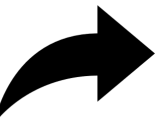


DOMINOES

Journey
to the Centre
of the Earth



STARTER LEVEL 250 HEADWORDS



BEFORE READING

1 Here are some of the people in the story. Match the information about them with the pictures.

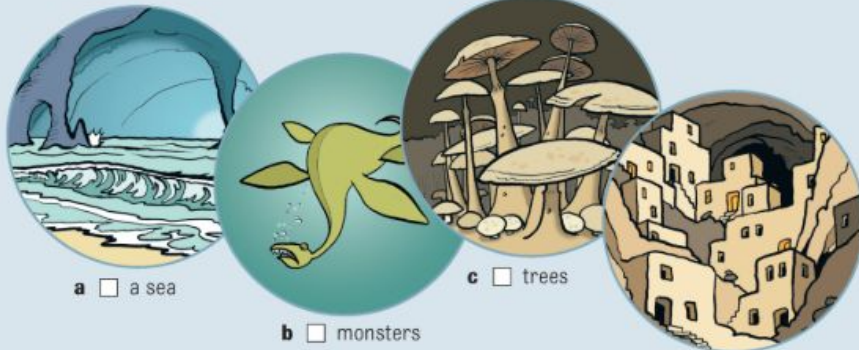


a Professor Otto Lidenbrock
 b Axel
 c Gräuben
 d Hans Bjelke

- 1 He comes from Iceland. He's strong and very quiet.
- 2 He's a science teacher at the Johanneum, a school in Hamburg.
- 3 She's the daughter of a good friend of Professor Lidenbrock's.
- 4 He lives and works with his uncle, Professor Lidenbrock, because his mother and father are dead.

2 Three of the people go on a journey to the centre of the Earth. Which three?

3 What do they find when they go underground? Tick the boxes.



a a sea
 b monsters
 c trees
 d a town



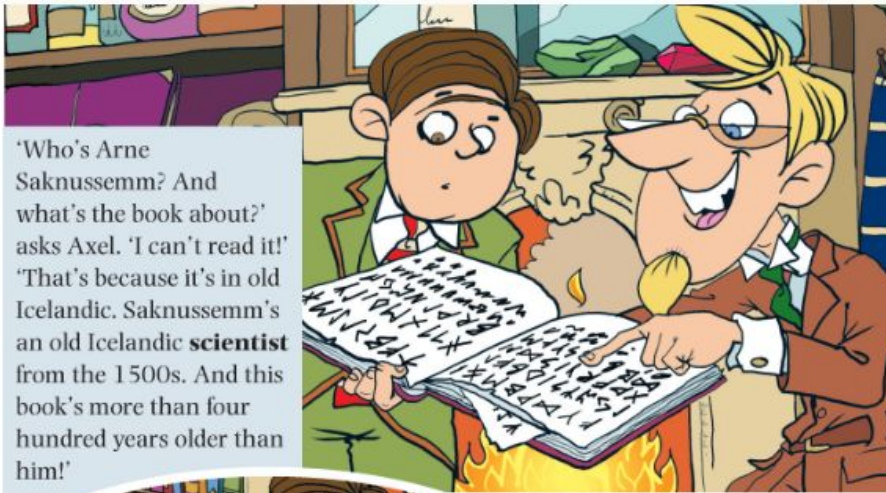
Our story begins on May 24th 1863, at a little house in Hamburg, Germany. On that day, **Professor** Otto Lidenbrock comes home from work early.



'Look!' he says to his **nephew**, Axel. 'This wonderful book comes from the old shop near here, and it's got Arne Saknussemm's name in the front.'

professor an important teacher who also studies a lot

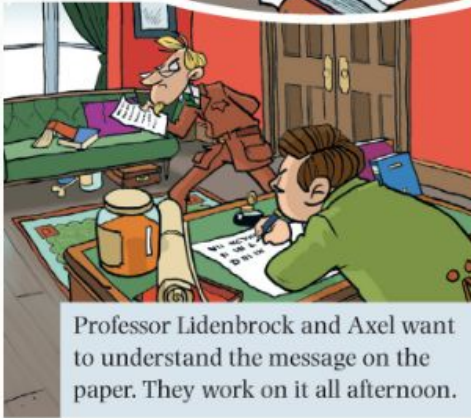
nephew your sister's (or brother's) son



'Who's Arne Saknussem? And what's the book about?' asks Axel. 'I can't read it!' 'That's because it's in old Icelandic. Saknussem's an old Icelandic **scientist** from the 1500s. And this book's more than four hundred years older than him!'



Just then, they find a dirty, old **paper** in the book. 'Look!' says Professor Lidenbrock. 'It's a **secret message** – I'm sure!'



Professor Lidenbrock and Axel want to understand the message on the paper. They work on it all afternoon.



'It's no good!' says the professor angrily that evening. 'I can't understand it.' And he goes out of the house for a walk.

scientist a person who studies the natural world

secret something that you don't tell to everybody

sure when you feel that something is true

paper you write on this

message you write this to someone



The **fire** in the room is very warm. Soon Axel feels hot. He moves the paper in front of his face. Suddenly Axel can read the message through the paper. 'It is a secret message – from Arne Saknussem,' he thinks. 'But it's **backwards**.'



Now Axel understands the message, he's afraid. Just then, his **uncle** comes home. Axel is afraid of his uncle, too.



'Well, Axel,' says Lidenbrock, 'can you understand the message now?' 'Er... Yes, Uncle,' says Axel. 'You must read it backwards.' 'Of course,' says Professor Lidenbrock. 'Good boy! That's it!'



The professor reads the message: 'Go down into the **crater** of Snæfells before the last day of June, when the **shadow** of Scartaris **falls** across it, and you can go to the **centre** of the **Earth** – Arne Saknussem.'

fire this is red and hot, and it burns

crater a big, wide hole

centre the part in the middle

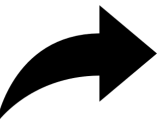
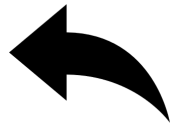
backwards beginning at the last letter and going to the first letter

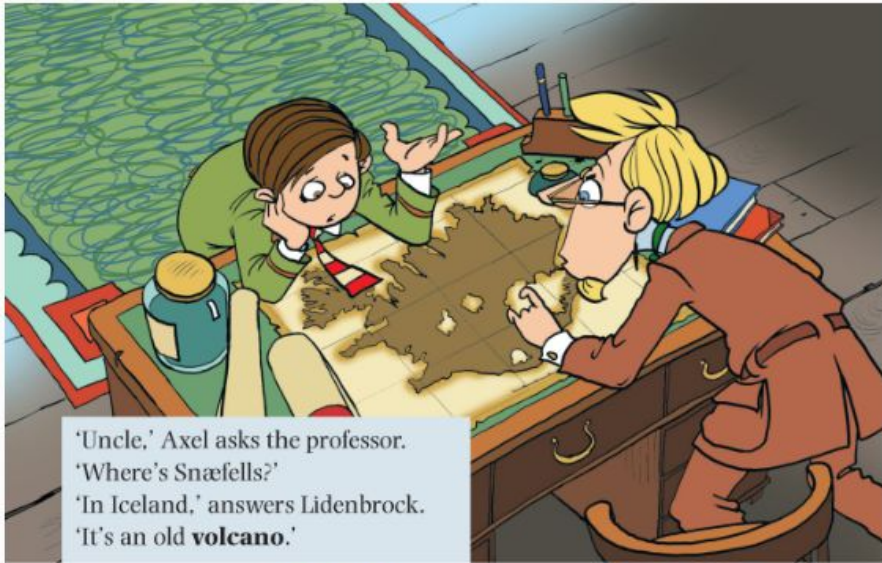
shadow a dark shape that the sun makes on things

Earth we live on this

uncle your father's (or mother's) brother

fall to go down suddenly





'Uncle,' Axel asks the professor.
'Where's Snæfells?'
'In Iceland,' answers Lidenbrock.
'It's an old **volcano**.'

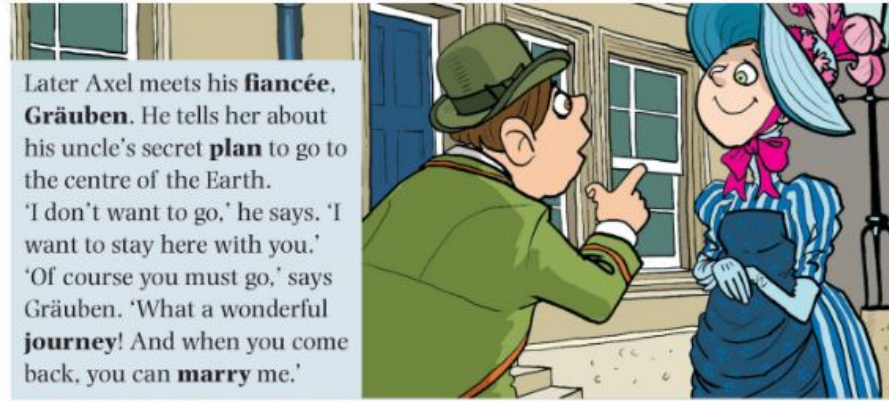
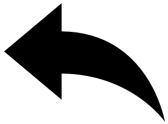


'But Uncle, nobody can go to the centre of the Earth and come back alive,' says Axel. 'It's very hot and dark down there – I'm sure.'
'Yes, they can. Arne Saknussemm's message tells us that,' says Lidenbrock. 'But is his message true? We must go to Iceland and see.'



'Now remember, Axel, this is a secret,' says Lidenbrock. 'We want to be the first scientists of our time to go to the centre of the Earth!'

volcano a mountain that fire and rocks sometimes come from



Later Axel meets his **fiancée**, **Gräuben**. He tells her about his uncle's secret **plan** to go to the centre of the Earth. 'I don't want to go,' he says. 'I want to stay here with you.'
'Of course you must go,' says Gräuben. 'What a wonderful **journey**! And when you come back, you can **marry** me.'



All the next day Lidenbrock and Axel get different things for the journey. At last, late that evening, everything is ready.



At half past five the next morning, the professor and Axel leave for Iceland. 'Goodbye, Axel,' says Gräuben. 'Remember, I'm waiting for you.'
'Be quick, Axel,' calls Lidenbrock. 'Our train leaves Hamburg at six o'clock. We must be on it.'

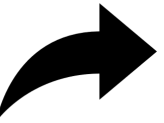
fiancée the woman that a man wants to marry

Gräuben /'grɔɪ,bən/

plan when you get something ready to do later; to get something ready to do later

journey when you go far

marry to make someone your husband or wife



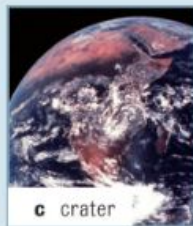
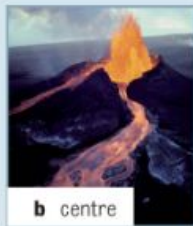
READING CHECK

Are these sentences true or false? Tick the boxes.

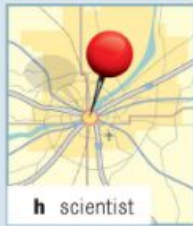
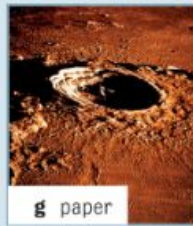
- | | True | False |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a Professor Lidenbrock and Axel live in Hamburg. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b One day Lidenbrock finds an old book at work. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c Arne Saknussem is an old German scientist. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d Lidenbrock and Axel find a secret message from Saknussem. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e Axel is happy when he understands the message. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f Lidenbrock and Axel must go to Snæfells before the first day of July. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g Axel doesn't want to leave Gräuben. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h Lidenbrock and Axel leave Hamburg at six o'clock in the evening. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

WORD WORK

1 These words don't match the pictures. Correct them.



...scientist...



2 Find words from Chapter 1 to complete the sentences.

- a Axel is Professor Lidenbrock's nephew.
- b Don't tell them about this – it's a secret.
- c Gräuben is Axel's father. They have a plan to move.
- d 'What's the biggest city in Iceland?' 'I'm not sure. Is it Reykjavik?'
- e Some of Leonardo da Vinci's writing is backwards.
It begins on the right and finishes on the left.
- f They are going across Africa. The journey is long and hot.
- g He's not answering his telephone. Let's send a message to him.
- h Your father's or mother's brother is your uncle.
- i I don't want to get on a horse because I don't want to fall down off it.

GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Tick two boxes.

- a The professor feels bad on the journey to Iceland.
- b They meet Arne Saknussem in Iceland.
- c The professor and Axel climb up Snæfells.
- d Axel falls into a crater and dies.
- e Axel leaves the professor and goes back to Hamburg.
- f Snæfells erupts and they can't go to the centre of the Earth.

