



BLAST FROM THE FUTURE PAST

1 So, you've been on holiday all over the world. You spent your last summer holiday sunbaking on the moon. Now what? Dragon racing? Swimming with mermaids? Boring! Well, how about a trip through time?

The idea of time travel has been used in a lot of science fiction stories. One of the first was *The Time Machine*, written by HG Wells in 1895.

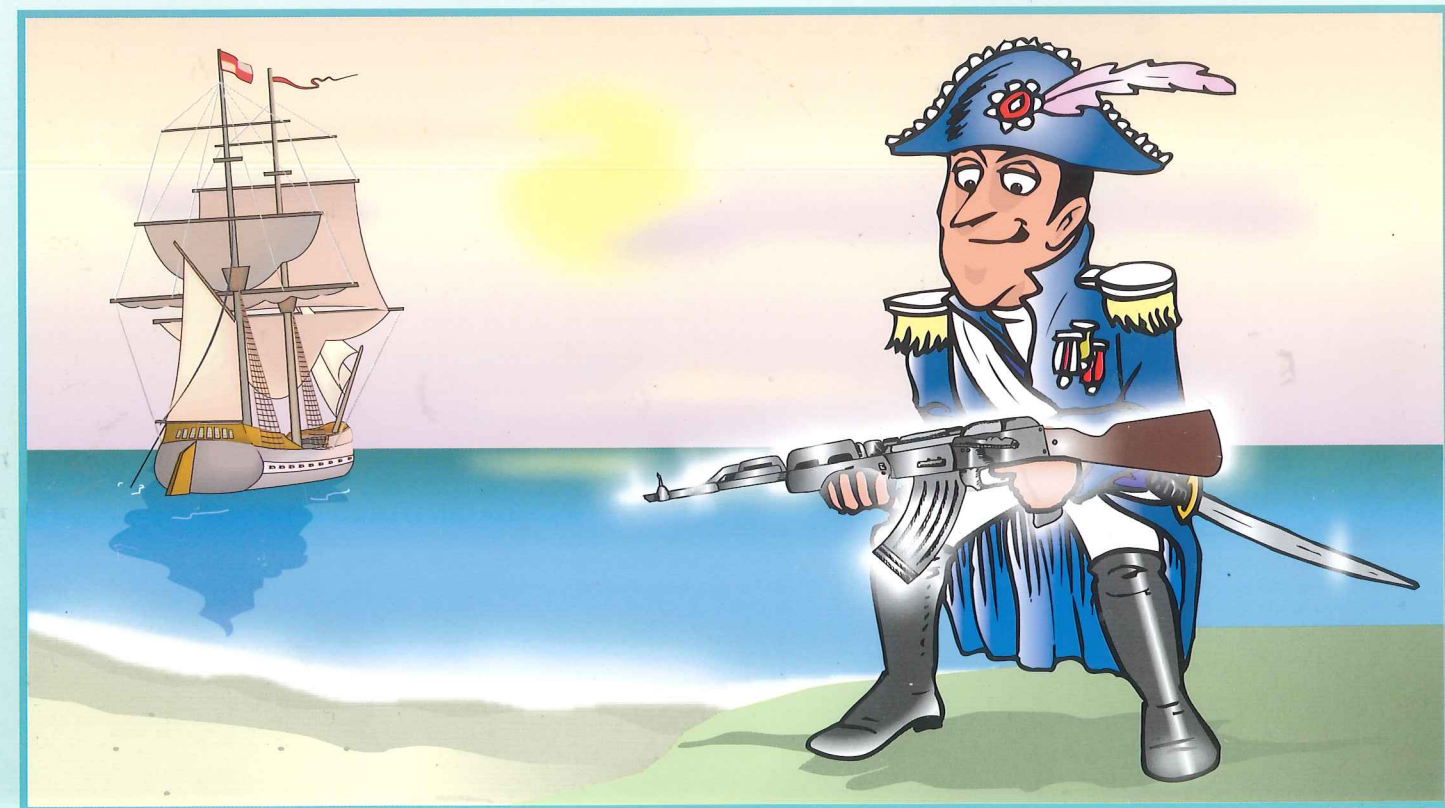
2 There are all sorts of ways to travel through

time. In the TV series, *Doctor Who*, the Doctor and his friends use a machine that looks like an old English telephone box. A gold pocket watch helps a secret agent time travel in the series, *Voyagers*. Doc Brown, the scientist from the film, *Back to the Future*, turns a sports car into a time machine. A time machine is made using pieces from a crashed alien ship in the TV series, *Seven Days*. Richard, in the film, *Somewhere in Time*, uses a really strange way — he just thinks himself into the past.

3 Some people use time travel to help themselves. In the film, *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, two teenagers travel back in time to meet famous people ... and then they get those famous people to help them with their school history project. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

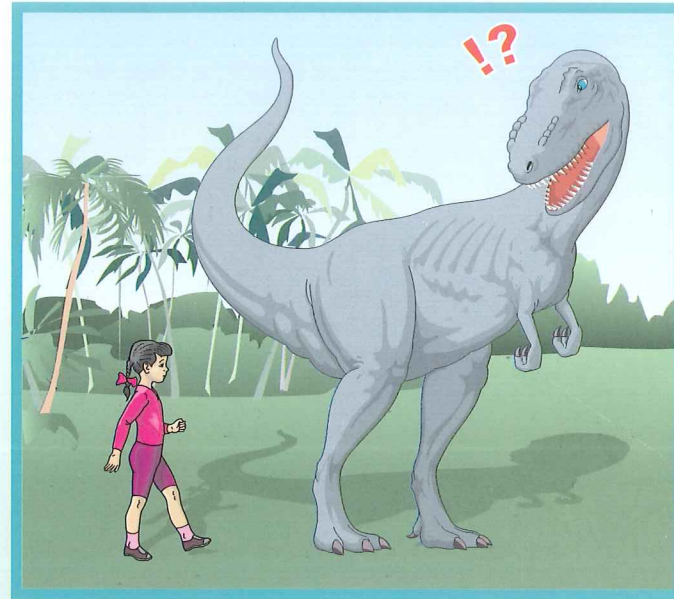
4 But going back in time can be dangerous. You might change history. How different would the world be if you stopped President John F Kennedy from being murdered in 1963? What would happen if you brought machine guns back to 1815 and helped Napoleon win at the Battle of Waterloo? What if you went back to 1912 and told the crew of the *Titanic* that the ship would collide with an iceberg and sink? Do you think they would believe you?

5 In *Back to the Future*, Marty McFly accidentally stops his own parents from meeting. If his parents never fall in love, they will never marry and he will never be born. So Marty has to try to set things right and get his parents to meet — otherwise he might disappear.



- 6 Some stories don't care about what has happened in the past. It can be a lot more interesting to go forward in time. To the future. In *The Time Machine*, the time traveller goes millions of years into the future. Imagine how different our world would be after all that time.
- 7 The Doctor from the TV series *Doctor Who* has travelled to many different futures. He has visited a time when the Earth was invaded by aliens. He has also travelled far into the future, to a time when the Earth was so polluted, humans couldn't live on it anymore.
- 8 Thinking about time travel is a fun thing to do. Imagine walking with dinosaurs, or helping to build the pyramids in Egypt. Have you ever wanted to meet Julius Caesar, or have a chat

with Albert Einstein? Perhaps you're feeling really adventurous and want to travel far into the future. Who knows what you'll find waiting for you then.



Questions

- 1 Who is the doctor from *Back to the Future*?
- Doctor Who
 - Doc Brown
 - HG Wells
- 2 Which of these isn't mentioned as a way of travelling through time?
- a gold watch
 - a telephone box
 - an umbrella
- 3 When was the Battle of Waterloo?
- 1815
 - 1912
 - 1963
- 4 What is a danger of stopping your parents from meeting?
- You will not be able to return to the present.
 - You will have never been born.
 - You will not change the future.
- 5 Where is it suggested that it is possible for more than one future to exist?
- Bill and Ted's Excellent Journey*
 - The Time Machine*
 - Doctor Who*
- 6 What is the main point of this article?
- to show the different ways people have imagined time travel
 - to show how real time travel can appear to be
 - to show that all science fiction is about time travel

Vocabulary

Find words in the text that match the meanings below. The word is in the section shown in brackets.

- Stories that are not true (1)
- To take a journey (2)
- A record of past events (4)
- To crash or bump into something (4)
- The opposite of backward (6)

Grammar

Words that sound the same but have different meanings are called **Homophones**.

E.g. **to, too** and **two**. Write the correct **Homophone** in these sentences from the text.

- 12 Well, how about a trip **threw/through** time?
- 13 **One/Won** of the first was *The Time Machine*.
- 14 Do you think they **wood/would** believe you?
- 15 So Marty has to try to set things **right/write**.

Back To The Text...

- 16 Look back through the card to find what happened first.
- The Time Machine was written.
 - The Titanic sank.
- 17 The writer would like to try time travel.
- true
 - false

- 18 What would be a good sub-heading for section 5?
- Marty McFly Rules!
 - Take Care Not to Change Too Much

Think About This

- 19 Who do we see in the illustration on page 2?
- Doctor Who
 - Marty McFly
 - Napoleon
- 20 Look at the illustration on the front cover. What do the images that are floating around the car represent?
- A car in a space garage.
 - Movement through time and space.
- 21 The word *collide* in section 4 means
- meet.
 - crash.
 - touch.
 - bounce.
- 22 Most time travel examples given by the writer are
- extracts from books.
 - stories on TV and film.
- 23 Imagine you could go back and meet Julius Caesar. A problem you may have could be
- that he may not understand you.
 - that there were no cars then.

Challenge Option

Research: Albert Einstein is mentioned in the text. Who is he and what did he do?