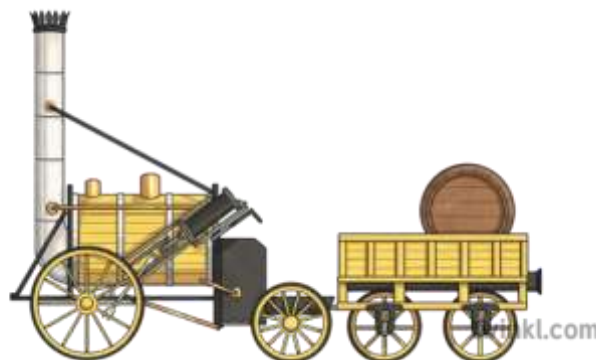


History Overview

George Stephenson and the Railways



Rationale: In the context of finding out about George Stephenson and the coming of the railways will enable pupils to understand some of the main themes and concepts of history such as chronology, changes over time and similarity and difference. It also provides an opportunity to study a significant figure in local history who has contributed to national achievements.

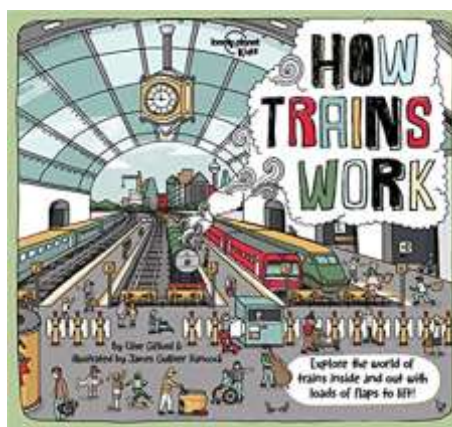
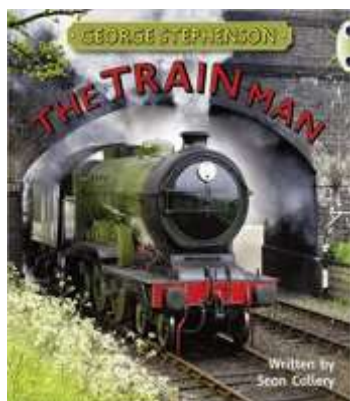
Pre-Unit task: Compare and contrast Stephenson's *Locomotive 1* and a modern train.

Attention Grabber: Visit George Stephenson's cottage in Wylam. At the time of George's birth in 1781, the house - known as High Street House - was divided into tenements for four families. Outside, ran the wooden waggonway along which horses pulled "chaldrons" containing coal from Wylam Colliery to the Tyne quayside. George shared the room with his father, Robert (old Bob) a colliery fireman, his mother Mabel, and four brothers and sisters. Imagine how cramped it must have been! And there were four families occupying the other rooms!

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/george-stephensons-birthplace>

Visits and enrichment activities: Visit the George Stephenson Steam Railway Museum in North Shields. One of George's early locomotives, Billy, is housed in the museum. Workshops are available. <https://stephensonsteamrailway.org.uk/>

Key texts





History Overview

Learning Objectives:

Skills (Learning to . . .)

- *understand the chronology of the development of trains by ordering them on a timeline.
- *talk about the significance of George Stephenson and his inventions.
- *compare George Stephenson's locomotive with modern trains identifying similarities and differences.
- *recognise that people had different opinions about the railways.
- *use sources such as photographs to make simple observations.
- * develop an awareness of the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national / international achievements

Knowledge (Learning about . . .)

- *George Stephenson's life and achievements.
- *the changes trains brought to people's lives in the 19th century.
- *key facts about Stephenson's locomotive and other famous trains.



History Overview

Examples of Key Questions:

- *Have you ever been on a train?
- *What was the journey like?
- *Who was George Stephenson? (One of our family groups is named after him!)
- *Why is he famous?
- *Why is he sometimes called the 'Father of Railways'?
- *Look at a picture of Locomotive No.1: How did it move? How was it powered?
- *What differences were there between a horse pulling coal in wagons and the locomotive?
- *How did people feel about the development of trains?
- *Why were there different opinions?
- *When were trains first used to transport people?
- *How did railways change the way people lived?
- *Which do you think is most important: train speed, safety or comfort? Why?
- *Are all trains powered the same way?
- *How have trains developed and changed over the years?
- *What safety measures have been invented?
- *You can see Stephenson's 'Rocket' in the Science Museum in London but should it be returned permanently to Newcastle?



History Overview

Impact/Assessment

Most Children will: (secure)

- *order pictures of trains on a timeline showing a developing sense of chronology.
- *be able to talk about how trains have changed / developed over the years.
- * recall some key facts about the life and achievement of George Stephenson and show some understanding of why they are important.
- *use appropriate terms concerned with the passing of time.

Less Able Children will: (developing)

- *sort pictures of transport into old and new showing a knowledge and awareness of the past beyond living memory.
- *recall a fact about George Stephenson and / or his locomotive.
- *compare a modern train with Stephenson's locomotive offering a least two differences.

More Able Children will: (greater depth)

- *order trains on a timeline and say why they think they have changed.
- *offer ideas about why there were different opinions about trains.



History Overview

Vocabulary:

Bullet Train	chimney	Coal
coal wagon	colliery	Dome
engine	engineer	Eurostar
firebox	Flying Scotsman	Furnace
George Stephenson	Industrial Revolution	Intercity train
inventor	James Watt	Locomotive
machine	mine	Passengers
pistons	railway	Robert Stephenson
steam	steam engine	Stephenson's Rocket
tender	The Iron Duke	The Mallard
train	water	Wheels
Wylam		