## CAPTAIN NEMO and the NAUTILUS



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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, <u>Jules Verne</u> (1828-1905). According to his publisher, <u>Pierre Jules-Hetzel</u>, 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 <u>weightlessness</u>.

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

At least one of the illustrations—from <u>Autour de la lune</u> (or "Round the Moon" in English)—was amazingly <u>prophetic</u> (see <u>Chapter XXII</u>). <u>Apollo 8's</u> Frank <u>Borman</u> actually <u>splashed</u> <u>down</u>, in the Pacific <u>Ocean</u>, 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 <u>Captain Nemo</u> and to a fantastic underwater vessel he named the <u>Nautilus</u>. The <u>original</u> illustrations of Nemo (which, in Latin, means "no one") were based on <u>Jean-Baptiste Charras</u> (historian of the <u>1815 battle</u> of <u>Waterloo</u> who was, in real life, exiled in 1852). Scholars believe that <u>Nemo's life</u>, however, was based (at least in part) on the freedom fighter <u>Gustave</u> Flourens.

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

Fifty years after the death of this visionary, the United States launched its first <u>nuclear submarine</u>. It was called <u>Nautilus</u>, after <u>Captain Nemo's</u> squid-fighting <u>vessel</u> 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 <u>fought each other</u> 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-Extraor dinary-Gentlemen

#### See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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

# Media Stream



### Captain Nemo - Nautilus

 $Image\ online,\ courtesy\ \underline{depauw.edu}\ website.$ 

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# <u>Charras - Pictorial Model for Captain Nemo</u> Image of Col. Jean-Baptiste Charras, public domain.

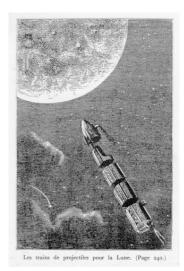
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<u>Weightlessness - A Jules Verne Topic</u> Image, From the Earth to the Moon, online courtesy Google Books.

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# <u>Jules Verne - Space Travel</u>

Image online, courtesy <u>depauw.edu</u> website.

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#### Journey to the Center of the Earth and Jules Verne

Image online, courtesy <u>depauw.edu</u> website.

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#### Journey to the Bottom of the Sea

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#### <u>Jules Verne - Prophetic Splashdown after Space Mission</u>

Image online, courtesy <u>depauw.edu</u> website.

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<u>Frank Borman</u> Image online, courtesy NASA.

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<u>Splash Down of Apollo 8</u> 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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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Splash-Down-Landing-in-the-Pacific-Ocean-Apollo-8



Apollo 8 - Recovery From the Pacific Ocean

Image online, courtesy <u>redorbit.com</u> website.

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Captain Nemo

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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### Captain Nemo - Basis for Illustration

Image online, courtesy <u>depauw.edu</u> website.

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#### Amiens - Map Locator

Image online, courtesy World Maps website.

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#### Amiens - View of the City

Image from the Russell Sturgis Collection, Washington University Archives, St. Louis Missouri. Image online, courtesy Washington University Libraries website.

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### Captain Nemo - Fighting a Giant Squid

Image online, courtesy <u>depauw.edu</u> website.

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<u>Captain Nemo - Nautilus</u>

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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.

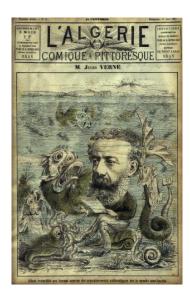
View this asset at: <a href="http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jules-Verne-With-his-Wife-Honorine">http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jules-Verne-With-his-Wife-Honorine</a>



USS Nautilus - SSN-571

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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<u>Jules Verne and His Fantastic Sea Creatures</u>

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

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 $\underline{\text{http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jules-Verne-and-His-Fantastic-Sea-Creatures}}$