A breathtaking **balloonist**

In the early 19th century, balloonists put on amazing aerial shows. **Sophie Blanchard** was the world's first professional female balloonist, and one of the most popular.

Show in the sky

Sophie was born in France, but her amazing balloon shows made her famous all over Europe. When she was in the air, she would launch **fireworks** from her balloon and lower dogs on parachutes down to the amazed crowds below.

Napoléon Bonaparte



Popular performer

Sophie performed for many important people, including the Emperor of France, **Napoléon Bonaparte**. He was so impressed by Sophie he named her the "Aeronaut of the Official Festivals" and asked her to perform at his special occasions.

Surprisingly, Sophie claimed she scared easily and was frightened of loud noises. However, in the air, she was fearless.

End of an era

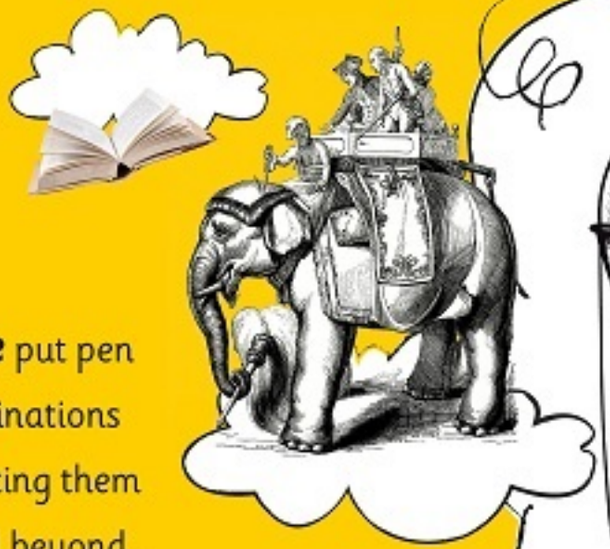
Ballooning was dangerous. In 1819, tragedy struck. While performing, one of Sophie's fireworks made her **balloon catch fire** and crash. Sophie is remembered as one of **history's great flyers.**

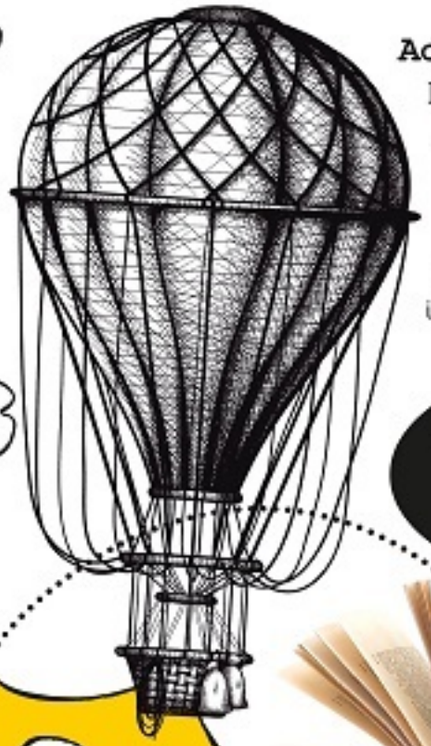


Not all people understood how balloons flew. On one trip, Sophie landed in a field and was chased away by locals with sticks who thought she was a flying demon!

Adventure stories

French writer **Jules Verne** put pen to paper and sparked the imaginations of millions of readers, transporting them to the bottom of the ocean and beyond...





Adventure writing

In 1863, after writing plays, Jules was asked to write an exciting and educational story for a travel magazine. He wrote a story called *Five Weeks in a Balloon* about three men exploring Africa. This was the first book in a series he called *Extraordinary Voyages*.

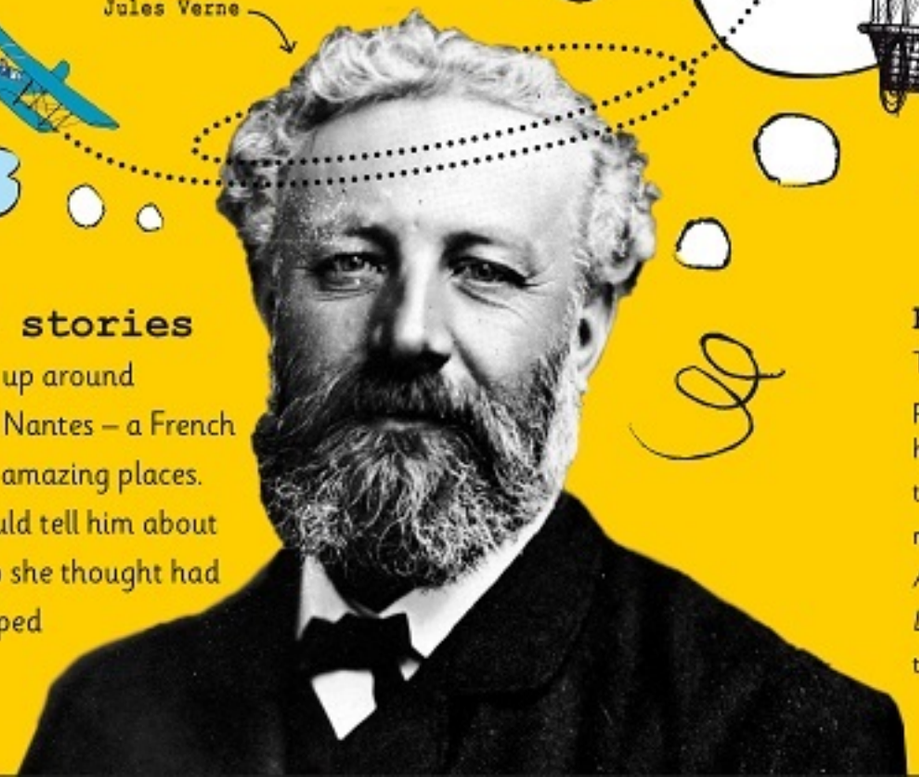


Jules spent hours researching and learning about the world in the library.





Jules Verne



Inspirational stories

Born in 1828, Jules grew up around **adventure**. He lived in Nantes – a French port full of ships going to amazing places. At school, his teacher would tell him about her husband, a sailor who she thought had been shipwrecked and hoped would one day return.

Escaping reality

The books Jules wrote were very popular. People enjoyed how he helped readers imagine places they had never been to. His most popular story was called *Around the World in 80 Days*, about a man who travelled the globe.

Yuri Gagarin



Lasting legacy

Jules' stories are still popular today and have been made into many plays and films. Famous explorers, such as cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, said that Jules **inspired** their own adventures.

Animal **antics**

This committed conservationist turned her **time with chimpanzees** into the longest ever continuous study of an animal in its natural habitat.





"If we do not do something to help these creatures, we make a mockery of the whole concept of justice".
– Jane Goodall

Wild at heart

Although **Jane Goodall** was born in bustling London in 1934, she wanted to be in the wild. At 26, she visited Gombe National Park in Tanzania, Africa, to **study chimpanzees**. This marked the start of more than 50 years of scientific study.





Making connections

In time, the wild chimps grew to recognize and accept Jane. She noticed they had **different personalities** and emotions, just like people. She observed them looking after friends and fighting with enemies, and marvelled at their ability to make **tools** from rocks and sticks.





A chimpanzee using a stem to soak up water.

Chimp conservation

In 1977, Jane set up the Jane Goodall Institute. To this day, the organization continues to research and protect chimps **in the wild**. Jane has published many books about her work, and won many wildlife and conservation awards.

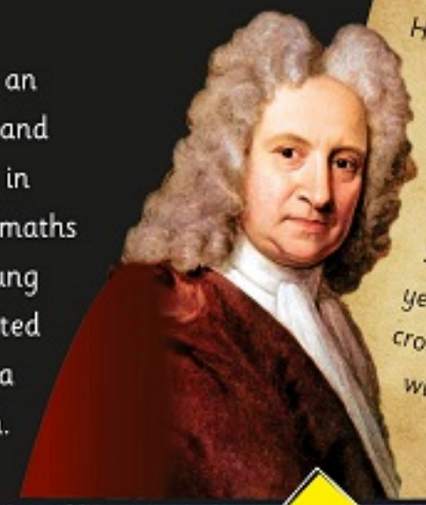


Astronomical adventure

Comets have appeared in the night sky throughout human history, but we didn't know much about them before **Edmond Halley's** big discovery.

Mastermind

Edmond Halley was an English astronomer and mathematician born in 1656. Obsessed with maths and science from a young age, Halley was fascinated by **comets** and spent a lot of time studying them.



A comet's return

Having read reports of comets in 1531 and 1607, when he saw one in 1682 he realized it was actually the same comet showing up again and again. He worked out the comet also orbited the Sun, and every **75-76** years its journey crossed paths with Earth.



Predicting the future

As Halley predicted, the comet returned in 1758. Halley died in 1742, so sadly never got to see it again. However, the comet is now named **Halley's Comet** in his honour.

Spotted by Babylonian astronomers

Spotted by Chinese astronomers

Described by a Roman historian





Recorded on the Bayeux Tapestry

Seen by Halley



Photographed for the first time

Next return of Halley's comet!

164 BCE | 12 BCE | 218 CE | 1066 CE | 1301 CE | 1682 CE | 1758 CE | 1910 CE | 1986 CE | 2061 CE

Using Halley's discovery, we can look back in time and track Halley's Comet through human history.



Painted by an Italian artist

Reappears, proving Halley right



Last seen from Earth

The epic explorer

Bitten by the travel bug from a young age, this scholar spent 30 years exploring before writing about his adventures in one of the world's first **travel books**.

Holy pilgrimage

In 1325, Moroccan explorer **Ibn Battuta** turned 21 and set off on a religious pilgrimage to Mecca, in what is now Saudi Arabia. His trip was challenging, and he faced struggles with thieves and illness. However, he kept on going and 16 months later he finally reached Mecca.





Today, millions of Muslims make a religious pilgrimage to Mecca each year.

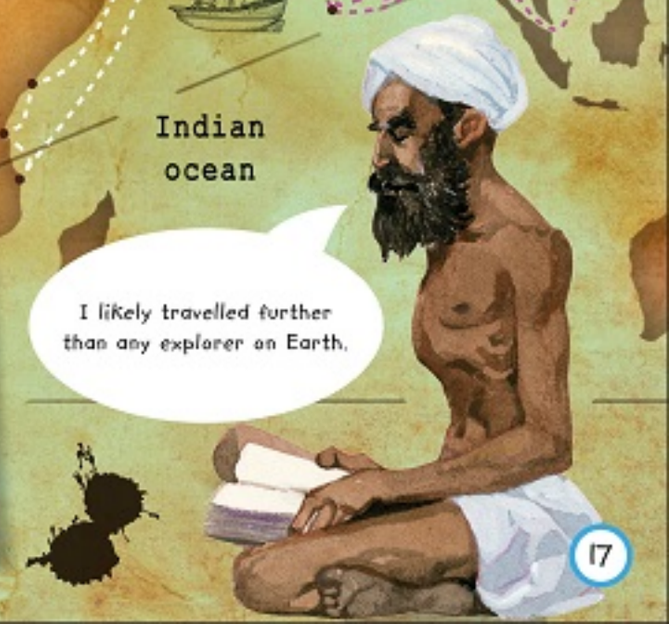
Far and wide

The trip to Mecca sparked Battuta's sense of adventure, and he couldn't wait to see more of the world! For years he visited different places, including Timbuktu, Afghanistan, India, and China. His goal was to **never travel the same road twice** – unless it was back to Mecca.



The return

Battuta returned home in 1354 and wrote about his experiences in a book called *Rihla*, which means "**The Journey**" in Arabic. The stories sounded so far-fetched that many readers didn't believe them! However, *Rihla* remains an important book that tells the story of one of history's most amazing explorers.



The period known as Ancient Egypt is remembered for many things, including royals known as "pharaohs".

The tomb of King Tut

In 1917, a team of archaeologists set out to find the tomb of an Ancient Egyptian pharaoh – a "boy king" known as **Tutankhamun**, or King Tut.





The mysterious king

Little was known about Tut before 1922, and many experts believed his tomb would never be found. But British archaeologist **Howard Carter** disagreed and launched a dig in the Valley of the Kings, Egypt.



The secret staircase

Carter and his team spent six years in search of a major discovery without much luck. But, in 1922, they stumbled upon a hidden staircase. After it was cleared, they **uncovered** a door, and behind it was the undisturbed burial chamber of the boy king!







Buried treasure

Inside the chamber lay thousands of items that had remained **unseen** for over 3,000 years. Many were cast in gold and beautifully decorated. And inside a golden coffin lay the remains of King Tut. Since the discovery, King Tut has become one of the most **famous** Ancient Egyptian pharaohs.