

Oral Introduction

Chapter 2 Around the World

Do you know how large the earth is? In the 1700s, lots of people wanted to know the size of our planet. Two scientists traveled to South America in 1735 to measure one part of the world. They walked through jungles, deserts, and over high mountains. It took them ten years, but another group had made it before them. This shows us how curious people were about the earth in the 18th century. Until that time, there were many unusual ideas about the world and its shape. Have you heard any of them? For example, what did many people believe about the earth until the 1500s? Did they think it was round? We'll find out the answer in Part 1 of this story.

Part 1 (p. 26)

Have you ever heard the name Ferdinand Magellan? He did something great in history. What was it? Thanks to him, scientists such as Isaac Newton, Johannes Kepler, and Galileo could discover important things about our planet. They found out more about the shape of our planet. They told us much about our universe, too. This was all thanks to Magellan's efforts.

Part 2 (p. 28)

Have you ever heard the name Jules Verne? He wrote many wonderful stories. In one of them, a man traveled around the world in 1873. How long do you think it took him? On February 28, 2005, another man flew around the world alone in three days... without stopping once! It is a small world... and getting smaller.

Part 3 (p. 26)

We talked about a fantastic record before reading the last part. Can you think of any travel records? There are many. In this part, we will meet many great travelers. Some walk, some go by helicopter, and others use hot air balloons. People are still trying to take great trips. How about you? What was your greatest trip so far? What kind of trips would you like to take in the future?

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