

History of Train Travel

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Overview

The railways were once Britain's newest and fastest communication and transport system, they started to have a number of social, political and economic effects on 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.

Initially, the railways were built as a way to transport goods around the country. The lines that carried good could also carry people; the railways allowed people to live further from where they worked and to visit different parts of the country.



Early Steam Travel

1804: Richard Trevithick's unnamed steam locomotive carried 10 tons of iron over a distance of 16km at the Pen-y-Darren Ironworks in Wales.

1812: Matthew Murray's Salamanca was the first steam locomotive to make money for its owners.

1813-1814: 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.

1825: George Stephenson's Locomotion No1 was the first locomotive to run on a passenger carrying line.

1829: George Stephenson's Rocket was the winner of the Rainhill Trials. It could travel up to 28 miles per hour.

The end of steam

What were steam locomotives replaced with and why? How did train travel change over time? From the 1960s steam train began to be phased out. They were replaced with diesel trains for longer journeys between cities, and electric trains for shorter journeys between town.

Train travel and tourism

Have you ever been on holiday by train? Many people would travel by train to a seaside resort in Britain for their annual holiday. Seaside resorts became busy places for people from the cities.

Local Train Travel

The line from Stratford to Broxbourne was opened by the Northern & Eastern Railway on 15 September 1840. Initially a temporary station was opened on Cadmore Lane to the north of the current station but that only lasted for a couple of months between April and 1 June 1842. The existing station was opened by the Eastern Counties Railway and was located near the level crossing on Windmill Lane.

Key Vocabulary

Locomotive

Carriage

Freight

Destination

Steam

Diesel

Gauge

Additional Vocabulary

Key Dates