

Warm-Up

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Around the World in Seventy-Two Days**

When Jules Verne published his popular book, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, travel was still slow. To travel around the world in eighty days seemed impossible in the real world. In 1889, America's first female reporter, Nellie Bly, convinced her editor that she could beat that time and any man who tried to compete with her. On November 14, 1889, Nellie got on board the steamship *Augusta Victoria*, leaving Hoboken, New Jersey. The race against the clock began at 9:40 a.m.

She traveled to France where she met Jules Verne. They mapped out Nellie's **itinerary** to match the route in Jules Verne's book. Nellie went on to Italy. She then sailed through the newly dug Suez Canal. She sailed

from Yemen to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to Singapore. There, she bought a monkey who traveled the rest of the route with her. She learned that a young female reporter had been sent by a magazine and was ahead of her. This did not stop Nellie. She continued on to Hong Kong and Japan before crossing the Pacific Ocean to San Francisco.

Nellie then traveled across the southern part of the United States by train to New Jersey. She set foot on the Jersey City train station seventy-two days, six hours, and eleven minutes after starting her journey. Her amazing race made her a national heroine.

**Check Your Understanding**

- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **itinerary**?
  - a list of books
  - a list of destinations on a trip
  - a list of steamships
  - a list of people to meet
- What do you think Nellie did on the trip so that people knew where she was and how she was doing?
  - She sent dispatches and articles to her newspaper to be published.
  - She sent letters to the president of the United States.
  - She gave interviews to television reporters.
  - She made telephone calls to her parents.
- What did Nellie and Jules Verne discuss?
  - how he wrote the book
  - the route around the world
  - people to meet on the way
  - how to write a novel
- What can you infer from the passage about the success of Nellie's competitor?
  - She didn't finish the race.
  - She quit and went home.
  - She didn't win the race.
  - She won the race.

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