



Login

Subscribe

Article

Media

Additional Info

[Home](#) > [Literature](#) > [Novels & Short Stories](#) > [Novelists L-Z](#)

Jules Verne

French author



Print



Cite



Share



More

WRITTEN BY

[Arthur B. Evans](#)

Arthur B. Evans is a professor of Modern Languages at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. He is the editor of *Science Fiction Studies* and the author and editor of several books,...

[See Article History](#)

Jules Verne, (born February 8, 1828, [Nantes](#), France—died March 24, 1905, Amiens), prolific French author whose writings laid much of the foundation of modern [science fiction](#).


TOP QUESTIONS

What is Jules Verne famous for?

Did Jules Verne invent the submarine?

Navigate parenthood with the help of the Raising Curious Learners podcast.

rejected by Hetzel in 1863, Verne learned his lesson, and for more than two decades he churned out many successful science-adventure novels, including *Voyage au centre de la terre* (1863, expanded 1867; *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*), *De la terre à la lune* (1865; *From the Earth to the Moon*), *Autour de la lune* (1870; *Around the Moon*), *Vingt mille lieues sous les mers* (1870; *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*), and *Le Tour du monde en quatre-vingts jours* (1873; *Around the World in Eighty Days*). During these years Verne settled with his family in [Amiens](#) and made a brief trip to the United States to visit [New York City](#) and Niagara Falls. During this period he also purchased several yachts and sailed to many European countries, [collaborated](#) on theatre [adaptations](#) of several of his novels, and gained both worldwide fame and a modest fortune.

Navigate parenthood 
with the help of the
Raising Curious
Learners podcast.



Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

Illustration from Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*. Captain Nemo observes an octopus through the window of the submarine.

Bettmann/Corbis

Navigate parenthood [✕]
with the help of the
Raising Curious
Learners podcast.

The second phase, from 1886 until his death in 1905, might be considered Verne's pessimist period. Throughout these years the ideological tone of his *Voyages extraordinaires* began to change. Increasingly, Verne turned away from pro-science tales of exploration and discovery in favour of exploring the dangers of technology wrought by hubris-filled scientists in novels such as *Sans dessus dessous* (1889; *Topsy-Turvy* or *The Purchase of the North Pole*), *L'Île à hélice* (1895; *The Floating Island* or *The Self-Propelled Island* or *Propeller Island*), *Face au drapeau* (1896; *Facing the Flag* or *For the Flag*), and *Maître du monde* (1904; *Master of the World*). This change of focus also paralleled certain adversities in the author's personal life: growing problems with his rebellious son, Michel; financial difficulties that forced him to sell his yacht; the successive deaths of his mother and his mentor Hetzel; and an attack by a mentally disturbed nephew who shot him in the lower leg, rendering him partially crippled. When Verne died, he left a drawerful of nearly completed manuscripts in his desk.

Get exclusive access to content from our 176

[Subscribe to](#)

✕
Navigate parenthood
with the help of the
Raising Curious
Learners podcast.

The third and final phase of the Jules Verne story, from 1905 to 1919,

might be considered the Verne fils period, when his posthumous works were published—after being substantially revamped—by his son, Michel. They included *Le Volcan d'or* (1906; *The Golden Volcano*), *L'Agence Thompson and Co.* (1907; *The Thompson Travel Agency*), *La Chasse au météore* (1908; *The Chase of the Golden Meteor*), *Le Pilote du Danube* (1908; *The Danube Pilot*), *Les Naufragés du Jonathan* (1909; *The Survivors of the Jonathan*), *Le Secret de Wilhelm Storitz* (1910; *The Secret of Wilhelm Storitz*), *Hier et demain* (1910; *Yesterday and Tomorrow*, a collection of short stories), and *L'Étonnante aventure de la mission Barsac* (1919; *The Barsac Mission*). Comparing Jules Verne's original manuscripts with the versions published after his death, modern researchers discovered that Michel did much more than merely edit them. In most cases he entirely rewrote them—among other changes, he recast plots, added fictional characters, and made their style more melodramatic. Scholarly reaction to these discoveries has been mixed. Some critics condemn these posthumous works as contaminated; others view them as a legitimate part of the Verne *père et fils* collaboration. The debate continues.

With Michel's death in 1925, the final chapter of Jules Verne's literary legacy was more or less complete. The following year American publisher [Hugo Gernsback](#) used a representative logo for his *Amazing Stories*, the first lit of "scientifiction." As the term *scientific* the new genre began to flourish as never before, and Verne became

Navigate parenthood with the help of the Raising Curious Learners podcast.

universally recognized as its [patron saint](#).

During the 20th century Verne's works were translated into more than 140 languages, making him one of the world's most translated authors. A number of successful motion pictures were made from Verne novels, starting in 1916 with *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (remade in 1954 by [Walt Disney](#)) and including *The Mysterious Island* (1929 and 1961), *From the Earth to the Moon* (1958), *Journey to the Center of the Earth* (1959), and, perhaps the most popular, *Around the World in 80 Days* (1956).

Verne's influence extends beyond literature and film into the world of science and technology, where he inspired generations of scientists, inventors, and explorers. In 1954 the United States Navy launched the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, named for Verne's *Nautilus*. And for more than 130 years, adventurers such as [Nellie Bly](#) (1890), [Wiley Post](#) (1933), and [Steve Fossett](#) (2005) have followed in the footsteps of Verne's fictional hero [Phileas Fogg](#) by attempting to circumnavigate the globe in record-breaking times. Verne and his enduringly popular *Voyages extraordinaires* continue to remind us that "What one man can imagine, another will someday be able to achieve."

[Arthur B. Evans](#)

LEARN MORE in these related Britannica arti

Navigate parenthood
with the help of the
Raising Curious
Learners podcast.

[science fiction: Jules Verne](#)

More significant to the genre's formation than Poe was **Jules Verne**, who counted Poe among his influences and was arguably the inventor of science fiction. Verne's first novel, Paris au XXIème siècle (Paris in the Twentieth Century)—written in 1863 but not published...

space exploration: Precursors in fiction and fact

...centuries later the French author **Jules Verne** and the English novelist and historian H.G. Wells infused their stories with descriptions of outer space and of spaceflight that were consistent with the best understanding of the time. Verne's De la Terre à la Lune (1865; Fro...

children's literature: History

...of genius is of course **Jules Verne**, whose first book, Un Voyage en ballon, was originally published in 1851 in a children's magazine, Le Musée des Familles...



HISTORY AT YOUR
FINGERTIPS

Sign up here to see what happened [On This Day](#), every day in your inbox!

Sign Up

By signing up, you agree to our [Privacy Notice](#).

Britannica All New
Kids' Encyclopedia
What We Know & What We Don't



Navigate parenthood
with the help of the
Raising Curious
Learners podcast. ×

Jules Verne

QUICK FACTS



[View Media Page](#)

BORN

February 8, 1828

[Nantes, France](#)

DIED

March 24, 1905 (aged 77)

[Amiens, France](#)

NOTABLE WORKS

["Around the World in Eighty Days"](#)

["A Journey to the Centre of the Earth"](#)

["The Mysterious Island"](#)

["Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea"](#)

["From the Earth to the Moon"](#)

["Five Weeks in a Balloon"](#)

[×](#)
Navigate parenthood
with the help of the
Raising Curious
Learners podcast.

FIVE WEEKS IN A DAY

Inspire your inbox – Sign up for daily fun facts about this day in history, updates, and special offers.

Enter your email

Subscribe

By signing up for this email, you are providing your contact information from Encyclopedias.com. [Click here to view our Privacy Notice.](#) Easy unsubscribe links are provided in every email.


Navigate parenthood with the help of the Raising Curious Learners podcast. ✕



[About Us & Legal Info](#) [Partner Program](#) [Contact Us](#) [Privacy Notice](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

©2020 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Navigate parenthood 
with the help of the
Raising Curious
Learners podcast.