

Jules Verne

# Journey to the Centre of the Earth

## Summary-based Activities



**1 Scrambled word cloze**

Read the summary of Chapter One of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* below.

Choose one of the words from the box to write in each space. The first one has been done as an example.

a because couldn't from in make managed reach  
the who with

One day (0) .....<sup>in</sup>..... in May 1863, Professor Lidenbrock, a famous German mineralogist, arrived home (1) ..... a very old book. He showed it to his young assistant Axel, (2) ..... was also his nephew. While the Professor was looking through (3) ..... book, a piece of parchment fell out. There was a message written in Runes on it. The Professor and Axel (4) ..... understand it at first (5) ..... it was in code. Axel eventually (6) ..... to decipher it, thanks to a flash of inspiration. The message was written by Arne Saknussemm, an Icelandic scientist (7) ..... another century. In it he gave instructions on how to (8) ..... the centre of the earth by going down into (9) ..... volcano in Iceland. When the professor read the message, he became very excited. He immediately decided that he and Axel must go there and (10) ..... the journey.

**2 Scrambled word cloze with 5 distractors**

Read the summary of Chapter Two of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* below.

Choose one of the words from the box to write in each space. There are five words you do not need to use. The first one has been done as an example.

about across arrived ~~everything~~ for found of over  
reached their theirs them took was wasn't where

The Professor bought instruments, climbing equipment, tools and food for the journey and packed (0) ~~everything~~ in boxes. Then he and Axel took a train to Denmark, (1)..... they looked for a ship to take (2)..... to Iceland. Unlike the Professor, Axel (3)..... looking forward to the journey to the centre of the earth because he was afraid (4)..... going down into the volcano. They (5)..... a ship that was going to Reykjavik and loaded (6)..... luggage on it. When they arrived, a schoolteacher introduced them to a reliable guide called Hans. The journey (7)..... the countryside of Iceland to Snaefells, the volcano, (8)..... many days. While they were climbing up its slopes, Axel was worried (9)..... an eruption, but the Professor told him that the volcano wasn't active. They eventually (10)..... the crater at the top, where it was cold and windy.

**3 Put the sentences in order**

The sentences A-J of the summary of Chapter Three of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* below are in the wrong order. Put them in the right order and number them 1-10.

- A  The following morning they entered a narrow corridor and continued their descent.
- B  The next day they reached the end of the corridor, where they saw two openings. The Professor chose to go down the eastern one.
- C  On the 28th June, Hans led the Professor, Axel and Hans down into the crater of the volcano.
- D  After a dinner of biscuits and dried meat, they lay down on the stone at the bottom of the hole and slept.
- E  The walls of the corridor were smooth and shiny because they were made of lava.
- F  That evening Axel checked the water bottles and found their supplies were getting low.
- G  This meant that the three men were able to slide along and make fast progress.
- H  Then they descended a deep dark hole with the help of ropes and got to the bottom in the evening.
- I  They could also see well because there were crystals in the lava which sparkled in the light of their lamps.
- J  At the bottom of the crater, the Professor saw the name of Arne Saknussemm on a rock so he knew they were going the right way.

**4 Open Cloze**

Complete the summary of Chapter Four of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* below.

Write ONE word for each space. The first one has been done as an example.

Axel realised from the fossils in the rock around (0) .....<sup>him</sup>..... that they were going up to the surface again, (1) ..... down. The instruments (2) ..... showed this but the Professor insisted on continuing to the (3) .....of the tunnel before turning back. They managed to get back to the beginning although they ran out of drinking water on the (4) ..... . Axel wanted to go home but the Professor became angry and eventually convinced him to continue, so (5) ..... three men entered the western tunnel. They didn't find (6) ..... water there either. The Professor and Axel were (7) ..... tired to walk any further so they lay down. However, Hans (8) ..... exploring and discovered that there was water inside the granite wall. When he made a hole in the rock, a jet of boiling water came (9) ..... and started flowing down the tunnel. The Professor decided to (10) ..... the stream.

**5 Correct the mistakes!**

This is an oral activity, so do not give the students any photocopies. Explain to the class what you are going to do.

'I am going to read you a summary of Chapter Five of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, but I am going to make some mistakes in it. When you hear a mistake, please (decide on how you want the students to indicate the mistake, eg stand up/call out the right word or words etc).'

The Professor, Axel and Hans followed the road (1. stream) and made good progress along the eastern (2. western) tunnel. However, one day when Axel turned to speak to his father (3. uncle) and Hans, he found that he was alone. He went back to look for the other two but he couldn't find them. He was very happy (4. afraid), especially when he discovered that the stream was no longer there either. Hans (5. Axel) decided to walk back to the centre of the earth (6. surface) but he got completely lost. Then he fell down and his mobile phone (7. lamp) broke. He didn't know what to do. After a while he saw a pair of hands (8. heard voices) coming from the rock. It was his uncle. The Professor told him they were only forty (9. four) miles away so Axel pulled himself up and set off again. The tunnel sloped steeply upwards (10. downwards). Axel fell and rolled down it, losing consciousness on the way.

**6 Multiple choice cloze**

Read the summary of Chapter Six of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* below.

Choose the best word (A,B,C or D) for each space. The first one has been done as an example.

When Axel (0) ..... woke up, he was in a cave. (1) ..... was light enough for him to see stalagmites all around him, and a light wind was blowing. He could also (2)..... the sound of waves outside. The Professor was delighted that Axel (3) ..... alive and wanted him to rest, but Axel was (4) ..... about the sounds and the light. Eventually his uncle agreed to (5) ..... him for a short walk. Outside the cave Axel was surprised to see (6) ..... wide sea. He and the Professor walked along the seashore, (7) ..... was covered with the bones of prehistoric animals from the Tertiary and Quaternary periods. The (8) ..... was rocky with small streams and waterfalls, and there was a forest of giant mushrooms (9) ..... the distance. The Professor explained that Hans was building a raft (10) ..... that they could cross the water.

- |    |           |                  |             |              |
|----|-----------|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 0  | A last    | <b>B</b> finally | C first     | D soon       |
| 1  | A All     | B This           | C There     | D It         |
| 2  | A feel    | B smell          | C hear      | D listen     |
| 3  | A is      | B was            | C be        | D were       |
| 4  | A curious | B afraid         | C surprised | D interested |
| 5  | A make    | B do             | C take      | D bring      |
| 6  | A the     | B a              | C some      | D very       |
| 7  | A that    | B who            | C what      | D which      |
| 8  | A land    | B earth          | C floor     | D scenery    |
| 9  | A at      | B in             | C on        | D into       |
| 10 | A for     | B and            | C so        | D how        |

**7 Put the sentences in order.**

The sentences A-J of the summary of Chapter Seven of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* below are in the wrong order. Put them in the right order and number them 1-10.

- A  After several hours, the plesiosaurus lay dead on the surface of the water.
- B  Luckily a strong wind blew the raft across the sea and away from the scene of the fight.
- C  On the fourth day of the sea voyage, the raft was surrounded by huge sea monsters.
- D  However it turned out to be a geyser shooting into the air from an island.
- E  Two of them, an ichthyosaurus and a plesiosaurus, started to fight.
- F  The men had to tie themselves and their luggage to the raft so that they didn't fall off.
- G  The following day, the travellers heard a roaring sound.
- H  Axel was afraid because he thought it was a waterfall.
- I  Suddenly a ball of gas appeared on the raft and rolled around their feet before exploding.
- J  Then the weather changed and there was a terrible storm.

**8 Verb cloze**

Read the summary of Chapter Eight of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* below.

Choose one of the verbs from the box which makes sense in each space. Write the verbs in the spaces in the best form (e.g. infinitive, past tense, *-ing* form, be + *-ing* etc.) Sometimes you might need to use two words (an auxiliary verb and a full verb). The first one has been done as an example.

continue explore have to ~~hit~~ repair return run  
save see throw walk

The raft (0) <sup>hit</sup>..... some rocks and the three men (1) ..... into the sea. However, Hans managed (2) ..... Axel and the Professor, and also a lot of their luggage including the food. The Professor was happy because they could (3) ..... their journey but Axel was worried about (4) ..... home. The following day the two of them decided (5) ..... the place while Hans (6) ..... the raft. They found lots of shells and bones on the beach, and even a preserved human body. Later, while they (7) ..... through a prehistoric forest, they (8) ..... a herd of mammoths and a huge man. The Professor and Axel were afraid so they (9) ..... quickly back to the beach. There they found an old knife and the initials of Arne Saknussemm carved on a rock near the entrance to a tunnel. That was clearly the way they (10) ..... go.

**9 Scrambled word cloze with 10 distractors**

Read the summary of Chapter Nine of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* below.

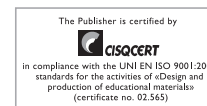
Choose one of the words from the box to write in each space. There are ten words you do not need to use. The first one has been done as an example.

a Although an better brought by carried from ~~get~~ hours  
 However out quickest said that Then time  
 told up When where

The Professor and Axel went to (0) .....<sup>get</sup>..... ans and all three of them sailed back to the dark tunnel. (1) ....., they soon found that it was blocked (2) ..... a large rock. The Professor decided that the (3) ..... way to move the rock was to blow it (4) ..... . The explosion created a huge wave and took the raft, (5) ..... the men were waiting, into the tunnel. The water (6) ..... the raft along very fast for many (7) ....., then it fell into a narrow chimney. (8) ..... the raft reached the bottom, the water lifted it and pushed it up the chimney. The walls of the chimney got hotter and hotter. The Professor (9) ..... that they were inside an erupting volcano. Eventually they were blown out in (10) ..... explosion and woke up on the slopes of the volcano Stromboli in Italy.

**KEYS**

- Ex. 1:** 1 with; 2 who; 3 the; 4 couldn't; 5 because; 6 managed; 7 from; 8 reach; 9 a 10 make
- Ex. 2:** 1 where; 2 them; 3 wasn't; 4 of; 5 found; 6 their; 7 across; 8 took; 9 about; 10 reached
- Ex. 3:** 1C; 2J; 3H; 4D; 5A; 6E; 7G; 8I; 9F; 10B
- Ex. 4:** 1 not; 2 also; 3 end; 4 way; 5 the; 6 any; 7 too; 8 went; 9 out; 10 follow
- Ex. 6:** 1 D; 2 C; 3 B; 4 A; 5 C; 6 B; 7 D; 8 A; 9 B; 10 C
- Ex. 7:** 1C; 2E; 3A; 4B; 5G; 6H; 7D; 8J; 9F; 10I
- Ex. 8:** 1 were thrown; 2 to save; 3 continue; 4 returning; 5 explore; 6 was repairing; 7 were walking; 8 saw; 9 ran; 10 had to
- Ex. 9:** 1 However; 2 by; 3 quickest; 4 up; 5 where; 6 carried; 7 hours; 8 When; 9 said; 10 an



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