



The Arrival of the Railways



The opening of the Stockton to Darlington Railway in 1825 marked the beginning of an important time in British history. The new railways and steam trains completely changed and improved trade and travel around the country. People today remain fascinated by the majestic steam locomotives introduced in this golden age.

Key Knowledge

Steam Trains

Steam trains made travel much faster for people. It used to take people 12 hours to travel between Birmingham and London if they were riding in a horse-drawn coach. Steam trains meant they could make the journey in under six hours!

Mine Carts

The first railroads in Britain were in the 18th century coal mines, where horses pulled mine carts from the pits to the factories along wooden tracks.

Passenger Trains

In 1807, the first railway to carry passengers was opened. It was called the Oystermouth Railway and horses pulled carriages along tracks from Swansea to Oystermouth in South Wales.

Thomas Savery

Thomas Savery (1650 - 1715) invented and made one of the first ever steam engines in 1698. This engine was used to pump water out of the coal mines. This early steam engine design helped other engineers and inventors to develop more successful engines in the future.

Railway Fever

After the success and promotion of steam locomotives and the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Line in 1830, the people of Britain were gripped by railway fever. Soon, private companies were opening hundreds of railway lines around the country and the development of the railways was booming.

The Stockton to Darlington line was built in 1825 by George Stephenson. Stephenson's Locomotion No.1 was the first locomotive to travel on this line. George Stephenson also built the Liverpool to Manchester railway line which opened in 1830. His famous locomotive, the Rocket, which had won the Rainhill Trials the year before, was the first to travel on this railway line. The opening of the Liverpool to Manchester line was a huge success and soon steam locomotives and railways were running all around the country. Big businesses like Sainsbury's Supermarkets and Thomas Cook Travel used the development of the railways to their advantage in the early days.

Railway Mania

The 1840s saw the biggest growth in the railways. Hundreds of new railway lines were planned and companies sought to make lots of money by opening their own railway lines. Many new laws and regulations were introduced during this time to make sure that the railways were safe to travel on.

Famous steam trains

Mallard - was very fast and sleek and in 1938 reached a top speed of 126 miles per hour (this world record still stands today). **Rocket** - built in 1829 by George and Robert Stephenson, it was the fastest steam locomotive of its day reaching a record speed of 29 miles per hour. **Flying Scotsman** - built in 1923 it was the first steam locomotive to travel non stop from London to Edinburgh.

Diary entry 2 - 1887

The station opened in West Byfleet today. There was a huge party to celebrate. Can you imagine a station within walking distance of our farm!

Diary entry 4 - 1891

I'm thinking about taking the family on a little trip to the sea side. The smithy and his family went last week. Had a lovely time

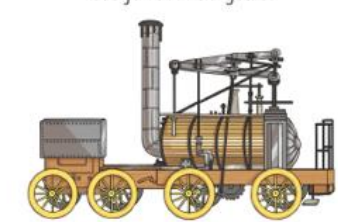
Key Vocabulary

carriage	A vehicle pulled by a railway engine.
census	When the population is counted in an official survey.
engineer	A person who designs, builds, or maintains engines, machines, or structures.
locomotive	The word locomotive means 'moving engine'.
passenger	A traveller on a public or private mode of transport other than the driver, pilot, or crew.
railroad	A track or set of tracks made of steel rails along which passenger and freight trains run.
steam	The vapour into which water is converted when heated, forming a white mist of minute water droplets in the air.
steam engine	An engine driven or worked by steam.
train	The 'train' is the line of carriages or carts pulled by the locomotive.
wagon	A vehicle used for transporting goods or another specified purpose.

Richard Trevithick's un-named steam locomotive carried 10 tons of iron over a distance of 16km at the Pen-y-Darren Ironworks in Wales.



William Hedley's Puffing Billy was used to pull coal wagons. It was a very reliable engine and was in use for over 50 years.



George Stephenson's Locomotion No.1 was the first locomotive to run on a passenger carrying line.



George Stephenson's Rocket was the winner of the Rainhill Trials. It could travel up to 28 miles per hour.

