

FOR THE READER

Welcome to The Fiction Laboratory. This is a companion to the novel, not a replacement for it, and no substitute for actually reading the book. Its whole job is to make the reading richer: to show you the world *The Time Machine* came out of, the argument hiding under the horror story, and the real science the novel is built on and, in a few places, breaks.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Read the companion alongside the novel, in whatever order suits you. Four short sections come with it:

- **The Author.** Who H. G. Wells was, and how a servant's son and a single biology lecture ended up producing the Eloi and the Morlocks.
 - **The Moment.** What was happening in 1895 that made this book both possible and a little frightening.
 - **The Real Subject.** What the story is actually about, once you look past the machine.
 - **The Science.** The physics and biology inside the novel: where it holds up, where it breaks, and what it went on to set loose in the real world.
-

One rule, and it is the whole point: **do not take our word for any of it.** Every claim in here is built on real scholarship, and most of the sources are free. If something surprises you, or you think we have it wrong, every source is listed in Sources and

Additional Resources, which came with this packet. Go check.

When you finish the novel, there is a short quiz. It draws on both the story and this companion, so read both.