



0. CAPTAIN NEMO and the NAUTILUS - Story Preface

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This image depicts an illustration from Jules Verne's adventure story entitled (in English translation) *20,000 Leagues under the Sea*. In the picture we see Captain Nemo, in his ship (the *Nautilus*), observing a stunning sight. The caption for this drawing, *C'était un calmar de dimensions colossales*, means (in English): "It was a squid of colossal dimensions."

One of the greatest adventure writers of all time was the Frenchman, Jules Verne (1828-1905). According to his publisher, Pierre Jules-Hetzel, Verne wanted to:

...outline all the geographical, geological, physical and astronomical knowledge amassed by modern science.

Modern science, for him, meant 19th-century information.

Verne published a science fiction story about space flight in 1865. It was called *From the Earth to the Moon*. He included an illustration of his fictional travelers experiencing weightlessness.

His original books, which often contained as many as 60 illustrations, were awe-inspiring to people who had never imagined air flight, space travel, journeys to the center of the earth or to the bottom of the sea.

At least one of the illustrations—from *Autour de la lune* (or "Round the Moon" in English)—was amazingly prophetic (see Chapter XXII). Apollo 8's Frank Borman actually splashed down, in the Pacific Ocean, just a few miles away from the point mentioned in the book.

When he wrote *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, Verne introduced the world to Captain Nemo and to a fantastic underwater vessel he named the *Nautilus*. The original illustrations of Nemo (which, in Latin, means "no one") were based on Jean-Baptiste Charras (historian of the 1815 battle of Waterloo who was, in real life, exiled in 1852). Scholars believe that Nemo's life, however, was based (at least in part) on the freedom fighter Gustave Flourens.

Verne—who had a beautiful home, with a courtyard, in Amiens (a northern French town famous for its 13th century Cathedral of Notre Dame)—was extraordinarily prolific. Because he and his wife Honorine lived to old age, Jules had time to create all kinds of awesome creatures appearing in many fantastic stories. They are still enjoyed by people the world over.

Fifty years after the death of this visionary, the United States launched its first nuclear submarine. It was called *Nautilus*, after Captain Nemo's squid-fighting vessel of the same name.

As *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* combined fictional American and British characters to fight a common enemy, what was 19th-century life like in those countries? And how did the two nations—who had fought each other at the beginning of the century—get along at the end?

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CAPTAIN-NEMO-and-the-NAUTILUS-League-of-Extraordinary-Gentlemen)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CAPTAIN-NEMO-and-the-NAUTILUS-League-of-Extraordinary-Gentlemen>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/CAPTAIN-NEMO-and-the-NAUTILUS-League-of-Extraordinary-Gentlemen)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/CAPTAIN-NEMO-and-the-NAUTILUS-League-of-Extraordinary-Gentlemen>



Captain Nemo - Nautilus

Image online, courtesy depauw.edu website.

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Charras - Pictorial Model for Captain Nemo

Image of Col. Jean-Baptiste Charras, public domain.

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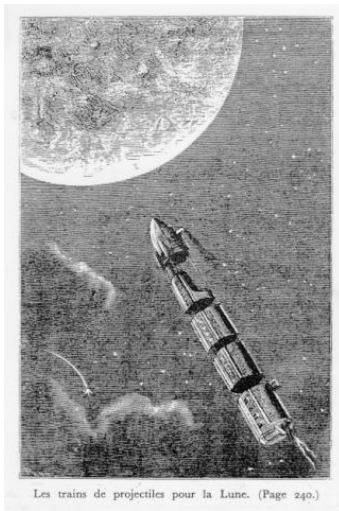
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Weightlessness - A Jules Verne Topic

Image, From the Earth to the Moon, online courtesy Google Books.

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Jules Verne - Space Travel

Image online, courtesy depauw.edu website.

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Journey to the Center of the Earth and Jules Verne

Image online, courtesy depauw.edu website.

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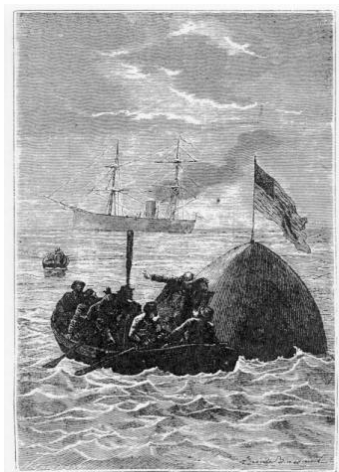
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Journey to the Bottom of the Sea

Image online, courtesy depauw.edu website.

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Jules Verne - Prophetic Splashdown after Space Mission

Image online, courtesy depauw.edu website.

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Frank Borman

Image online, courtesy NASA.

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Splash Down of Apollo 8

Image online, courtesy NASA.

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Splash Down Landing in the Pacific Ocean - Apollo 8

Image online, courtesy NASA.

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Apollo 8 - Recovery From the Pacific Ocean

Image online, courtesy redorbit.com website.

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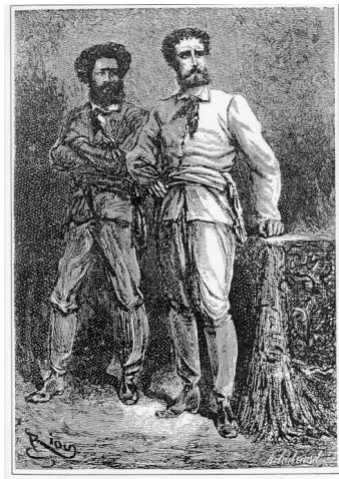
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Captain Nemo

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Captain Nemo - Basis for Illustration

Image online, courtesy depauw.edu website.

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Amiens - Map Locator

Image online, courtesy [World Maps](http://WorldMaps.com) website.

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Amiens - View of the City

Image from the Russell Sturgis Collection, Washington University Archives, St. Louis Missouri.

[Image online](http://WashingtonUniversityLibraries.com), courtesy Washington University Libraries website.

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Captain Nemo - Fighting a Giant Squid

Image online, courtesy depauw.edu website.

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Captain Nemo - Nautilus

Image online, courtesy depauw.edu website.

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Amiens - Cathedral of Notre Dame

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Jules Verne With his Wife Honorine

Image of Jules and Honorine Verne, public domain.

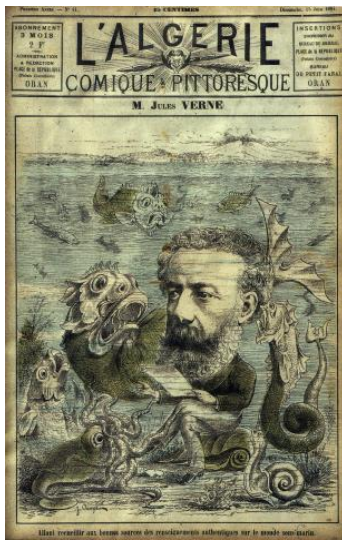
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USS Nautilus - SSN-571

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Jules Verne and His Fantastic Sea Creatures

Image - from the cover of "L'Algerie" Magazine, published on the 15th of June, 1884 - online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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