

Summer Reading 2009 – English 10 – (Required)
Journey to the Center of the Earth (Jules Verne)

1. Read the book.

2. Choose a film version to watch – the 1959 story with James Mason tells the story more accurately, but you can watch the more recent film if you wish.

Extra Credit: *If you read the story and compare (in a 500 word paper) to the film – 25 points (Typed – Due first day of class)*

Please bring your completed guide with you on the first day of class.

As a writer, and as a person, Jules Verne is a man worth knowing. Complete the following questions from these or similar internet sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/julesverne>

<http://www.onlineliterature.com/verne/>

<http://www.kirjasto.scifi/verne.htm>

<http://www.unmuseum.org/verne.htm>

1. When and where was Jules Verne born?
2. What was his middle name?
3. What person close to him designed the U.S. Navy's first submarine? What was the name of the submarine?
4. When Jules's dad sent him to Paris, what was he supposed to be studying?
5. What did he do instead?
6. When his dad cut off funds to him, what job did Jules take to survive?
7. Who was Verne's publisher?
8. What changes did Verne's publisher make on Verne's work?
9. Whom did Jules marry? What year?
10. What children and stepchildren did he have?
11. What was Verne's breakout story—the first to get the public's notice?
12. How many minutes did his one and only balloon flight last?
13. What were "*Les Voyages Extraordinaires*"?
14. How many novels did Verne write in the course of his career?
15. What was the novel his publisher refused to publish? Why?
16. What is the problem with translations of his works into English?
17. What political position did he hold?
18. What was the scandal about getting shot in the leg?
19. When did he sail around Europe?
20. Where is he buried?

Topics for Research

Jules Verne published *Journey to the Center of the Earth* in 1864, a time when the world of science was undergoing exciting currents and controversies. It was a time when clothing, travel, and customs were different from those of today. Research 4 of the 8 points of interest raised in the novel and film:

- 1) Why would advocacy of Darwin cause a clergyman to call a policeman?
- 2) What is the theory of plate tectonics that Professor Lytton is explaining at the beginning of the film?
- 3) What is the significance of “seven” as the number of years a husband has been missing?
- 4) Why did the explorers have to go all the way to New Zealand to reach the center of the earth?
- 5) Are the markings on the Maori faces authentic?
- 6) At the time Verne was writing, was there such a thing as the windup electric lanterns the explorers used underground?
- 7) What is the undergarment that Alice Hastings wears for swimming?
- 8) Is there any precedent in an ancient civilization, for example for a leader to wear a cape of feathers?