1st part: The Salon of Amiens → Jules Verne’s renown

Biography: Born in Nantes in 1828, JV grew up near the harbour and developed a very early passion for travelling. He left for Paris when he was 20 to study law and there he began his career as a writer in 1862 with the publisher Hetzel. Then, as a successful author, he moved to Amiens to live with his family. He died in his house in 1905.

1) Observe the Jules Verne’s bust in the shop, point out the physical traits of the figure of the writer you can find.

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2) According to what you see in the salon, what can you say about Jules Verne’s way of life?

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2nd part: The Room of Childhood → The harbour as a playground

3) Take a look at Sophie and Pierre Verne’s portraits (his parents) in the entrance of the 2nd room, what passions do you think they passed on to Jules? The father’s office can help you ...

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4) Timeline → Replace the inventions on the list to their right date on the timeline.

Word list: Electric telegraph; steam railway in Nantes; cinematograph; hot-air balloon; Lefevre Utile (LU) Biscuit Factory in Nantes; steamboat with waterwheels; first airplane flight; propeller; writing machine; regular steamline across the Atlantic; telephone.

5) What are the important inventions of Jules Verne’s time you can find on the mural of the harbour of Nantes in room n°2?

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Quotation from ‘Story of my boyhood’: « I lived in the maritime bustle of a big commercial city which is the starting point and goal of many long voyages »

- Jules Verne was a witness of the Triangular Trade that took place in the harbour of Nantes. The Triangular Trade involved Slave Trade, which was an important business in the city of Nantes. The author refers to it in his novel entitled “A Boy Captain”.

6) In what year was slavery abolished in your country?

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Context: The 19th century is a time of great changes in the world, due to an increasing progress in science: this is the Industrial Revolution. This revolution, bringing industry and trademarket to life, started in Great Britain around 1780. Fifty years later – when JV was just born, the Industrial Revolution crossed the Channel and arrived in France ...

Did you know?

Slavery was abolished in France in 1848, when Jules Verne was 20 years old.
3rd part: The room of the Sea → A passion for travelling

“The Great Eastern”

Jules Verne crossed the Atlantic aboard this steamship to go to the USA, he called it “the iron monster”.

7) What was Jules Verne’s personal mean of transportation for his travels around Europe?

- In his life, JV only traveled in the North Hemisphere. However, many of his novels take place in parts of the world the author had never seen ...

8) Planisphere → Locate the novel titles on the map according to where the story takes place: Five weeks in a balloon, Michel Strogoff, The adventures of Captain Hatteras, Jangada, Steam House.

4th part: The Room of Space + Nautilus → The sense of anticipation

- Jules Verne used the main invention of Modern Times to imagine the most innovative submarine:

9) What was this main invention still used everyday?

10) Machines → Place the right key under each machine and describe its function: Terror, Nautilus, Space rocket...

- Jules Verne is sometimes called the “father of science-fiction” ...

11) Give & compare the date of the novel “From the Earth to the Moon” with the date of the first man walking on the moon. What can you say about Jules Verne’s imagination?

Did you know?

The museum preserves all of JV’s original manuscripts in mint conditions and displays facsimiles, but also some authentic objects that belonged to Jules Verne.

Did you know?

Verne’s publisher Hetzel would use marketing techniques (posters, covers, illustrations ...) before marketing even existed and turned Verne’s books into best-sellers.