

CELEBRATE 200 YEARS OF RAIL

with

The Network Rail team



Activity book

Let's celebrate 200 years of train travel with Railway 200!

2025 marks two centuries of the modern passenger railway in Britain. Let's have some fun learning all about the railway and the people behind it with this activity book.



SANDEEP THE STATION MANAGER

Discover how the railway affected culture, heritage and tourism!

Over the past 200 years, rail travel has helped to build our country, communities and economy.

Let's celebrate railway people!

From the workers during the World Wars to the brave staff who kept our railways running during COVID-19, people have always been at the heart of train travel.



LUKE THE LEVEL CROSSING MANAGER



SALLY THE SIGNALLER

Find out about education and skills!

Learning about the railway and giving our people the right skills for the job helps our railways to grow and our communities to connect.

Think about innovation, technology and the environment!

From the invention of steam engines, to newer, more environmentally friendly trains, rail travel is constantly evolving and so are we!



ELISHA THE ENGINEER

The start of the modern passenger railway in Britain

Did you know, the modern passenger railway in Britain began with the launch of the Stockton and Darlington line back in 1825?

That's 200 years ago!

See if you can spot 10 differences in the two pictures below...



Answers on back page.

1825

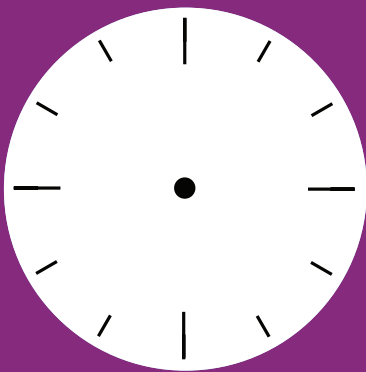


GMT is the international standard for British time. It was used for navigation and accurate timekeeping.

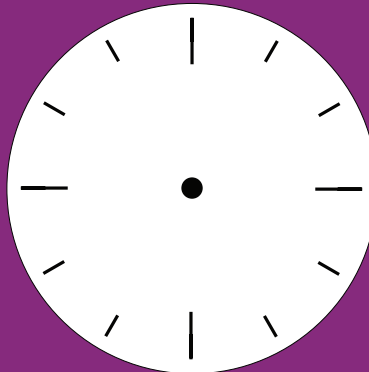
On 'Railway Time'

Did you know, that in 1847 all railway stations across the country adopted Greenwich Mean Time, known as GMT – this was before many towns and cities? By 1855, about 98 % of England and Wales ran on 'Railway Time'.

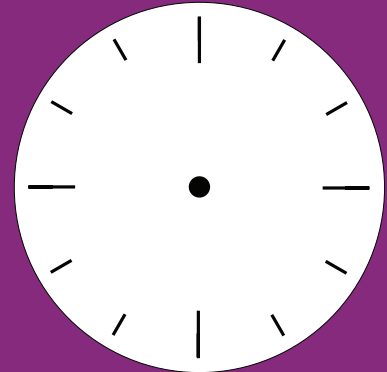
Here's a quick test for you – if it is 09:30 here in Britain, what time is it in each of the following capital cities? The time difference is shown under each city so, can you draw the hands on the clock with the right time?



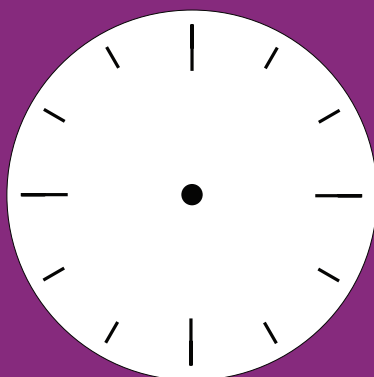
Paris
(+1 hour)



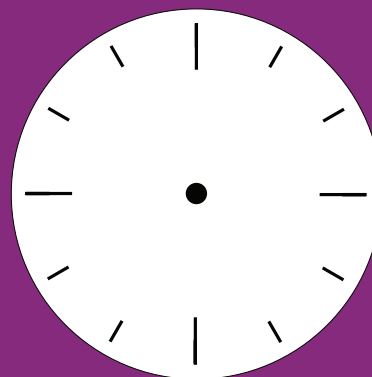
Beijing
(+7 hours)



Washington DC
(-5 hours)



Canberra
(+9 hours)



Dublin
(GMT)

Answers on back page.

All times compared to GMT only.

1847



Going on holiday for the first time!

Affordable train travel allowed thousands of Britons to go on holidays far from home for the first time. People flocked to the beach, creating a tourism boom in many of the seaside towns we still enjoy today. In 1860, the railway saw 23,000 people travel to Blackpool by train.

See if you can find and circle 10 popular British holiday destinations in the grid of words below.

Bath
Blackpool

Brighton
Cardiff

Edinburgh
Glasgow

Liverpool
Llandudno

London
York

B	L	A	C	K	P	O	O	L	A	B	R	T	L	A
R	B	L	O	N	D	O	N	L	L	N	G	O	I	C
I	K	S	T	P	W	R	H	N	X	A	I	K	V	R
G	R	I	G	H	T	O	N	W	O	R	C	Y	E	E
H	A	O	K	T	G	L	A	S	G	O	W	E	R	V
T	L	L	A	N	D	U	D	N	O	R	I	T	P	L
O	L	K	D	Y	I	R	K	H	F	B	R	A	O	T
N	O	A	H	P	O	L	X	V	N	A	P	J	O	I
E	D	I	N	B	U	R	G	H	I	T	S	P	L	L
C	A	R	D	I	F	F	K	A	O	H	I	V	A	R

Words can be found horizontally, vertically, or diagonally - have fun!

Answers on back page.

1860



Electric trains are go!

In the 1900s, more and more people began living around the city and used electric trains on local railways. These modern inventions of electric trains were able to stop and start much more easily than steam trains.

Have a go at our multiple choice quiz below about why electric trains are better than steam trains and circle A, B or C.

1

Why are electric trains better for the environment than steam trains?

- ☐ A They make more noise
- ☐ B They don't burn coal and produce smoke
- ☐ C They use more water

2

What makes electric trains faster than steam trains?

- ☐ A They have big wheels
- ☐ B They don't need to stop for coal and water
- ☐ C They run on grass

3

How do electric trains help keep the air clean?

- ☐ A They produce zero pollution while running
- ☐ B They plant flowers
- ☐ C They sing happy songs

4

Why are electric trains usually quieter than steam trains?

- ☐ A They have special bells
- ☐ B They have smooth engines, not loud boilers and smokestacks
- ☐ C They love whispering

Answers on back page.



How trains helped win the wars

During the First and Second World War, the railway played a huge part. It was used to move troops, food, water and coal across Britain. Our workers kept the railway going during both World Wars!

Test your knowledge on how trains helped during this time...

	True	False	
1	☐	☐	During both World Wars, trains were used to quickly transport soldiers to and from battlefields.
2	☐	☐	Railways were only used to transport weapons, not food or medical supplies.
3	☐	☐	In World War II, trains were used to evacuate children from cities to safer countryside areas.
4	☐	☐	Trains were painted in bright colours during the war to boost morale.
5	☐	☐	Railway workers were considered essential workers during the wars.
6	☐	☐	Men were the only railway workers during World War I and II.
7	☐	☐	Some trains were called ambulance trains and even had operating theatres for the wounded!

Answers on back page.



The Golden Age of rail travel

The 1920s were said to be the Golden Age of the 'Big Four' railways – London, Midland and Scottish Railway, London and North Eastern Railway, Great Western Railway and Southern Railway. Some trains were like 'hotels on wheels' with dining carriages and sleeping cabins.

Why don't you colour in this picture? Go on – it'll be *rail* fun!



1920s

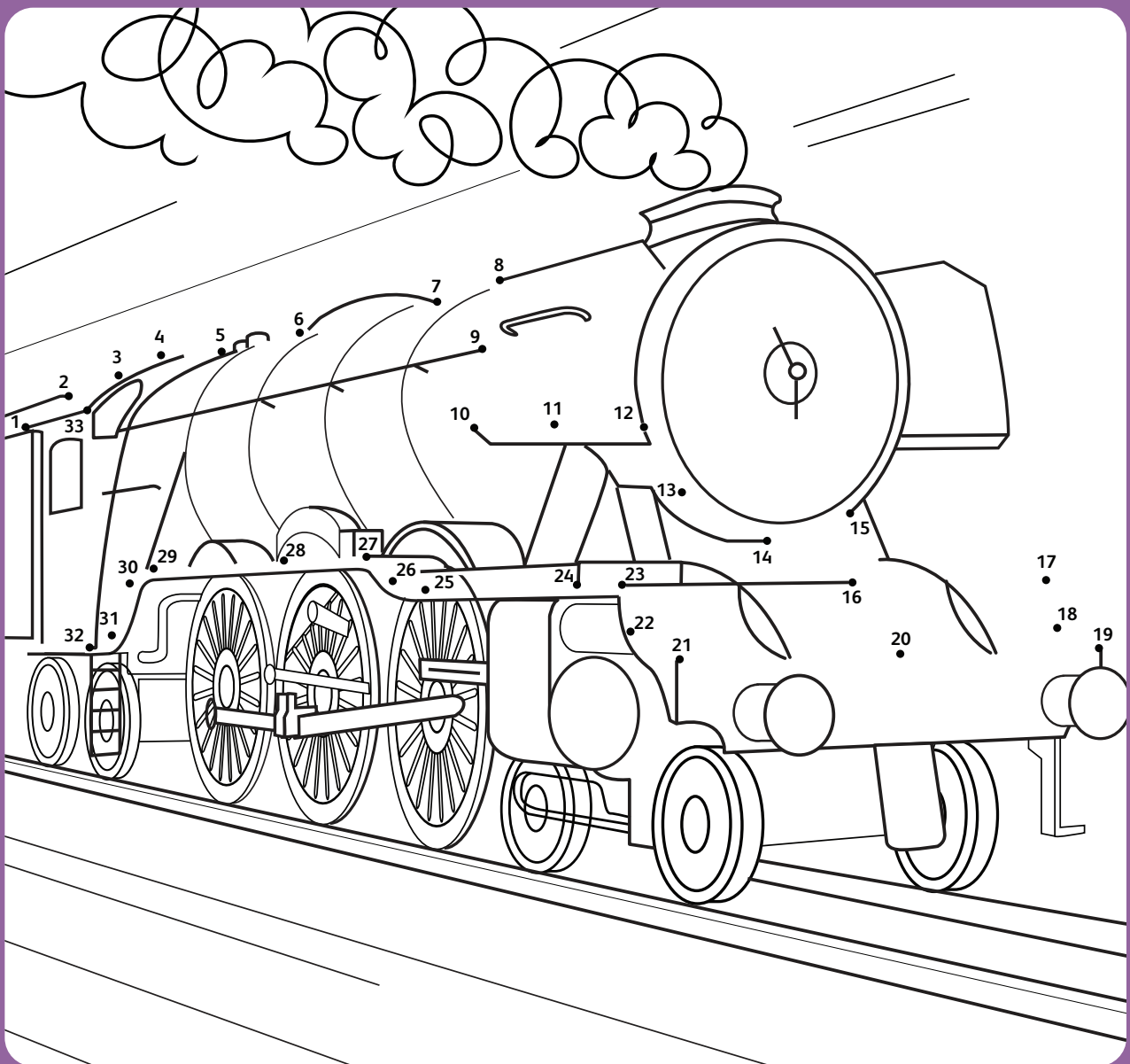
JOIN THE DOTS

The first Black train driver

The Flying Scotsman gained its iconic name from its London to Edinburgh service which began in 1862 and ran daily at 10 am.

In 1962, a gentleman named Wilston Samuel Jackson became the country's first Black train driver. He went on to drive many famous trains, including the Flying Scotsman...

Starting at number one, join the dots on this picture to reveal the Flying Scotsman – and then colour it in!

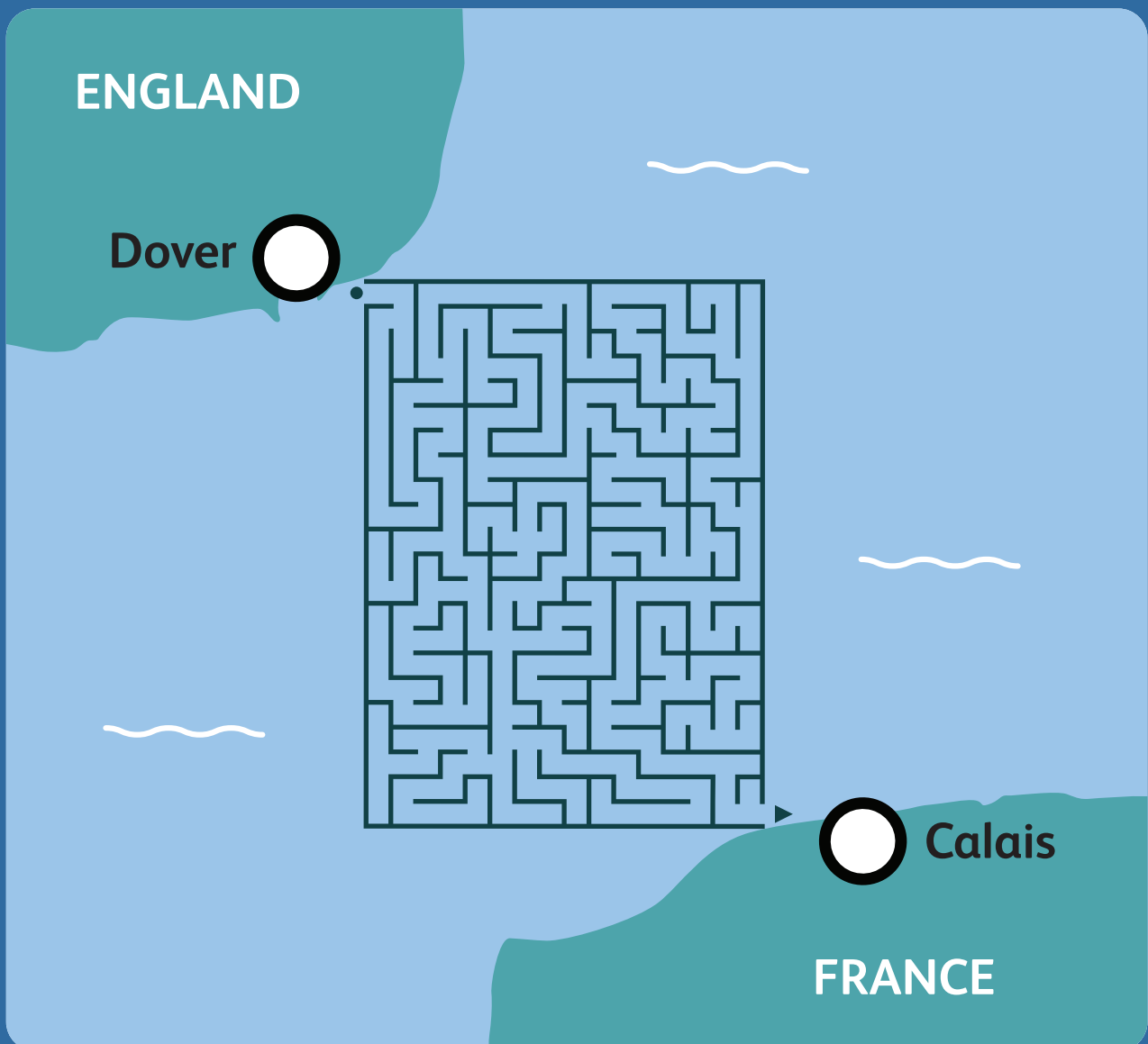


1962

Connecting Britain and France

For over 150 years, planning had been going on for an 'undersea' railway line. That dream became a reality on 1 December 1990, when British and French engineers connected a tunnel beneath the English Channel. Four years later, the Channel Tunnel opened!

Using the maze below, see if you can create your own Channel Tunnel to join the two countries.



Answer on back page.

1990

Running on batteries

Just ten years ago, the first battery-powered train to run on the railway in over 50 years won 'Best Cross Industry Project' at the 2015 Railway Industry Innovation Awards!

Why don't you design your own modern train and draw and colour it in on the bridge below?



2015



MAKE THE MATCH

Match us with our roles

At Network Rail, we employ lots of people in different jobs. Across the country, we have about 40,000 staff working to keep our railways running. Can you follow the train tracks and match us up with what we do?

Sally



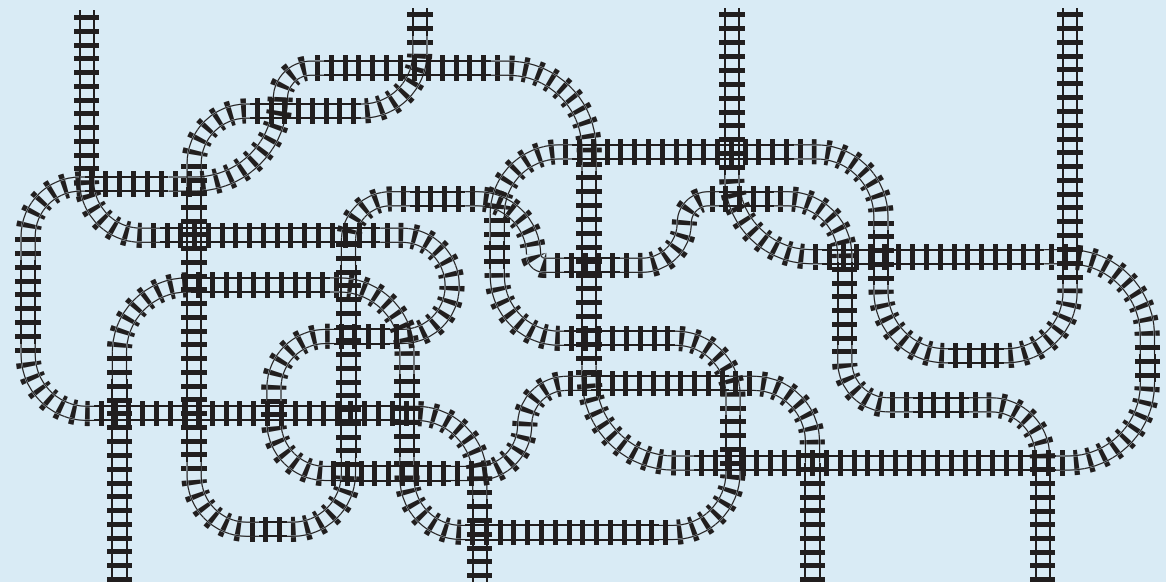
Elisha



Luke



Sandeep



STATION MANAGER

LEVEL CROSSING MANAGER

SIGNALLER

ENGINEER

2025

WHAT ROLE WOULD YOU DO?

Draw yourself in your dream job

Maybe one day you'll come and work with us at Network Rail! There are lots of opportunities for people who want a dream job on the railway – why don't you draw yourself in the role you'd want to do?



Name Job title

The future

Station Stamps

Network Rail own 20 stations across Britain. How many have you been to?
Colour in each square when you've visited the station!



ANSWERS

1825



1860



1900s

- 1 B They don't burn coal and produce smoke
- 2 B They don't need to stop for coal and water
- 3 A They produce zero pollution while running
- 4 B They have smooth engines, not loud boilers and smokestacks

1914-18 1939-45

- 1 **True:** During both World Wars, trains were essential for quickly transporting soldiers to and from battlefields. They helped get troops where they were needed most!
- 2 **False:** Railways transported all kinds of supplies, including weapons, food, medical equipment, and building materials. Trains kept the soldiers well fed and cared for.
- 3 **True:** During World War II, trains were used in Operation Pied Piper, which evacuated children from cities like London to the countryside to keep them safe from bombings.
- 4 **False:** Trains were often painted in dull, dark colours like black or grey to make them harder to spot from the air and keep them safe from enemy attacks.
- 5 **True:** Railway workers were considered essential workers because the trains kept everything running smoothly — from moving troops to delivering food and supplies.
- 6 **False:** The number of women working on the railway rose a lot during WWII. As the men were at the battlefield, women stepped in to fill a wide range of roles.
- 7 **True:** Ambulance trains became the primary mode of transport for the sick and injured during the First World War.

1847



Paris



Beijing



Washington DC

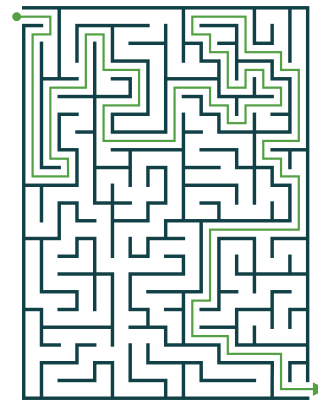


Canberra



Dublin

1990



Well done for completing our Railway 200 activity book!

Scan to watch animations on Railway 200



CELEBRATE 200 YEARS OF RAIL

We hope you've enjoyed learning about
the history of the railway with
Elisha, Luke, Sally and Sandeep!



If you would like to find out more about the events
happening throughout the anniversary year,
visit railway200.co.uk