weeks, *The Nautilus* travels east, then southeast through the Pacific, passing Hawaii and then cruising down among the islands of the South Pacific. Captain Nemo only rarely appears. On January 4, while navigating through the treacherous Torres Strait after crossing the Coral Sea, the *Nautilus* runs aground on a coral reef near the island of Gueboroar. The ship is unharmed, but the voyagers will have to wait for the full moon on January 9 to float the submarine off the reef. Aronnax, Conseil, and Land take the dinghy ashore to hunt for fresh meat, to Ned's great delight. All three men are excited to set foot on land again, although escape is not possible here.

**Chap. 22:** On January 8 natives swarm over the *Nautilus*, but when they try to enter the ship when it opens its hatches in the morning, they are repelled by a strong electric current running through the rail of the staircase into the vessel. That afternoon, the high tide floats the *Nautilus* off, as a calm Nemo had predicted, and the submarine continues on its voyage.

**Chaps. 23-24:** Aronnax is now extremely impressed with the *Nautilus*'s great power and self-defense capabilities, and he increasingly transfers that admiration to Captain Nemo, with whom he also conducts interesting scientific experiments on various characteristics of seawater. However, on January 18, the Captain spies something on the horizon in the Indian Ocean that infuriates him. He locks Aronnax, Land, and Conseil in the small compartment overnight, where the three men fall into a drugged sleep. The next morning, Nemo summons Aronnax, who is also a medical doctor, to the bedside of a dying crew member who has suffered a devastating skull injury, from an incident during a collision, Nemo explains evasively. The next day, Nemo and the crew members conduct a touching burial ceremony in their hidden undersea cemetery in the Coral Kingdom. Here, Nemo declares later, his dead comrades sleep quietly and securely, "Beyond the reach of sharks—and—of men!"

## Part Two

**Chap. 1:** Aronnax suspects that Nemo uses his submarine to wreak vengeance as well as to flee human society. But Aronnax also finds the journey fascinating, so he is torn by ambivalence: "I, as an individual deprived of his free will, longed for [an opportunity to escape], of course, but the scientist in me, curious for knowledge, dreaded it." Meanwhile, the *Nautilus* continues to cruise through the Indian Ocean.

**Chaps. 2-3:** Captain Nemo proposes an expedition to the oyster beds off Ceylon, which prompts a conversation in which Aronnax tells Conseil and Land all about oysters and pearling. Wearing their diving suits, the four men observe a lone pearl diver at work. When a shark attacks the diver, Nemo fearlessly springs to the rescue, and Ned Land in turn saves Nemo from death. We get a clue to Nemo's identity when he says of the diver, "That Indian, Monsieur le Professeur, lives in the land of the oppressed, and I belong, and—to my last breath—will always belong, to that land!"

**Chaps. 4-5:** Ned Land remains anxious to escape; Aronnax says he will discuss escape plans only when a good opportunity arises. The *Nautilus* cruises the Gulf of Oman, then enters the Red Sea, whose sea inhabitants Aronnax as usual describes in detail. Nemo and Aronnax discuss what the ancients wrote about the Red Sea, and Nemo discloses an amazing discovery known only to him: the existence of the Arabian Tunnel, an underwater passage from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean. Nemo skillfully navigates the submarine into this Tunnel, and the vessel, carried along by a mighty current, emerges in the Mediterranean in less than twenty minutes.

**Chap. 6:** Cruising near Crete, Nemo signals to an underwater diver, a man who swims among the Greek islands. Nemo delivers a chest full of gold ingots to this man, destined for the Cretan rebels who are fighting to end Turkish rule. After this incident, Nemo navigates the *Nautilus* near an underwater volcano.

**Chaps. 7-8:** *The Nautilus* cruises the length of the Mediterranean (with Aronnax describing the sea creatures in his usual detail) and emerges in the Atlantic on February 18. Nemo tells Aronnax about the sinking of the Spanish treasure fleet from the Americas in 1702 in Spain's Vigo Bay. This sunken treasure is the source of Nemo's vast wealth; the *Nautilus* is now in Vigo Bay, and crew members are gathering more treasure as Nemo speaks. Nemo uses this wealth to support himself and his submarine and crew, but also to help oppressed victims around the world, he declares passionately.

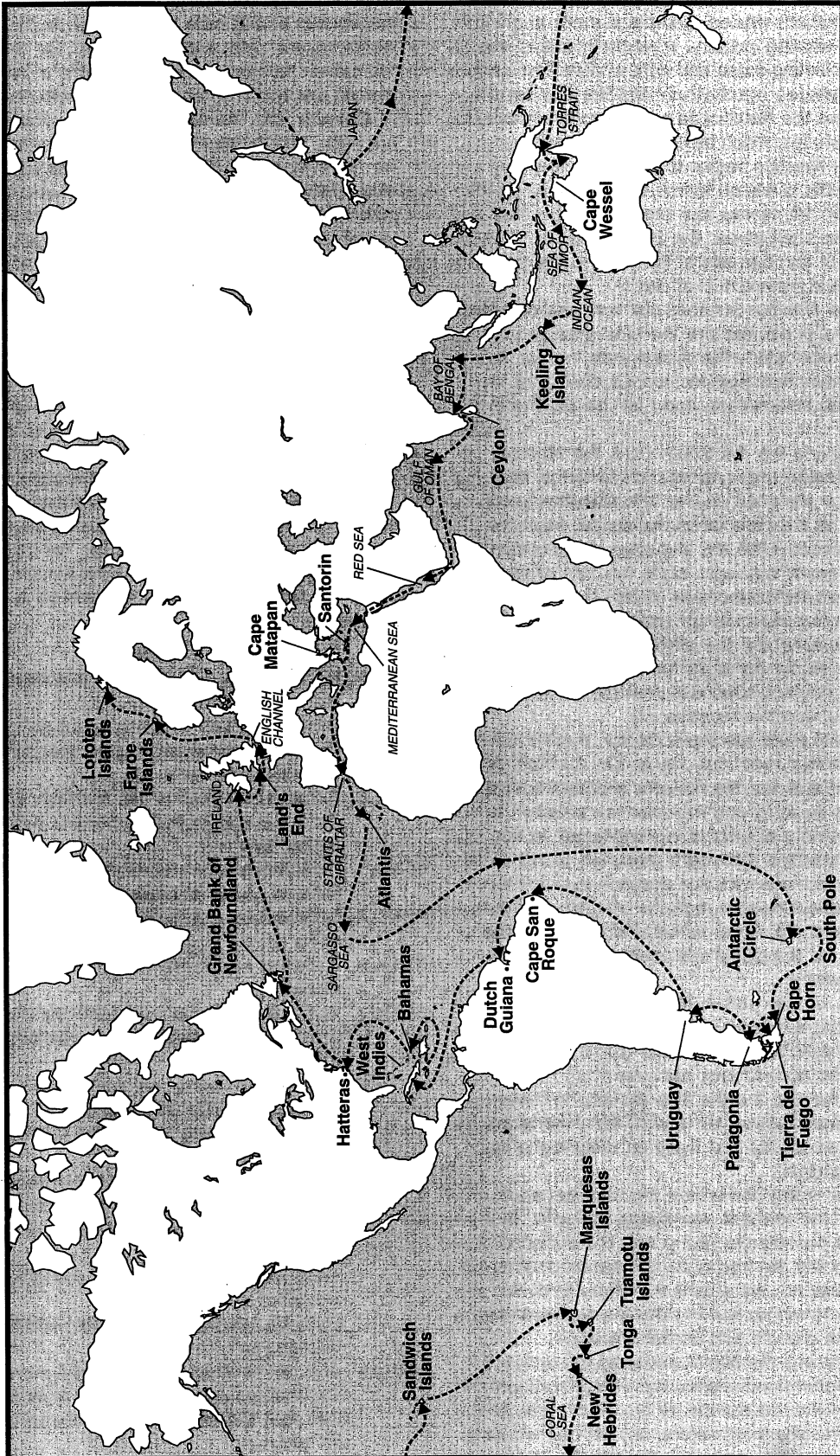
**Chap. 9:** The *Nautilus* now cruises south-southwest, and on the night of February 19-20, Nemo takes Aronnax on an underwater expedition to the lost city of Atlantis, which prompts the professor to relate to us all the details of the Atlantis legend.

**Chap. 10:** On February 20, the *Nautilus* docks inside the cone of an extinct volcano, where crew members burn coal they have harvested from under the sea to produce the sodium needed in turn to produce the ship's electricity.

**Chap. 11:** The *Nautilus* visits the Sargasso Sea, then continues in a general southward direction through the Atlantic. On March 13, Nemo dives the *Nautilus* to the astonishing depth of over 50,000 feet.

**Chap. 12:** The *Nautilus* continues to head south. Aronnax wonders if they could possibly be going to the South Pole, while Ned seethes with suppressed anger at the impossibility

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of any escape attempts so far from land. An encounter with a large group of southern whales prompts Nemo's angry condemnation of the whaling industry, which he states is well on the way to exterminating these and right whales. But when a herd of sperm whales (cachelots) attacks the southern whales, Nemo uses the *Nautilus* as a killing machine to annihilate the sperm whales, which he calls vicious murderers.

**Chap. 13:** The *Nautilus* begins to encounter ice floes and crosses the Antarctic Circle on March 16. Blocked by a thick ice field on March 18, Nemo has the submarine dive and travel under the ice shelf toward the South Pole itself, relying on the existence of an open sea at the Pole where the *Nautilus* can surface and replenish its air supply.

**Chap. 14:** The *Nautilus* successfully surfaces on March 19. Aronnax and Conseil explore the land and observe its creatures for several days while Nemo waits for the sun to emerge so he can confirm their position. On March 20, Nemo makes the needed calculations and then claims the South Pole in his name.

**Chaps. 15-16:** Leaving the South Pole, the *Nautilus* collides with an overturning iceberg, which traps the ship between it and the ice shelf above. The situation becomes increasingly grim as the crew labors for six days to hack the vessel out of its prison while the ship's supply of breathable air diminishes to nearly nothing. Just in the nick of time, the *Nautilus* breaks free and surfaces on March 28.

**Chap. 17:** Aronnax is profoundly grateful to Ned and Conseil, who kept him alive with the last of their bottled air. The *Nautilus* now travels swiftly north up the Atlantic coast of South America, prompting abundant descriptions by Aronnax of the many natural wonders he observes.

**Chap. 18:** Nemo becomes more moody, more reserved, less sociable; Aronnax sees him only rarely. On April 20, in the vicinity of the Bahamas, the *Nautilus* encounters a clutch of immense giant squid (prompting Aronnax to relate to his companions the history of giant squid sightings). When one of the creatures disables the ship's propeller, Nemo brings the *Nautilus* to the surface, where a dozen men—plus Nemo, Aronnax, Land, and Conseil—engage in a furious battle, finally repelling the squid. Nemo saves Ned, repaying Ned for his shark rescue, but the Captain is devastated at the loss of one of his crew members.

**Chap. 19:** Nemo's despair at the loss of his comrade is mirrored by the ship's course, which becomes random. On May 1, the *Nautilus* begins to follow the Gulf Stream. Off the coast of the United States, Aronnax asks Nemo to release him and his two friends, but the Captain replies, "Whoever enters the *Nautilus* must never leave her." Ned plans an escape, but is thwarted by bad weather, including a raging hurricane off Long Island.

**Chap. 20:** The storm has driven the *Nautilus* eastward, away from land; Ned retreats into despairing solitude. The ship heads across the Atlantic, giving Aronnax the opportunity to view, and review the history of, the transatlantic cable. Off the coast of Ireland, the submarine starts to circle, and then finds the site Nemo wishes to view: the wrecked French ship *Avenger*, sunk in battle with English warships.

**Chap. 21:** Surfacing, the *Nautilus* is suddenly attacked by a warship of undetermined nationality. Ned, Aronnax, and Conseil are determined to escape before Nemo attacks the warship, but the *Nautilus* dives before they act on their plans. The submarine then rams and sinks the enemy ship. Horrified,

Aronnax watches through the saloon viewing panel as the warship and its men sink into the depths. Also watching is Nemo, "silent, cold, and implacable." But then Nemo goes to his cabin, falls on his knees before a portrait of a young woman and two children, and bursts into deep sobs.

**Chapter 22:** The *Nautilus* now speeds toward the northern seas. The submarine cruises the North Atlantic erratically for the next 15 or 20 days—Aronnax is not sure of the elapsed time, because all of the vessel's clocks have stopped. One morning, Ned Land tells Aronnax they are within sight of land. That night, Ned, Aronnax, and Conseil get into the dinghy; just as they are prepared to cast off, the *Nautilus* is caught in the mighty Norwegian Sea maelstrom (whirlpool). Both dinghy and submarine whirl around and around, and then Aronnax strikes his head and falls unconscious.

**Chap. 23:** Aronnax comes to in the hut of a fisherman on one of the Lofoten Islands, his friends safely with him. While waiting for the next steamship to come to the islands, Aronnax is revising the many notes he wrote during the voyage of the *Nautilus*, planning to publish his account of the expedition, whether people believe it or not. Aronnax wonders about the fate of the *Nautilus* and Captain Nemo, hoping they both survived, but with Nemo's thirst for vengeance at last quenched. (The secret of Captain Nemo's nationality and the source of his desire for revenge is revealed in Verne's *The Mysterious Island*.)

### TIME LINE

- ca. 1620 Cornelius van Drebbel demonstrates first known successful submarine.
- 1776 American David Busnell builds the *Turtle*, a human-powered submarine that unsuccessfully attacks British warships.
- 1805 Robert Fulton builds the *Nautilus*, a human-powered submarine with a copper hull and ballast tanks.
- 1863 French submarine *Le Plongeur* is first to use compressed air to clear ballast tanks.
- 1864 Confederate submarine *Hunley* sinks Union warship.
- 1866 Multiple ships spot the "monster" in various oceans.
- 1867 **April 13** *Scotia* incident in the Atlantic.  
**July 2-3** *Abraham Lincoln* embarks from New York.  
**Nov. 5** Ned Land spots the creature in Pacific Ocean, 200 miles from Japan.  
**Nov. 7** Aronnax, Land, and Conseil are taken aboard the *Nautilus*.  
**Nov. 8** *Nautilus* begins its round-the-world under-sea voyage in Pacific, 300 miles from Japan.  
**Nov. 17** Hunting party visits forests of Isle of Cre-spo.  
**Nov. 27** *Nautilus* sails within sight of Hawaiian Islands.  
**Dec. 15** *Nautilus* cruises near Tahiti and Society Islands.
- 1868 **Jan. 4** *Nautilus* runs aground on coral reef off Papuan coast by island of Gueboroar.  
**Jan. 8-9** Natives attack *Nautilus*; ship later floats off reef.  
**Jan. 18-19** *Nautilus* engages in hostile action

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against enemy ship in Indian Ocean.

**Jan. 20** A dead crewman is buried in Coral Kingdom cemetery.

**Jan. 29** Land saves Nemo from shark attack in pearling bed off Ceylon.

**Feb. 11** *Nautilus* travels through Arabian Tunnel from Red Sea to Mediterranean.

**Feb. 14** Nemo sends trunk of gold to diver near Crete.

**Feb. 18** *Nautilus* visits site of sunken treasure in Vigo Bay.

**Feb. 18-19** Aronnax and Nemo visit sunken city of Atlantis.

**Feb. 20** *Nautilus* docks inside cone of extinct volcano.

**March 13** *Nautilus* dives to 50,000 feet.

**March 14** Nemo uses *Nautilus* to slaughter sperm whales.

**March 18** *Nautilus* travels under ice shelf near the South Pole.

**March 21** Nemo reaches, claims South Pole.

**March 23** *Nautilus* is trapped underwater between iceberg and ice shelf.

**March 28** *Nautilus* escapes ice trap.

**March 31** *Nautilus* returns to vicinity of Cape Horn, heads north in Atlantic.

**April 11** *Nautilus* surfaces at mouth of Amazon, crosses equator.

**April 20** Giant squid attack *Nautilus* in vicinity of Bahamas.

**May 1** *Nautilus* resumes northward course after days of aimless drifting.

**May 28** *Nautilus* turns south 100 miles from Ireland coast.

**June 1** *Nautilus* visits site of *Avenger* wreck; back on surface, warship attacks the submarine.

**June 2** *Nautilus* sinks the warship, heads north.

**ca. 15-20 days later** *Nautilus* is caught in Norwegian Sea maelstrom; Aronnax, Land, and Conseil escape in dinghy.

**1887** Battery-powered submarine is developed in France.

**1900** United States buys its first submarine.

**1902** Submarines begin to use periscope.

**1954** United State launches the *Nautilus*, the world's first nuclear-powered submarine.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jules Verne, known as the "father of science fiction," developed a new form of the novel, the *roman scientifique*, or scientific novel, in which the discoveries and innovations of modern science provide the plot mainspring for a traditional action and adventure tale. From 1863 to 1910, Verne published a long series of this type of novel, called collectively *Voyages extraordinaires*. He assiduously followed the outpouring of scientific and technological advances of his times and extrapolated from this to write detailed, credible descriptions of wonders yet to be invented, including the submarine, the airplane, and spaceships. He was, and remains, one of the world's most-read and most-translated authors.

Verne was born in 1828 at Nantes, France, one of five children; his father was a lawyer and his mother came from a family of shipowners. He grew up loving both the sea and

machines. In 1847, Verne's father, expecting his son to join his law practice, sent the young man to Paris to study law. Jules completed his law studies but discovered his true vocation, literature. In 1850, he passed his law examinations but stayed in Paris writing poems, short stories, essays, and plays, earning a meager living while hoping to become a successful dramatist. He began to spend long days at the Bibliothèque Nationale consulting reference works on history and geography, and science and popular journals, as background for his essays, which prompted him to develop the idea of the science novel, which would combine all this fascinating information with fictional action and adventure.

After his marriage in 1857 to a young widow with two daughters, Verne took up a full-time job as a stockbroker in order to support his new family, which expanded in 1861 with the birth of son Michel. Verne continued to write in the mornings and research at the library on weekends. In 1862, he met publisher Jules Hetzel and showed him the manuscript of a "scientific novel" about a balloon voyage across Africa, both topics of great public interest at the time. Hetzel had recently started a family publication with a goal of disseminating scientific knowledge to the French public in an accessible, entertaining way. Hetzel saw a perfect fit with Verne, and immediately signed him to a long-term contract to produce two science-type novels per year. The first, *Five Weeks in a Balloon*, appeared in 1863 and was both a children's and an adults' best-seller. This began the *Extraordinary Voyages* series, all published by Hetzel, an extremely successful collaboration for both publisher and author. Verne continued his great popular success with *Journey to the Center of the Earth* in 1864 and *From the Earth to the Moon* in 1865, plus several other adventure/science tales.

In 1869, the Verne family moved to the seaside town of Le Crotoy, where Jules worked on his novel about an undersea voyage in the seclusion of his yacht *Saint-Michel's* cabin. This tale was published in 1870 as *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, which has endured as Verne's most popular novel. Its 1870 sequel, *The Mysterious Island*, reveals the secret life story and ultimate fate of Captain Nemo. In 1872 Verne resettled his family permanently at Amiens, his wife's home town, and also published his highly popular novel, *Around the World in Eighty Days*. An extravagant stage version of this tale played in Paris for the next fifty years.

The tenor of Verne's novels began to change in the late 1870's. He was beset by personal problems—a rebellious son, financial difficulties, lameness caused by his insane nephew's gunpoint attack—and by France's ongoing economic, political, and social turmoil. Verne lost his optimistic view of the benefits of scientific and technological innovation, a change reflected in his novels, which now depicted scientists misusing scientific advances for their own harmful personal purposes. Verne kept up a prolific output of novels in spite of his difficulties, which grew to include old age and illness, until his death in Amiens in 1905.

### CRITICS' CORNER

English-language criticism of Verne has suffered for up to a century because of a problem that was little realized until the 1960's: Early English translations, which became the standards and are still found in many editions of Verne's works, were dreadful, cutting large amounts of the original French text and making multiple errors in changing the

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French into English. (For example, when Captain Farragut calls for "another [gunner] more skilled"—*un autre plus adroit*—the "standard" translation has him demand "another [shot], more to the right," and when Professor Aronnax says he is returning from an expedition to the Badlands of Nebraska—*les mauvaises terres*—the "standard" translation refers to the "disagreeable territories" of Nebraska.) Thanks to these clumsy early translations, English-language critics long considered Verne a children's writer remarkable only for his vivid imagination. Recent, accurate retranslations have elevated Verne's standing to the admiring level he always enjoyed among French critics. He is now seen as a writer who succeeded well at disseminating scientific knowledge by a skillful use of action, suspense, evocative descriptive passages, psychologically accurate and sometimes humorous characterization, and mostly correct scientific extrapolations and calculations, all seasoned with social criticism and environmental awareness, plus humor and irony. Some critics continue to fault Verne for his lack of female characters, sometimes stereotypical characters, and the frequent and lengthy paragraphs of scientific information that break up the novels' action sequences.

Verne's earlier novels were and remain his most popular and most critically admired. Many critics consider *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* to be Verne's masterpiece. Verne's imaginative and very credible descriptions of the submarine *Nautilus* and its methods of operation make the existence of such a vessel seem perfectly logical, although no such ship would be built until many years in the future. The brooding, brilliant, enigmatic Captain Nemo is one of literature's most memorable characters, and Aronnax's ambivalent relationship with Nemo provides ongoing intrigue. The richly detailed descriptions of the myriad wonders Aronnax and his companions encounter on their undersea voyage create vivid scenes in the reader's mind, while the action and suspense keep readers engrossed. For details about deficiencies in early translations of the novel and correct revisions, see *The Annotated Jules Verne: "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea,"* by Walter James Miller (listed in this guide's Bibliography). The novel has been filmed twice, once by Universal Films in 1916 and again by Walt Disney Productions in 1954 (starring James Mason, Kirk Douglas, and Peter Lorre). Two television versions were produced in 1997.

### OTHER WORKS BY JULES VERNE

#### **Extraordinary Voyages series**

- Cinq Semaines en ballon (Five Weeks in a Balloon)* (1863)  
*Voyage au centre de la terre (Journey to the Center of the Earth)* (1864)  
*De la terre à la lune (From the Earth to the Moon)*  
*Voyages et aventures du Capitaine Hatteras (The Voyages and Adventures of Captain Hatteras)* (1866)  
*Les Enfants du Capitaine Grant (A Voyage Around the World, Captain Grant's Children)* (1867)  
*Autour de la lune (Around the Moon)* (1870)  
*Vingt Mille Lieues sous les mers (20,000 Leagues Under the Sea)* (1870)  
*L'île mystérieuse (The Mysterious Island)* (1870)  
*Une Ville flottante et Les Forceurs de blocus (A Floating City and The Blockade Runners)* (1871)  
*Le Tour du monde en quatre-vingts jours (Around the World in Eighty Days)* (1872)

- Aventures de trois russes et de trois anglais dans l'Afrique australe (The Adventures of Three Englishmen and Three Russians in South Africa)* (1872)  
*Le Pays des fourrures (The Fur Country)* (1873)  
*Le Docteur Ox (Doctor Ox and Other Stories)* (1874)  
*Le Chancelier (The Chancellor)* (1875)  
*Martin Paz (The Pearl of Lima)* (1876)  
*Michel Strogoff (Michael Strogoff)* (1876)  
*Hector Servadac: Voyages et aventures à travers le monde solaire (Hector Servadac: Travels and Adventures Through the Solar System)* (1877)  
*Les Indes-noires (The Black-Indies)* (1877)  
*Un Capitaine de quinze ans (A Captain at Fifteen)* (1878)  
*Les Cinq Cents Millions de la Begum (The Five Hundred Millions of the Begum)* (1879)  
*Les Tribulations d'un Chinois en Chine (The Tribulations of a Chinaman in China)* (1879)  
*La Maison à vapeur: Voyage à travers l'Inde septentrionale (The Steam-house: or, A Trip Across Northern India)* (1880-81)  
*La Jangada: Huit Cents Lieues sur l'Amazone (The Jangada: or, Eight Hundred Leagues on the Amazon)* (1881)  
*L'Ecole des Robinsons (Robinsons' School)* (1882)  
*L'Etoile du sud: Le Pays des diamants (The Southern Star: or, The Diamond Land)* (1884)  
*Robur-le-conquerant (Robur the Conqueror)* (1886)  
*Deux Ans de vacances (Two Years' Holiday)* (1888)  
*Sans dessus dessous (Topsy-Turvy)* (1889)  
*L'île à hélice (The Floating Island)* (1895)  
*Le Sphinx des glaces (An Antarctic Mystery)* (1897)  
*Maitre du monde (The Master of the World)* (1904)  
*Le Volcan d'or (The Golden Volcano)* (1906)

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## 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

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"Jules Verne, Misunderstood Visionary" <[www.sciam.com/0497issue/0497evans.html](http://www.sciam.com/0497issue/0497evans.html)>

"The Life and Works of Jules Verne" <[www.people.virginia.edu/~mtpOf/flips/jules.html](http://www.people.virginia.edu/~mtpOf/flips/jules.html)>

"Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" <[home.att.net/~karen.crisafulli/20000.html](http://home.att.net/~karen.crisafulli/20000.html)>

"Zvi Har'El's Jules Verne Collection" <[JV.Gilead.org.il/](http://JV.Gilead.org.il/)>

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To gain broad general knowledge about the world's oceans and seas
2. To become familiar with methods of operating submarines and traveling underwater
3. To learn about nineteenth-century advances in science and technology
4. To examine the value of and motivations for friendship and loyalty
5. To consider the nature of courage
6. To discuss reasons why a person might choose to sever all ties with humanity
7. To review the growth of imperialism and struggles for political freedom in the nineteenth century
8. To gain familiarity with elements of science fiction
9. To consider the ethics of revenge

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To understand Nemo's motivations for living underwater and seeking revenge
2. To analyze Aronnax's ambivalent feelings about Nemo and about continuing on the underwater voyage
3. To identify the ways in which Conseil and Ned Land act as foils for one another
4. To note details about the ways in which the *Nautilus* operates and understand the problems of water pressure and the need for fresh air that Nemo has had to overcome
5. To identify Nemo's expressed ecological concerns and relate them to today's world
6. To understand the novel's many allusions to aspects of ancient civilizations and cultures
7. To examine the ways in which the author designed the novel for serialization by using chapter-ending suspense
8. To understand the symbolism of the maelstrom that captures Nemo and the *Nautilus*
9. To learn more about some specific aspects of oceanography and marine biology that are mentioned in the novel

### LITERARY TERMS

For a better understanding of the novel, present the following terms and applications to your students.

**allusion:** a usually brief, often casual reference to some other person, event, or thing. This novel makes frequent allusions to elements of classic ancient culture, such as Homer and *The Iliad*, Argus, Oedipus and the Sphinx, Orpheus, the Temple of Hercules, the eruption of Vesuvius, Plato and Aristotle, Virgil, the Atlantes, and Caesar.

**first-person narration:** the telling of a novel or short story from the point of view of only one person, in that person's voice. In this novel, Professor Aronnax relates the remarkable events of the underwater round-the-world journey, which adds his sense of awe and excitement to the descriptions of the underwater marvels, reveals his feelings of being torn in two opposite directions between Ned's urgent need to escape and the seduction of unique scientific study opportunities, and produces suspense as he repeatedly speculates on what might be the outcome of various plot developments. Having Aronnax as narrator also adds to the mystery of Nemo's enigmatic character, since Nemo only reveals flashes of himself to Aronnax and hence to the reader.

**science fiction:** a fictional work that speculates on the possibilities of science and technology to change the human experience and society as we know it, or, more generally, imaginative literature that presents plausible events that might take place in the future. As with the submarine in this novel, a science fiction tale may be an adventure story dealing with forms of travel not possible at the time the book is written. Science fiction can also be a means of commenting on human nature and society or speculating on theological and ethical matters, which this novel also does, expressing, for example, concerns about imperialist oppression of subject peoples and overhunting certain types of living creatures to extinction.

**stock character:** a stereotyped character who appears regularly in literature. In this novel, as in many of his others, Verne includes the loyal servant willing to follow his master anywhere and even give his own life to save that of his master. Verne also uses his servant as a stock comic character; Conseil insists on addressing the Professor in the third person (to his master's annoyance), reacts to the sight of any new sea creature by rattling off its classification, and refuses to be agitated by any aspect of this other-worldly adventure.

**symbolism:** the use of elements in a literary work that stand for something else. In this novel, for example, the maelstrom that engulfs Captain Nemo and the *Nautilus* at the end is a symbol of the emotional whirlpool that has engulfed Nemo, torn by his unremitting vow of revenge and his deep sorrow over the lost lives of both his family and the victims of his vengeance.

### SETTINGS

The basic setting is the remarkable submarine *Nautilus*, creation of the brilliant Captain Nemo. This large, spacious craft includes a library room stocked with 12,000 volumes and a luxurious saloon filled with art and natural history treasures, with sliding panels that open to reveal the underwater seascape to enthralled observers. The *Nautilus* is also a formidable and impregnable warship, covered with impenetrable steel plates, driven by powerful electric engines, and equipped with a bow spur that can rip through the hull of any targeted opposing ship. A platform on top of the submarine

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provides an observation post when the vessel is on the water's surface, an opportunity Aronnax frequently takes advantage of. A dinghy, used for excursions and fishing, is attached to the upper part of the ship's hull, housed in a special compartment; it is in this dinghy that Ned Land, Aronnax, and Conseil finally make their escape from the *Nautilus*. The other ship featured in the novel is the U.S. frigate *Abraham Lincoln*, a warship that attempts to track down and kill the "monster." When Aronnax and Land are thrown from the *Lincoln* into the sea, and Conseil joins them, they take refuge on top of the *Nautilus*, and their adventure begins.

During the 20,000-league voyage, the *Nautilus* travels all around the world. It sails the Pacific Ocean, Coral Sea, Sea of Timor, Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean, and the Norwegian Sea. They spend time on land in only three instances: the tropical island of Gueboroa off the Papuan coast when the *Nautilus* is caught aground on a coral reef; Antarctica, where Nemo reaches and claims the South Pole; and the cone of an extinct volcano in the Atlantic, where the crew of the *Nautilus* processes coal to extract the sodium used to produce the ship's electricity. Among wonders of the deep visited by Aronnax and his friends are the Coral Kingdom cemetery, the forests of the Isle of Crespo, the pearl beds of Ceylon, and the lost city of Atlantis. Nemo's "bank" of sunken treasure is in Vigo Bay off the coast of Spain. The dramatic battle with giant squid occurs near the Bahamas. The novel ends with Aronnax, Land, and Conseil in a fisherman's hut on one of the Lofoten Islands, northwest of Norway, after escaping from the Norwegian Sea's maelstrom.

### CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

#### Fiction

Avi, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*  
Edward L. Beach, *Run Silent, Run Deep*  
Carl L. Biemiller, *The Hydronauts* and sequels  
Nancy Bond, *The Voyage Begun*  
Edgar Rice Burroughs, *A Princess of Mars* and *At the Earth's Core*  
Tom Clancy, *The Hunt for Red October*  
Arthur C. Clarke, *The Deep Range*  
Alexander Dumas, *The Count of Monte Cristo*  
C.S. Forester, *Horatio Hornblower* series  
Robert Heinlein, *Beyond This Horizon* and *Red Planet*  
Frank Herbert, *Dragon in the Sea*  
Marcia H. Kruchten, *Skyborn*  
Jack London, *The Sea Wolf*  
Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*  
Andre Norton, *Operation Time Search*  
Edgar Allen Poe, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*  
Rudy Rucker, *The Hollow Earth*  
Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*  
Bryce Walton, *Sons of the Ocean Deep*  
H.G. Wells, *The Island of Dr. Moreau* and *The War in the Air*  
**Nonfiction**  
Caroline Alexander, *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*  
Ralph K. Andrist, *Heroes of Polar Exploration*  
Jennifer Armstrong, *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance*  
Marjorie Braymer, *Atlantis: The Biography of a Legend*

Rachel Carson, *The Sea Around Us*  
Tom Clancy, *Submarine*  
Jacques Cousteau, *The Ocean World*  
Jacques Cousteau and Frederic Duman, *The Silent World*  
George Dingerkus, *The Shark Watcher's Guide*  
Michael Gilman, *Matthew Henson*  
Brayton Harris, *The Navy Times Book of Submarines*  
Elspeth Huxley, *Scott of the Antarctic*  
Yogi Kaufman and Paul Stilwell, *Sharks of Steel*  
Theodore K. Mason, *Two Against the Ice: Amundsen and Ellsworth*  
John May, *The Greenpeace Book of Antarctica*  
J.J. McCoy, *The Plight of the Whales*  
Richard Munson, *Cousteau: The Captain of His World*  
Random House, *The Random House Atlas of the Oceans*  
Reader's Digest, *Secrets of the Sea*  
Seymour Simon, *How to Be an Ocean Scientist in Your Own Home*  
Wendy Stein, *Atlantis: Opposing Viewpoints*  
Bernard Stonehouse, *Sea Mammals of the World*  
George Sullivan, *Inside Nuclear Submarines*  
Janice VanCleave, *Janice VanCleave's Oceans for Every Kid: Easy Activities That Make Learning Science Fun*  
Heathcote Williams, *Whale Nation*  
Norbert Wu, *Life in the Oceans*

#### CD-ROM

*Antarctica (Earth Science Series)* (Cambrix Publishing)  
*Cities Under the Sea; Coral Reefs (Jean-Michel Cousteau's World Series)* (Enteractive Inc.)  
*Coral Reef! The Vanishing Undersea World* (Arnowitz Studios)  
*Dangerous Creatures* (Microsoft)  
*In the Company of Whales* (Discovery Communications)  
*Lost Animals: Living on the Edge of Extinction* (Warwick Interactive)  
*Microsoft Oceans* (Microsoft)  
*Ocean Planet* (Discovery Communications)  
*Oceans: Origins of Life* (W2 Inc.)  
*Undersea Adventure* (Random House)  
*Whales Web Pack (Curriculum Web Pack Series)* (Sunburst Communications)  
*World Discovery Deluxe* (Great Wave)  
*Worlds of the Reef: A Multimedia Expedition to the Rainforests of the Sea* (Warwick Interactive/Firefly Books)

#### Internet

"The Clownfish Underwater Picture Gallery"  
<<http://www.clownfish.nu/>>  
"In Search of Giant Squid"  
<[seawifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/squid.html](http://seawifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/squid.html)>  
"Jules Verne Collecting Page"  
<[www.interlog.com/~anash/collect.html](http://www.interlog.com/~anash/collect.html)>  
"Linköping Science Fiction & Fantasy Archive"  
<[http://www.lysator.liu.se/sf\\_archive/](http://www.lysator.liu.se/sf_archive/)>  
"The 1916 Version of Jules Verne's 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" <[www.bigandloud.com/20k/](http://www.bigandloud.com/20k/)>  
"Ocean Planet Homepage"  
<[seawifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/ocean\\_planet.html](http://seawifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/ocean_planet.html)>  
"Stamp Whys: The Stories of Jules Verne"  
<[www.themysterybox.com/StampWhys/verne1](http://www.themysterybox.com/StampWhys/verne1)>  
"Submarines and Air Pressure"  
<[www.eecs.umich.edu/mathscience/funexperiments/agesubject/lessons/subs.html](http://www.eecs.umich.edu/mathscience/funexperiments/agesubject/lessons/subs.html)>



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"20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" <[www.20k.com/](http://www.20k.com/)>

"20,000 Leagues Under the Sea"

<[www.pansophist.com/twntyk.htm](http://www.pansophist.com/twntyk.htm)>

"Zvi Har'El's Jules Verne Collection" <[JV.Gilead.org.il/](http://JV.Gilead.org.il/)>

### Video

*Antarctica* (Hacienda Productions/AGC Educational Media)

*Antarctic Wildlife Adventure* (National Geographic)

*The Big Submarine* (Little Mammoth Media)

*Coral Reefs: Rainforests of the Sea* (Oceanic Research Group/Video Project)

*The Great Whales* (National Geographic)

*Life in the Sea*, Vols. 1 and 2 (Questar Video)

*The Living Planet—Episode 11: Oceans* (BBC/Time-Life Films)

*Lost City of the Aegean* (Films for the Humanities)

*Planet Earth—Episode 2: The Blue Planet* (WQED/National Academy of Sciences)

*The Science of Whales* (Boudart Productions/Bullfrog Films)

*Sharks: A Bimini Journal* (University of Miami/Many Cats Entertainment)

*Survival on the Reef* (Landmark Media)

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (two different 1997 TV mini series, Hallmark Entertainment and Village Roadshow Productions)

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (1954; Disney)

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (1997; Hallmark Entertainment/CBS)

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (1997; Village Roadshow Productions/ABC)

*Understanding Oceans (Perspective Series: Oceanography Technology)* (London TV/Chip Taylor Communications)

*Volcanos of the Deep* (WGBH Boston Video)

### THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* should include these aspects.

#### Themes

- alienation and withdrawal from society
- revenge
- value of freedom
- benefits of science and technology
- oppression of subject peoples by despots and imperialists
- friendship and group loyalty
- oceanography and marine biology
- the self-contained journey

#### Motifs

- Conseil's imperturbability
- Ned Land's volatility
- history, geology, geography
- overfishing/extinction of marine creatures
- electricity
- ancient civilizations and cultures

### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, or sentences that have a particular meaning in the novel. Explain each as it relates to the book. Use the page numbers given in parentheses to reread the term in context if you wish.

1. the ichthyologists (Part 1, Chap. 1, p. 14)

*(An ichthyologist is a scientist who studies fish. Professor Aronnax is evidently schooled in ichthyology, as well as many other branches of science, because he names*

*and describes in great detail the vast variety of fishes he observes in the course of the undersea journey aboard the Nautilus.)*

2. Then an interminable controversy between the credulous and the incredulous exploded in all the learned societies and scientific journals. (Part 1, Chap. 1, p. 15)  
*(Scientists and scholars were sharply divided on the question of whether or not the mysterious "enormous thing" was a huge sea creature; they debated this question in their scientific and scholarly societies and wrote about it in their journals. But with no concrete evidence of the thing's existence, let alone its actual nature, the controversy could not be solved. During his stay in New York, Professor Aronnax is drawn into the controversy and writes an article on the subject for the New York Herald, weighing in with supporters of the sea monster theory, suggesting the thing is a giant narwhal.)*
3. Some newspapers raked up all the gigantic imaginary creatures they could find, [including] the giant kraken. (Part 1, Chap. 1, p. 15)  
*(Ever since ancient times, mariners had returned from sea with tales of having seen various sea monsters, the most fearsome of which was the kraken, a huge monster with many long tentacles. The voyagers aboard the Nautilus will discover dramatically that the kraken, long considered myth, actually exists in the form of the giant squid that attack the submarine in the Atlantic Ocean. [While it is now known that giant squid do actually exist, efforts to observe them and learn more about their nature and characteristics have not yet been particularly successful.]*
4. A high-speed ice-breaking frigate, the *Abraham Lincoln*, was made ready to take to the sea. (Part 1, Chap. 2, p. 23)  
*(A frigate was a fast naval vessel of the 1800s with a raised quarterdeck and forecastle, heavily armed on one or two decks. The U.S. government sends the frigate Abraham Lincoln out to find and destroy the monster. In spite of being a high-speed vessel, the Lincoln cannot gain on or get away from the much speedier Nautilus.)*
5. Phlegmatic by nature, Conseil was seldom taken by surprise by any of life's unexpected incidents....In spite of his name, he never gave advice—no! not even when he was not asked. (Part 1, Chap. 3, p. 25)  
*(Here Verne sets Conseil up as a stock comic figure. Conseil's imperturbable reaction to all of the highly unusual and exciting events aboard the Nautilus becomes a running joke, and serves as a counterfoil to Ned Land's equally predictable excitability. The word conseil in French means "advice," which adds humor to Aronnax's comment that Conseil never gives advice—unlike many stereotypical literary servants or right-hand-men. [The other ongoing joke about Conseil is that he always addresses Aronnax in the third person, which annoys the professor. This provides another example of the faulty "standard" translation; the translator duly records that Conseil always uses the third-person form of address, then consistently translates Conseil as addressing Aronnax in the second person— "Did you call, sir?" instead of "Did Monsieur call?"]*
6. "Sir, you are abusing your position to take advantage of

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us! This is cruelty!" "No, monsieur, it is clemency." (Part 1, Chap. 10, p. 73)

*(Captain Nemo points out that rather than take Aronnax, Conseil, and Ned Land aboard the Nautilus, he could have left them outside the submarine when it began to dive after the incident with the Abraham Lincoln. From Nemo's point of view, letting the three men live aboard the Nautilus is an act of mercy, even though the three men have now lost their freedom forever, because Nemo will never let them leave the submarine and thus potentially reveal the secret of his existence.)*

7. "Here we have perfect tranquillity, for the sea does not belong to despots." (Part 1, Chap. 10, p. 77)  
*(Here Nemo expresses one reason he has chosen to live a life underwater and provides a clue as to his motivation. He hates despotic rulers, who oppress their subject peoples and fight wars. Land-based rulers, even those who command great empires, have no jurisdiction or power under the seas. By living under the sea, Nemo removes himself and his crew members from control by any other human beings and enjoys a perfectly free and peaceful life. We assume that Nemo must have had a bitter experience with the forces of some "despotic ruler" in his past life that has driven him into this new undersea life.)*
8. "The Pole! Is this intrepid character actually going to take us there!" (Part 1, Chap. 18, p. 128)  
*(Aronnax is referring to the South Pole which, in 1870 when this novel was published, had not yet been reached by any explorers, although various nineteenth-century expeditions did explore parts of Antarctica. Amundsen finally reached the South Pole in 1911.)*
9. "That takes you to the dinghy...an excellent craft, both light and unsinkable. We use it for fishing and excursions." (Part 1, Chap. 12, p. 88)  
*(A dinghy is a small ship's boat, rowed or sailed, used to take small parties ashore or to other large ships nearby. The Nautilus's dinghy must be quite large—on the excursion to the pearl-diving beds, it carries five crew members plus Nemo, Aronnax, Conseil, and Ned Land, plus the four diving suits, helmets, and air tanks. The dinghy becomes the escape vehicle for Land, Aronnax, and Conseil at the end of the novel.)*
10. "A Hecatomb" (Part 2, Chap. 21 title, p. 367)  
*(In ancient Greece and Rome, a hecatomb was a public sacrifice to the gods of one hundred oxen; so, by extension, a hecatomb is any great slaughter. The title warns that this chapter will include a scene of a great slaughter, and it does, ending as Aronnax and Nemo watch the enemy warship sinking to the depths, carrying its crew with it.)*

### COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important, and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

#### Questions 1-4 (Literal Level)

1. How do Aronnax, Ned Land, and Conseil become passengers/prisoners aboard the *Nautilus*? Why will Nemo not let them leave? How do they ultimately escape?  
*(The trio are aboard the U.S. frigate Abraham Lincoln,*

*commanded by Captain Farragut, whose mission is to seek out and destroy the mysterious monster that has been terrorizing ocean-going ships. Aronnax has been invited along because he is a renowned professor of natural sciences with expertise in marine studies, and he is in New York just when the Lincoln is about to embark. Conseil comes along as Aronnax's servant. Ned Land is aboard as an expert harpooner of giant cetaceans. When the Lincoln collides with the Nautilus, Aronnax and Land are thrown into the sea, and Conseil voluntarily jumps in after his master. The three end up clinging to the above-water section of the Nautilus, and just before the submarine dives below the surface, Nemo has the three men brought aboard. However, Nemo has kept the existence of himself, his submarine, and his crew a deep secret from the world; Aronnax, Conseil, and Land must therefore stay aboard the Nautilus forever so they cannot reveal Nemo's secret existence. Ned plans to escape with his two friends in the submarine's detachable dinghy at some time when the vessel is near land, but his plans are thwarted many times. Finally, the three carry out the escape plan just as the Nautilus gets caught in the Norwegian sea's maelstrom. Somehow, the dinghy escapes the whirlpool, and island fisherman save the three friends.)*

2. Why does Nemo live under the sea in the *Nautilus*? What purposes does he pursue as part of this life? What is Nemo's ultimate fate?  
*(Nemo, terribly bitter about some unrevealed thing that happened earlier in his life, has completely renounced human society. He has designed and built the Nautilus so that he and his men can live a totally free and independent life in the ocean, where human despots have no power or control. Nemo absorbs himself in scientific studies of the ocean realms that no other human beings have ever been able to observe first-hand. Nemo is also gripped with the aim of revenging himself on the unnamed nation that so deeply wronged him by using his invincible submarine to attack and sink ships of that nation. At the end of the novel, Nemo and the Nautilus are caught in the Norwegian sea's maelstrom; we do not know the outcome of that frightening event. Verne does finally reveal Nemo's background and fate in a sequel novel, The Mysterious Island.)*
3. What scientific and technological knowledge does Verne convey to readers via this novel?  
*(The novel is packed with scientific and technological knowledge, deliberately; imparting more knowledge about science via Verne's novels was one of the aims of both publisher and author. Specific examples will vary, but include: abundant descriptions by Aronnax of the characteristics of the myriad sea creatures and plants he encounters, including detailed descriptions of coral reefs, oysters and pearling, sponges, sharks, whales, and giant squid; detailed information about water pressure, characteristics of the ocean and seawater, and how the submarine and its systems operate; extensive information about geography and geology around the world; ongoing instances of biological classification; commentary on overhunting to extinction of whales, seals, sea otters, and other marine creatures; and characteristics of the polar regions.)*

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4. What action/adventure elements make this an exciting story, not just a scientific exposition?

*(Action and adventure are integral parts of the "science novel" as devised by Verne, deliberately designed to draw readers into the tale and keep them enthralled even as they absorb all sorts of scientific information. Specific examples will vary, but include: the encounter between the Abraham Lincoln and the Nautilus; the around-the-world undersea journey itself; the hunting expedition in the "forests" of Crespo; the running aground in the Torres Strait and the encounter with the natives; the visit to the coral burial ground; the shark attack in the Ceylon pearling grounds; the voyage through the Arabian Tunnel; the visit to the underground volcano; the sunken treasure at Vigo Bay; the visit to the lost city of Atlantis; the adventures at the South Pole; the fight with the giant squid; the hurricane; the sinking of the warship; and the final encounter with the maelstrom.)*

### Questions 5-7 (Interpretive Level)

5. Write a character description of Captain Nemo. What is the significance of his name?

*(Nemo is an enigmatic, contradictory man. On the one hand, he is a gifted scientist and engineer, and a cultured and sophisticated man with a deep appreciation for fine artworks, music, and literary/scientific masterpieces. He has a romantic, appealing passion for the sea and for freedom and for helping the oppressed peoples of the world. He effectively strikes the pose of romantic rebel, renouncing the rules and laws of society and living as an independent free spirit, symbolized by his adopted name of Nemo, which means "nobody" or "no man" in Latin. He is also a supremely practical and intelligent man, calmly able to find solutions to even seemingly insurmountable problems. Counterbalancing all this is Nemo's deep, driven desire for revenge against the people/nation that has wronged him, a revenge Nemo takes to the lengths of sinking ships and killing hundreds of people in the process. These contradictions in character seem to haunt Nemo, as he at times withdraws into brooding silence. He is cold and implacable as he watches the warship sink, yet bursts into deep sobs moments later in his cabin.)*

6. In what ways is Aronnax ambivalent about Nemo the man and about his own relationship with Nemo?

*(Aronnax finds much to admire about Nemo, especially his scientific knowledge and enthusiasm, his courage, his passionate support of oppressed people, and his cultured tastes and behavior. On the other hand, Nemo's expressed hatred of all human beings other than those aboard the Nautilus deeply disturbs Aronnax, as does Nemo's thirst for revenge. The scientist in Aronnax thoroughly admires Nemo and is more than happy to be part of the underwater expedition, but the individual in Aronnax cannot help but think it is very wrong of Nemo to keep Aronnax, Land, and Conseil prisoners forever aboard the Nautilus. As the months go by, Aronnax struggles increasingly with his ambivalent opinions about Nemo and his contradictory desires to stay aboard the submarine and—someday—escape.)*

7. Compare and contrast Ned Land and Conseil.

*(Ned Land is the consummate man of action, impatient*

*with any sort of restraint, skeptical of scientific knowledge that he does not understand or have first-hand experience of, quick to anger, volatile. Conseil is the consummate man of calm, of submissiveness, of restraint and self-discipline. Nevertheless, Ned and Conseil become the best of friends, and their humorous opposite-point-of-view dialogues spice up the novel, as when they discuss classifying fish—Conseil classifying them scientifically, Ned classifying them as fish that can be eaten and fish that cannot.)*

### Questions 8-10 (Critical Level)

8. In what ways do the novel's characters compare their shipboard lives to marine creatures that live in shells? Why do they make this comparison?

*(The feeling of being snug in a shell is a symbolic return to the womb that expresses the characters' need for reassurance and a feeling of safety while living aboard ship and taking part in potentially hazardous adventures. When Aronnax and Conseil board the Abraham Lincoln, the professor remarks that they will be comfortable in their assigned cabin, and Conseil responds, "As comfortable as a hermit crab in the shell of a whelk." In January, Aronnax remarks that life aboard the submarine has become comfortable and comforting: "Like snails, we were indeed becoming attached to our shells, and I declare, it is easy enough to become a perfect snail." Shortly thereafter, the group encounters a school of argonauts, graceful mollusks about which Aronnax remarks, "The argonaut is free to leave its shell if it wants to, but it never does." Conseil wisely responds, "That's just like Captain Nemo." In the cone of the extinct volcano, Aronnax is delighted to stretch out on the fine sand of an "enchanted" grotto, and the sense of security he feels in this cozy cave is expressed in his dream: "that my existence was slowly being transformed into the vegetative life of a simple mollusk and that this grotto was nothing more than the bivalve of my shell.")*

9. Before this novel was published as a book, it appeared in serial form in magazines—that is, it was published chapter by chapter over a series of months. In what ways is this novel well suited, even written for, serialization?

*(Chapters end in suspense, with pending action, making readers eager to buy the next periodical and read the next installment. For example, Chapter 2 ends with the invitation for Aronnax to join the expedition. Will the professor accept? Chapter 3 ends with the Abraham Lincoln running "full steam ahead into the dark waters of the Atlantic." What awaits the frigate out in the unknown ocean? Chapter 5 ends with Ned Land crying, "Ahoy! There it [the monster] is at last! Abeam to leeward!" We cannot wait for the next installment so we can finally get a "look" at the mysterious monster. Chapter 6 ends on an even more dramatic note—Aronnax exclaims, "I was flung over the rail out into the sea!")*

10. What is the symbolic meaning of Nemo being drawn into the maelstrom at the end of the novel?

*(Nemo is increasingly tortured by the conflicted emotions that beset him as he implacably pursues his bloody revenge by sinking ships and then bursts into deep sobs after the act of vengeance is carried out. On the last night*

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aboard the *Nautilus*, Aronnax hears Nemo crying, "Almighty God! Enough! Enough!" The swirling waters of the maelstrom that soon grab and hold Nemo and his *Nautilus* are a physical mirror of the emotional turbulence that grips Nemo.)

### Questions 11-12 (Creative Level)

11. Use something currently being reported about a particular scientific/technological advance as the basis of your own "scientific fiction" short story involving developments that do not yet exist.
12. What terrible thing in his past fuels Nemo's thirst for revenge? Write a scene in which Nemo finally reveals this secret to Aronnax.

### ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

#### Art

1. Create a detailed, colorful mural depicting one of the scenes of multiple marine life described by Aronnax.
2. Create a "museum room" display of copies of the artworks displayed in Nemo's saloon.
3. Develop a schematic drawing of the *Nautilus*, including its various living areas, power systems, dinghy compartment, platform, and other prominent features.
4. Create a dramatic depiction of the battle between the giant squid and the crew of the *Nautilus*.

#### Environmental Studies

1. Research and report on the status of species mentioned in the novel as potentially endangered by 1870, including whales, manatees, dugongs, seals, walruses, and sea otters.
2. Investigate the current status of what the novel calls "the inexhaustible" fisheries resources of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.
3. Answer this question: What important role does the Sargasso Sea play in the ocean ecosystem?
4. Explain how and why icebergs form, and what effect global warming may have on icebergs and the polar ice caps, and the consequences of this.
5. Research and report on the oceanographic and environmental studies and actions of Jacques Cousteau.

#### History and Social Studies

1. Explain the parallels between the initial voyage of Columbus and the quest of the *Abraham Lincoln* to find the mysterious unknown creature.
2. Explain in depth one of the novel's many references to elements of ancient cultures, including Homer and *The Iliad*, Argus, Oedipus and the Sphinx, Orpheus, the Temple of Hercules, the eruption of Vesuvius, Plato and Aristotle, Virgil, the Atlantes, Neptune and Pluto, and Caesar.
3. Report in depth on one of the many explorers or series of explorations mentioned in the novel, in particular the history of attempts to find and reach the South Pole.
4. Supported with maps, diagrams, and technological data, report on the massive, lengthy project to build the Suez Canal, being sure to explain what factors drove the inception and completion of this project.
5. Find out about the submarines that had been developed by the time Verne wrote this novel, and what contemporary submarine knowledge Verne used in writing this novel.

6. Research and report on any of the following topics:
  - a. The whaling industry, from early times to the present.
  - b. Relations between people of British and French extraction in Canada.
  - c. The project to lay the transatlantic cable, and the reasons and results of that effort.
  - d. Efforts to find the Northwest Passage.
  - e. Legends about the giant squid, or kraken.
  - f. The legend of the lost city of Atlantis.

#### Geography and Mathematics

1. Use the chart on page xi of the novel to make conversions of the various distance figures appearing in the book among English, metric, and nautical measures.
2. Trace the journey of the *Nautilus* on a map of the world, noting locations visited and passed by and distances traveled for each stage of the trip.
3. Investigate the existence and depths of a deep ocean valley in the Atlantic Ocean.
4. On a map of the world, locate active (and some notable extinct) underwater volcanoes. Then calculate the ocean-wave effects if one of these volcanoes should erupt.
5. Compare the actual geographical and ecological conditions at the South Pole with those Verne describes.
6. Use some legs of the *Nautilus's* journey to calculate how many miles per hour and knots per hour the submarine travels.
7. Do the calculations that Conseil and Aronnax talk about on in Chapter 16 of the novel to figure how soon the *Nautilus* will run out of oxygen.

#### Science

1. Investigate and, where possible, experiment with the nature of water pressure at depth, oxygen needs and properties beneath the sea, and seawater density, salinity, and freezing point.
2. Create a chart detailing the scientific classification of various marine creatures, including those enumerated in the novel.
3. Explain in a visual format the formation of coral reefs and islands, and atolls and archipelagos.
4. Investigate and report on one of the important scientific/technological advances of the late 1800s mentioned in the novel.
5. As you read the novel, make a running list of nautical terms and then create a chart explaining each one, illustrating the explanation where helpful.
6. Demonstrate with maps and visual aids the effect of the Gulf Stream on the climate of North America and Europe.
7. Using meteorological maps and charts, show how and why hurricanes form, trace their usual courses, and note their effects.

#### Language Arts

1. As you read, create a list of unfamiliar vocabulary words. Then write definitions of each word, and organize the words into a glossary that other readers of this novel could use to aid their understanding. (This could be a group activity project, with members of different groups taking on particular groups of chapters.)

## 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

2. Read *The Mysterious Island*, the sequel to *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, to find out the secret of Captain Nemo's background and his ultimate fate. Does *20,000 Leagues* hint at any of these revelations?
3. Read about the serious flaws in earlier translations of Verne's works into English. Then find one of those earlier translations of *20,000 Leagues* and compare it with the newer translation in your version of the novel.
4. Read about Verne's literary life, and then trace and explain the change in Verne's views of science and technology over his lifetime, as expressed in his novels.
5. In your own words relate the biblical story of Moses leading his people across the Red Sea and their pursuit by the Egyptian army.

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Investigate sunken treasure spots around the world, locate them on a global map, and explain what treasure enterprising treasure-hunters can try to find at each site. You could also plan your own expedition to attempt recovery of one of these treasures.
2. Tour a modern-day nuclear submarine, real or virtual, and compare its features and operating systems with those of the *Nautilus*.
3. What startling new science/technology did Jules Verne forecast in his novels? How many have actually come into existence? Based on the latest current science and technology discoveries and innovations, what predictions would you make for new developments in the next fifty years?
4. Investigate a current legend about a gigantic imaginary creature, such as the Loch Ness monster. Or find out about current attempts to learn more about giant ocean squid.
5. Learn more about an aspect of oceanography or marine biology introduced in the novel that particularly interests you, such as deep-sea organisms, water pressure in the ocean depths, ocean currents, or threatened species of marine mammals.
6. With classmates, discuss what you believe are the social and ethical responsibilities of the uses of new scientific developments—for instance, in the field of genetic engineering.
7. Explain how dugongs gave rise to the legends of tritons and mermaids. Then create your own imaginary being based on a real sea creature.
8. Virtually explore some interesting sea wrecks, especially any that may be accessible in the area where you live.

### ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. Trace the voyage of the *Nautilus* around the world on a map, noting each body of water it travels through and each land form Aronnax observes, plus dates of each encounter.
2. Draw a plan of the *Nautilus* and its many auxiliary features, such as the searchlights and diving suits. Note the use of each feature and aspect and describe significant events of the novel associated with each.
3. Assume that Nemo returns to human society to face trial for his actions. Stage the trial, with Aronnax, Conseil, Ned Land, and Nemo all testifying and being cross-examined by opposing counsel.

### TEACHER'S NOTES

## 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

### VOCABULARY TEST

Match each underlined word with its meaning listed below. Write the letter of the meaning in the space next to the sentence number.

- |              |                         |                     |                 |
|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| a. strenuous | f. not understandable   | k. over-supplied    | p. appeal to    |
| b. jailed    | g. continued loud noise | l. lack of interest | q. disgraceful  |
| c. huge      | h. showing no emotion   | m. unusual sight    | r. unchangeable |
| d. cool      | i. reserve, extra       | n. quieted down     | s. skeptical    |
| e. sleepy    | j. very rare thing      | o. under water      | t. torn apart   |

- \_\_\_ 1. This apparition had been recorded in the logs of the various ships that had spotted it.
- \_\_\_ 2. The *Abraham Lincoln* could attain a mean speed of 18 miles—a considerable speed, but not enough to deal with the gigantic cetacean.
- \_\_\_ 3. Ned Land continued to be stubbornly incredulous; he even refused to watch the sea for the giant creature.
- \_\_\_ 4. We tried a thousand tricks to attract the attention of the animal, to arouse it from its apathy, in case it was roaming in that area.
- \_\_\_ 5. Conseil assessed our chances coolly, and made his plans accordingly. This phlegmatic young man was absolutely at home in this kind of desperate situation!
- \_\_\_ 6. The animal, the monster, or the natural phenomenon that had intrigued experts all over the world was unquestionably a phenomenon created by the hand of man.
- \_\_\_ 7. "Monsieur must be patient," said the imperturbable Conseil.
- \_\_\_ 8. The sailor would reply to the captain with a nod of the head and add one or two utterly incomprehensible words.
- \_\_\_ 9. "This is infamous!" cried Ned, who burst into a rage for the twentieth time.
- \_\_\_ 10. The steward, taking advantage of our somnolent state overnight, had cleared the table.
- \_\_\_ 11. The conversation lapsed, and each of us devoted himself to his own thoughts.
- \_\_\_ 12. "I do not obey any of society's rules, and I suggest that you never invoke them in my presence."
- \_\_\_ 13. Ned and Conseil finally left the cell where they had been incarcerated.
- \_\_\_ 14. "When I drew up the plans of this ship, I intended that when floating on the surface she should be nine-tenths submerged."
- \_\_\_ 15. "Now, I have auxiliary tanks that can hold a hundred tons of water."
- \_\_\_ 16. The panels of the saloon remained closed. Perhaps they did not want us to be surfeited with these beautiful sights of the sea.
- \_\_\_ 17. The new path, which was very steep and very arduous, brought us much closer to the surface.
- \_\_\_ 18. We began to sink, and the ice was rent asunder with a strange noise like the sound made by tearing paper.
- \_\_\_ 19. The nations that had joined in their pursuit of Nemo at least knew they were pursuing a man who had sworn an implacable hatred against them.
- \_\_\_ 20. What a din around our frail dinghy! What roars were heard, echoing from miles around!

## 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: Matching (20 points)

Read each character and vessel description. In the list below, find the character or vessel that matches the description. Write the letter of the character or vessel in the space next to the description number. You will use one name twice.

- |     |   |                           |
|-----|---|---------------------------|
| ___ | 1. Professor of natural history.                            | a. Nemo                   |
| ___ | 2. Native of Ceylon, a fisherman.                           | b. Aronnax                |
| ___ | 3. Expert fisherman with a quick temper.                    | c. Conseil                |
| ___ | 4. Frigate of the U.S. Navy.                                | d. Ned Land               |
| ___ | 5. Always calm servant.                                     | e. <i>Nautilus</i>        |
| ___ | 6. Warship commander.                                       | f. <i>Avenger</i>         |
| ___ | 7. Electric-powered submarine.                              | g. <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> |
| ___ | 8. Scientist, engineer, musician, social rebel.             | h. Captain Farragut       |
| ___ | 9. Frenchman who is both attracted to and repelled by Nemo. | i. pearl diver            |
| ___ | 10. French ship that sank in a battle during the 1700s.     |                           |

#### Part II: Fill-In (20 points)

Write one or two words in each blank to make each statement true.

1. In Latin, the name Nemo means \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the power source that runs every system on the *Nautilus*.
3. Ned Land is a native of the country of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The *Nautilus* gets stuck in ice at this geographical location: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Ned Land is highly skilled at harpooning these sea creatures: \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The huge room of the submarine that houses the museum collection and has the undersea-viewing windows is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is the person who narrates this novel.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ constantly makes plans to escape the submarine.
9. Aronnax has written a scholarly book titled *The Mysteries of the Great \_\_\_\_\_ Depths*.
10. Ned Land saves Nemo from the attack of a \_\_\_\_\_.

## 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

### Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Underline the choice that correctly completes each of these sentences.

1. Captain Nemo's native country is (Poland, Greece, unknown, France).
2. Nemo warns that (whales, giant squid, oysters, sponges) will surely become extinct because of overhunting.
3. The *Nautilus* begins its round-the-world expedition in the (Indian, Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic) Ocean.
4. The *Nautilus* is caught in a deadly maelstrom, or whirlpool, in the (Coral, Red, Mediterranean, Norwegian) Sea.
5. The forests of the Isle of Crespo are (tangled jungle, underwater plants, giant redwoods, giant icicles).
6. A cachelot is a type of (mollusk, crustacean, shark, whale).
7. The Arabian Tunnel takes the *Nautilus* from the Red Sea to the (Timor, Coral, Bengal, Mediterranean) Sea.
8. Nemo, Aronnax, Land, and Conseil make their underwater expeditions in (diving suits, scuba gear, a mini sub, an air bubble).
9. While stuck aground on a coral reef, the *Nautilus* is attacked by (natives of the region, giant squid, killer whales, pearl divers).
10. Crew members of the *Nautilus* who die are buried (at the South Pole, in a secluded undersea cemetery, in a seaside cemetery in France, in sinking canvas bags at sea).
11. Nemo and Aronnax visit the lost undersea city of (Pompeii, Rome, Atlantis, Roanoke).
12. The *Nautilus* is trapped underwater by a(n) (sinking ship, iceberg, volcano, enemy warship).
13. Nemo discovers and claims the (North Pole, Hawaiian Islands, island of Crete, South Pole).
14. Almost everybody aboard the *Nautilus* turns out above decks to furiously battle a group of attacking (giant squid, killer whales, white sharks, enemy warships).
15. The events of this novel take place in the (1700s, 1800s, 1900s, 2000s).

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Why does Nemo live under the sea? In what ways, and why, is he a danger to other ships?
2. Compare Conseil and Ned Land.
3. Describe the *Nautilus* and its operating systems.



## 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Matching (20 points)

Match each place below with its description or the event that happens there. Write the letter of the description or event in the space next to the quotation number. You will use each place name only once.

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ___ 1. Battle with the giant squid.  | a. Atlantis                   |
| ___ 2. Encounter with hostile tropical natives.                                  | b. South Pole                 |
| ___ 3. Site of underwater forests visited by the hunting party.                  | c. Isle of Crespo             |
| ___ 4. Underground passage between Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea.                | d. Arabian Tunnel             |
| ___ 5. Ice-bound southern bottom of the world.                                   | e. Gulf Stream/Atlantic Ocean |
| ___ 6. Water region where the <i>Nautilus</i> begins its round-the-world voyage. | f. Coral Kingdom              |
| ___ 7. Legendary lost underground city and civilization.                         | g. Norwegian Sea              |
| ___ 8. Site of bountiful pearling beds.  | h. Pacific Ocean              |
| ___ 9. Northern area with a deadly whirlpool.                                    | i. Gueboroar Island           |
| ___ 10. Site of Nemo's underwater cemetery.                                      | j. Indian Ocean               |

#### Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Write a one- or two-word answer to each of the following questions.

1. Who is the author of this book? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who lives and works at the Paris Museum of Natural History? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What giant tentacled creatures attack the *Nautilus*? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who is Aronnax's servant? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What type of ship is the *Nautilus*? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What U.S. ship with Aronnax, Conseil, and Ned Land aboard attacks the *Nautilus*? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which person is strongly motivated by revenge? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is Professor Aronnax's native country? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the source of Nemo's vast wealth? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Which land does Nemo claim as his own? \_\_\_\_\_

## 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

### Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Underline the choice that correctly completes each of these sentences.

1. Ned Land is skilled in the use of this weapon: (machine gun, harpoon, revolver, bowie knife).
2. The U.S. warship confronts the *Nautilus* in the (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic) Ocean.
3. Land, Aronnax, and Conseil escape the *Nautilus* in the (mini sub, diving suits, dinghy, periscope).
4. Toward the end of the novel, Nemo uses the *Nautilus* to attack and sink a (passenger steamer, U-boat, fishing trawler, warship).
5. Conseil is very skilled at (classifying, catching, preserving, cooking) sea creatures.
6. Ned Land is a veteran of many (whaling, exploring, scientific, vacation) voyages.
7. One example of a cetacean is a (clam, squid, whale, triggerfish).
8. In the Torres Strait, near Papua New Guinea, the *Nautilus* runs aground on a(n) (iceberg, submerged shipwreck, extinct volcano, coral reef).
9. On the pearling beds, Ned Land saves Captain Nemo from a nearly fatal attack by a (giant squid, sperm whale, pearl diver, shark).
10. Captain Nemo delivers a large amount of gold to a diver to support the rebels fighting for freedom in (France, Crete, Canada, Hawaii).
11. The *Nautilus* has to surface every few days to get a new supply of (electricity, fresh water, air, food).
12. The *Nautilus* follows the (Gulf Stream, Black Current, Arabian Tunnel, Great Barrier Reef) as it travels north up the American Atlantic coast.
13. Aronnax, Nemo, Land, and Conseil observe an underwater (seal hunter, pearl diver, treasure finder, archaeologist) at work.
14. Nemo angrily uses the *Nautilus* to kill a school of attacking (sharks, militia, hunters, whales).
15. In the end, the *Nautilus* is caught in a (hurricane, typhoon, maelstrom, sinkhole).

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. What conflicting desires does Aronnax struggle with while he is on the *Nautilus*?
2. How do Aronnax, Conseil, and Ned Land end up aboard the *Nautilus*? Why can they not leave?
3. Describe one particularly exciting incident that happens in the course of the *Nautilus*'s round-the-world trip.

## 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

### ANSWER KEY

#### VOCABULARY TEST

- |      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. m | 6. j  | 11. n | 16. k |
| 2. c | 7. d  | 12. p | 17. a |
| 3. s | 8. f  | 13. b | 18. t |
| 4. l | 9. q  | 14. o | 19. r |
| 5. h | 10. e | 15. i | 20. g |

#### COMPREHENSION TEST A

##### Part I: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. h  |
| 2. i | 7. e  |
| 3. d | 8. a  |
| 4. g | 9. b  |
| 5. c | 10. f |

##### Part II: Fill-In (20 points)

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. nobody, no one | 6. saloon       |
| 2. Electricity    | 7. Aronnax      |
| 3. Canada         | 8. Ned Land     |
| 4. South Pole     | 9. <i>Ocean</i> |
| 5. whales         | 10. shark       |

##### Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- |                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. unknown           | 9. natives of the region            |
| 2. whales            | 10. in a secluded undersea cemetery |
| 3. Pacific           | 11. Atlantis                        |
| 4. Norwegian Sea     | 12. iceberg                         |
| 5. underwater plants | 13. South Pole                      |
| 6. whale             | 14. giant squid                     |
| 7. Mediterranean     | 15. 1800s                           |
| 8. diving suits      |                                     |

##### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

#### COMPREHENSION TEST B

##### Part I: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. e | 6. h  |
| 2. i | 7. a  |
| 3. c | 8. j  |
| 4. d | 9. g  |
| 5. b | 10. f |

##### Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

- |                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Jules Verne | 6. <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> |
| 2. Aronnax     | 7. Nemo                   |
| 3. giant squid | 8. France                 |
| 4. Conseil     | 9. sunken treasure        |
| 5. submarine   | 10. South Pole            |

##### Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- |                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. harpoon     | 9. shark                       |
| 2. Pacific     | 10. Crete                      |
| 3. dinghy      | 11. air                        |
| 4. warship     | 12. Gulf Stream                |
| 5. classifying | 13. pearl diver                |
| 6. whaling     | 14. (sperm) whales (cachelots) |
| 7. whale       | 15. maelstrom                  |
| 8. coral reef  |                                |

##### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

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