

## The Time Machine by H.G. Wells

A time traveller reaches the future after inventing an incredible time machine. In the following extract, he describes the sensation of time travelling.

'I am afraid I cannot convey the peculiar sensations of time travelling. They are excessively unpleasant. There is a feeling exactly like that one has upon a switchback- of a helpless headlong motion! I felt the same horrible anticipation, too, of an imminent smash. As I put on pace, night followed day like the flapping of a black wing. The dim suggestion of the laboratory seemed presently to fall from me, and I saw the sun hopping swiftly across the sky, leaping it every minute, and every minute marking a day. I suppose the laboratory had been destroyed and I had come into open air. I had a dim impression of scaffolding, but I was already going too fast to be conscious of any moving things. The slowest snail that ever crawled dashed by too fast for me. The twinkling succession of darkness and light was excessively painful to the eye. Then, in the intermittent darkness, I saw the moon spinning swiftly through her quarters from new to full, and had a faint glimpse of the circling stars. Presently, as I went on, still gaining velocity, the palpitation of night and day merged into one continuous greyness; the sky took on a wonderful deepness of

blue, a splendid luminous colour like that of early twilight; the jerking sun became a streak of fire, a brilliant arch, in space, the moon a fainter fluctuating band and I could see nothing of the stars, save now and then a brighter circle flickering in the blue.'

### Tasks

1. How does the time traveller create a sensation of speed and the passage of time.
2. Find phrases from the text which show:
  - that time travelling is an unpleasant activity
  - how the landscape changes during time travel
  - that time passes very quickly when time travelling.
3. Imagine that you are a time traveller. Describe the sensations of time travel in a paragraph suitable for a children's magazine.