

**AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS  
INVENT THE FUTURE**

Grade Levels: K-5, with adjustment 6-8

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**OBJECTIVES**

- Students will gain an understanding of *Around the World in 80 Days* author Jules Verne and his influence on modern technology.
- Students will be able to envision the future and brainstorm advances in technology.

**MATERIALS**

- A computer with a projector (if showing video), or a SMART Board
- Paper, erasers, markers, crayons, colored pencils, pens, etc.

**PROCEDURE**

1. Using resources from the AlleyResourced.com “Invent Your Future” page, discuss Jules Verne, author of *Around the World in 80 Days*, with students. Verne lived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Ask students what technology they think was around in the 1800s.
2. Explain that Vern lived in a time when trains, steamships, telegraphs, and electric lighting were new technology. However in his books, Verne dreamed up inventions like flying machines, spaceships, and submarines years before they were practically possible. Through his writings, Verne conceived much of the world as we know it. (Show older students the “Writer or Prophet?” video on the Alley Re-Sourced “Invent Your Future” page. It does an excellent job of explaining this.)
3. Ask students how a writer could influence the development of new technology, guiding them to the answer that many inventors grew up reading Verne’s books. It is quite possible that modern technology would not be as advanced if engineers and scientists had not encountered Verne’s ideas.
4. Tell students they are now going to think like Jules Verne. Ask them to close their eyes and imagine the world 100 years from now. Give them the following prompts with a few seconds between each question.
  - a. What do you see?
  - b. How do people travel? Are they walking around? Are people still driving cars? Do they travel in the air or in the water?

- c. Are there any special devices people use to communicate with each other? What version of the iPhone do people use? Or do they not use cellphones at all?
  - d. What do computers look like? Have they gotten bigger or smaller? How are they used for business? For fun? Do people use email? What about Facebook and Instagram?
5. Ask students to open their eyes and record what inventions they saw. Younger students may draw pictures. Older students may write descriptions about what they saw or write short stories. Feel free to send students' inventions to:

Mr. Hardcastle, Esq.  
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