

History of the Train

Pre-reading activities: Comprehension strategy – Scanning

- 1 Scan through the text, headings and illustrations and find the answers to the following questions: (a) What is a locomotive? (b) Who built 'The Rocket'? (c) How many underground stations are there in New York? (d) What is the DART? (e) What is Japan's Linear Shinkansen?

Think, Pair, Share: Comprehension strategy – Connecting

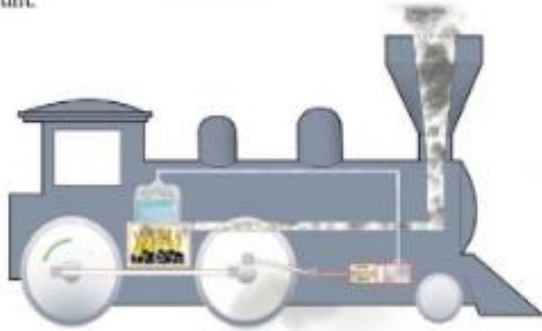
- 2 What do you know about trains?
- 3 What would you like to learn from this passage?

During reading: Comprehension strategy – Determining importance

- 4 (a) What interesting words have you learned?
(b) Put these words into sentences to show what they mean.

Steam trains were **invented** in the early 1800s. The steam was made by **burning** coal or wood to heat water in big **boilers**. The steam moved a piston. The piston moved a machine **connected** to the wheels.

The first steam **locomotive** (engine) pulled a train of five wagons. When these became more **powerful**, longer and heavier trains were built.



In 1825, a new railway between Stockton and Darlington **opened** in England. George Stephenson and his son Robert built the track and the train. It was the first steam train to carry **passengers** on a **public** rail line.

In 1829, a group of men **decided** to build a railway between Liverpool and Manchester. They were unsure whether to use horse drawn **carriages** or steam trains. They held a **competition**. George and Robert built 'The Rocket' steam engine. The Rocket moved faster than the other locomotives and did not break down. The Rocket won the competition.

In 1830, the railway line opened. The Rocket could pull carriages of people along the line at 48 km an hour. People had never travelled so fast. The **success** of the British steam trains served as the **model** for rail travel around the world. George became rich and **famous**. Today George Stephenson is known as the 'Father of the Railways'.



'The Rocket' train.

In the late 1800s, too much traffic in cities became a **problem**. Engineers tried to **solve** this by building railway lines in underground tunnels. The first underground railway line (**Tube**) opened in London in 1863.



In 1994, the Channel Tunnel, which links France and England, was **opened**. The rail tunnel is over 50 km long and over 50 metres below the sea.

A TGV train, called the **Eurostar**, **travels** through the Channel Tunnel. It goes from Dover in England to the centre of Paris in France. It carries about 50,000 people and 6,000 cars each day. The journey takes only 35 minutes. Up to 400 trains pass through the tunnel each day.



The railway system in Japan is **modern** and very well **developed**. There are many **types** of trains there. Japan's **Linear Shinkansen** is a bullet train that has been in **operation** since 1964. **Views** of Mount Fuji, Japan's **tallest** mountain, can be seen from these trains.

FACT

Out of the 50 **busiest** train stations in the world, 46 are in Japan. During rush hour, people called **train pushers** are **employed** to push people on to the trains to make more **space**.

Post-reading activity: Comprehension strategy - Summarising
What have you learned about trains from this extract?

At first, steam engines were used. But **tunnels** were filled with smoke and steam. The electric train solved this **problem**. By 1880, 40 million passengers a year were using the Tube in London.

From the 1940s to the 1960s, electric and diesel trains **replaced** steam power in many **countries**.

FACT

Today, the city of New York in the USA has the largest **underground** train system in the world. It has 472 stations!



The DART

The **DART** (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) is an electrified railway system that runs from north Dublin to Bray in Co. Wicklow. On July 23, 1984 the DART made its first journey from Bray. The DART line is 53 km long and serves 31 **stations**.

The Luas is a tram or light rail system that runs in Dublin. There are two **main** lines, the 'green line' and the 'red line'. The green line started **operating** in June 2004. The red line started operating in September 2004. Around 90,000 Luas trips are made daily.



The Luas

Bullet trains are high speed passenger trains. They are so called because they are supposed to travel as fast as a bullet from a gun! These are the **fastest** trains in the world. They travel around 250-300 km per hour. In France, bullet trains are known as TGVs.



ACTIVITIES

History of the Train

A Little Light Thinking

1. How many steam engine wagons did the first train pull?
2. Who built *The Rocket* steam engine?
3. When did the *Tube* railway system open in London?
4. What replaced steam trains between the 1940s and the 1960s in many countries?
5. Name the TGV train that travels through the Channel Tunnel.
6. What is the Linear Shinkansen?

B Deeper Thinking

1. Why do you think George and Robert Stephenson called their steam engine *The Rocket*?
2. Why do you think so many people in London use the tube?
3. Do you think travelling on TGVs is more expensive than taking regular trains? Explain why this might be.
4. Write two differences between the DART and the Luas systems.
5. Why do you think 46 out of the 50 busiest train stations in the world are in Japan?



List the advantages and disadvantages of travelling by train.

C Vocabulary Work

1. Unscramble the letters to find the words from the story.

(a) mait (b) raywali (c) tmsea (d) utbe (e) trsauroe

When we compare things that are alike in some way, we make an **analogy**, e.g. **boy** is to **son** as **man** is to **father**.

2. Ring the correct word to complete the following analogies:

- (a) The TGV is to France as Linear Shinkansen is to (Dublin, Japan, New York).
- (b) The Rocket is to steam engine as the DART is to (petrol train, electric train, diesel train).
- (c) The Channel Tunnel is to 1994 as the tube is to (1863, 1867, 1965).
- (d) New York Underground is to 472 stations as the DART is to (46, 53, 31).
- (e) Dover is to England as Paris is to (Japan, Ireland, France).

ACTIVITIES

G Writing Genre: Free Writing

Look at the picture below. You are going to write for 10 minutes about this picture. Use the sentence below to start your writing.



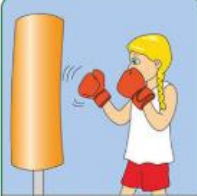




Suddenly, the train stopped. _____

Aonad 1 Ceacht 1

Caitheamh Aimsire

Bí ag Léamh

			
Is maith liom bheith ag snámh.	Is maith leat bheith ag tumadh.	Is maith leis bheith ag sleamhnú.	Is maith léi bheith ag dornálaíocht.
			
Is maith linn bheith ag canadh.	Is maith libh bheith ag luascadh.	Is maith leo bheith ag marcaíocht.	

Líon na Bearnái

- mé:** Is maith ____ bheith ag snámh.
- Liam:** Is maith ____ bheith ag sleamhnú.
- tú:** Is maith ____ bheith ag tumadh.
- sí:** Is maith ____ bheith ag dornálaíocht.
- na páistí:** Is maith ____ bheith ag marcaíocht.
- sibh:** Is maith ____ bheith ag luascadh.
- sinn:** Is maith ____ bheith ag canadh.
- na cailíní:** Is maith ____ bheith ag léamh.
- na buachaillí:** Is maith ____ bheith ag scríobh.
- Mamaí agus Daidí:** Is maith ____ bheith ag rith.



Meaitseáil, scríobh agus dathaigh.

Tá mé ag seinm ar an bpianó.

Tá mé ag imirt sacair.

Tá mé ag imirt iomána.

Tá mé ag seinm ar an ngiotár.

Tá mé ag seinm ar an bhfeadóg stáin.

Tá mé ag seinm ar an bhfeadóg mhór.



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The Children of Fatima

Write the sequence of events that happened in Fatima in 1917. Draw pictures in the boxes to match your sentences.













3rd Class Reading and Worksheets 11th -15th May 2020.