



Victorian Railways

Useful Vocabulary

Locomotive - 'Moving engine'. A vehicle that moves using its own power.

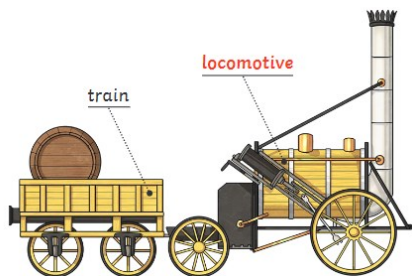
nationalised - under the government's control and management.

passenger - A person riding in a vehicle.

privatised - Run by individual, private companies.

railroad - A old term for railway

Rainhill Trials - A competition designed to find the locomotive fit to run on the new Liverpool to Manchester line



The First Trains and Railways

- The first railroads in Britain were mine carts pulled along wooden tracks by horses.
- Thomas Savery invented and made one of the first steam engines in 1698.
- In 1807, the first passenger railway opened in South Wales. Horses pulled carriages along tracks.
- In 1825 George Stephenson opens the Stockton and Darlington Railroad, moving the 36 wagons of his steam-powered coal train, Locomotion, across nine miles of track in two hours.
- In 1830 Robert Stephenson's Invicta powers the first regular passenger service in the world, linking Canterbury to the seaside town of Whitstable six miles away.

Types of Engines



Steam - Works by burning coal and making steam in a boiler which is used to power the pistons to turn the wheels.



Diesel - Diesel is mixed with oxygen and squashed which creates a very high temperature. This causes an explosion which is used to power the engine.



Electric - Overhead lines power the trains with electricity.

How the Railways changed Britain

Within 40 years, the arrival of trains had made a big impact on Britain and some of these changes can still be seen today. The railways gave people the ability to travel around the country quickly and made different areas more accessible.

Significant Trains:

Rocket: built by George Stephenson in 1829. Recorded speeds of 29 mph (miles per hour).

Key Dates:

1804: First steam locomotive railway journey took place at the Pen-y-Darren Ironworks in Wales.

1807: First passenger carrying railway opens linking Swansea and Mumbles but uses horses not steam engines.

1825: The first passenger carrying railway line to use steam power was the Stockton and Darlington Railroad

1830: The Liverpool to Manchester line was the first inter-city passenger railway, the first to have terminal railway stations, and the first railway to have scheduled services.

1840s: By the end of the decade, most villages and towns in Britain had at least one rail connection and there was an almost complete railway network.

1863: The world's first underground railway line, the London Underground, opened

1883: First electric railway opened in Brighton