

JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH

Retold by Pauline Francis

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Introduction

Jules Verne was born in northern France in 1828. He went to study law in Paris, as his father had done. But as well as studying, he began to do what he really wanted – to write.

Jules Verne wrote several plays and some of them were performed on the Paris stage. In 1857, he married a widow with two young sons. He continued to work and write, because he had a family to support.

In 1862, Jules Verne wrote his first travel adventure, *Five Weeks in a Balloon*. It soon became very popular. From then on, Verne wrote for the same publisher, called Hetzel. In 1864, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* was published. This book tells the story of Professor Lidenbrock and his nephew, Axel, who make a terrifying journey into an extinct volcano – right into the centre of the Earth. The book was made into a film in 1959.

Jules Verne wrote over sixty more novels before his death, in 1905. The best-known of these are *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea* (1869) and *Around the World in Eighty Days* (1873).