

The Ice Finders: For Monday

Questions from Part I: Ignorant Ambitious Men

1. Who are Lyell and Cuvier, what are their contributions to science? That is, why do we remember them today? Consult outside sources.
2. Is the author's use of 'theories' appropriate? What about facts and hypotheses?
3. Describe the philosophical role of catastrophes in the emerging inquiry into the natural sciences. What is the difference between Lyell and Cuvier on this issue?
4. Why is Kane in this story?
5. Starting with the section on 'Upper Rhone Valley, Sept 19, 1832', what does this suggest about knowledge, evidence, and discovery?