

George Stephenson and Trains



Who Was the 'Father of the Railways'?



1700

1800

1781

George Stephenson was born.



George Stephenson was born in 1781 and was an **engineer**. He built **steam locomotives** for the railways. Because of this, some people call him the 'Father of the Railways'.

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George Stephenson

Who was the 'Father of the Railways'?



Born

1700



1800

1795

George Stephenson was born on 9th June, 1781 in Wylam, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne. At this time, Britain was starting to change from a land of farms and small villages to a land of factories and big cities. We call this change the **Industrial Revolution**. Near where he lived there were lots of coal mines. His father worked at a coal mine. He looked after the steam engines, that were used to pump water out of the mine.



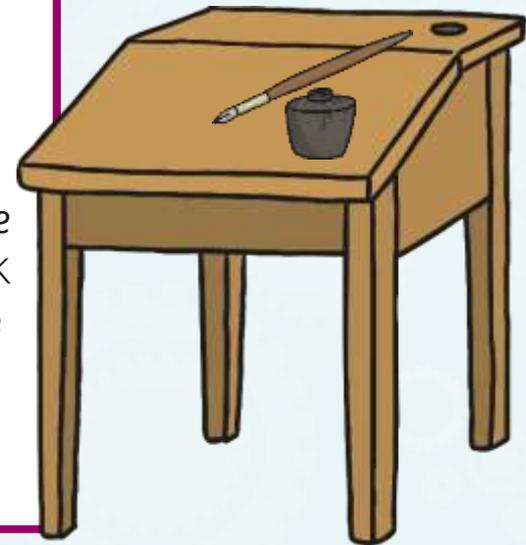
George Stephenson

Who was the 'Father of the Railways'?



1795

The Stephensons were not rich. George lived in a small cottage. He was interested in machines and helped his dad. This is how he found out about **steam engines**. **George didn't go to school**. From the age of 14, he worked at a coal mine and often took the machines to pieces, to see how they worked. He wanted to learn how to read and write so he went to school 3 nights a week after work.





George Stephenson

Who was the 'Father of the Railways'?

Born

Works in a coal mine



Goes to night school

1803

In 1802, George Stephenson married a servant called Frances Henderson. They had a son, Robert in 1803.



George Stephenson

Who was the 'Father of the Railways'?



Born

Works in a coal mine



Goes to night school

Robert born

1825

George continued to be interested in the steam engines. Steam powered road engines were slow and could not go up hills. George worked out that steam engines needed to run on rails if they were to work better.

In 1814, George made his first railway locomotive. In 1825 a new railway was opened between Stockton and Darlington. George and his men built the track and the locomotive. It was the first steam train to carry passengers in the world!

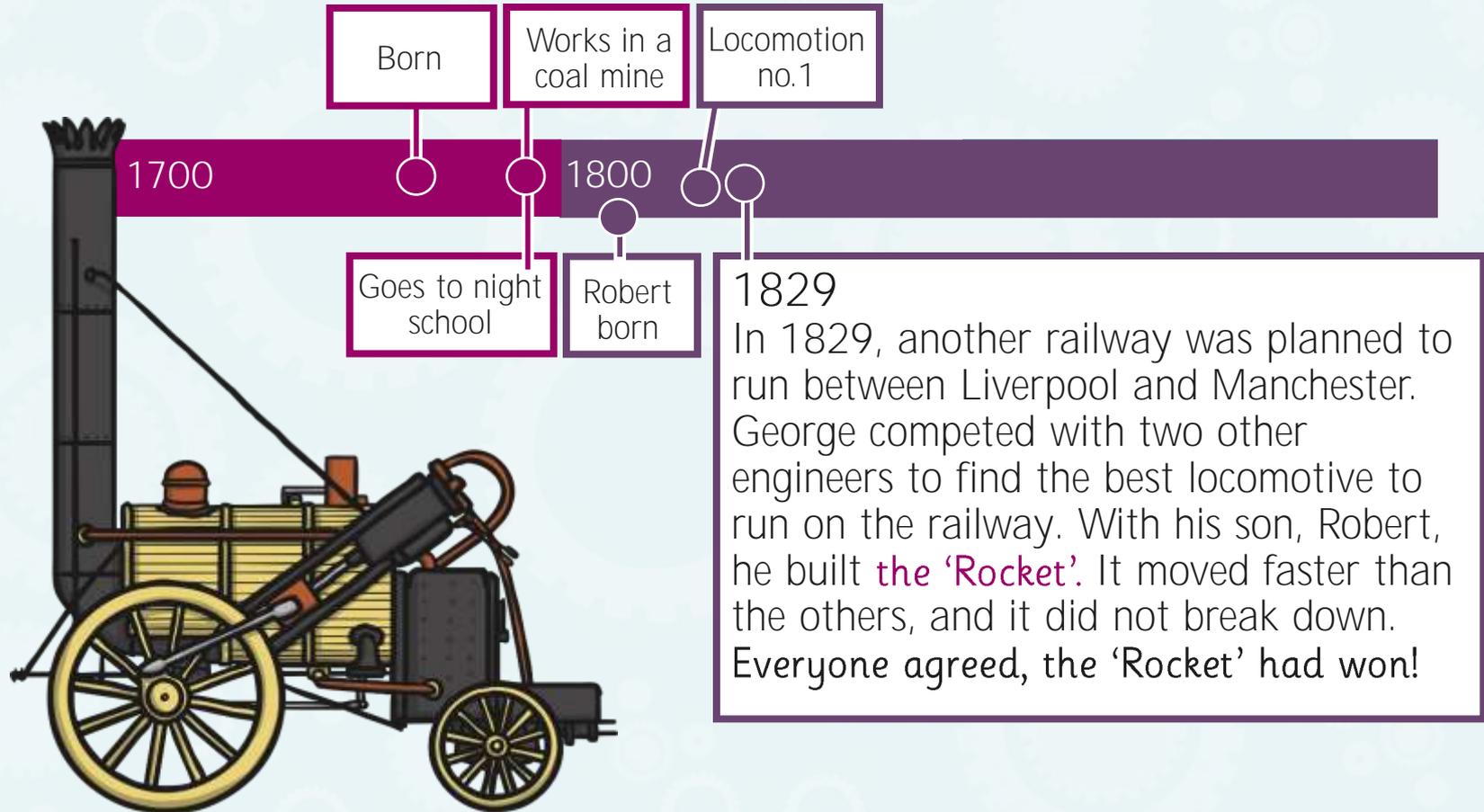


George drove the train, the engine was called 'Locomotion no.1'. The train carried 450 passengers at a speed of 15 miles an hour.



George Stephenson

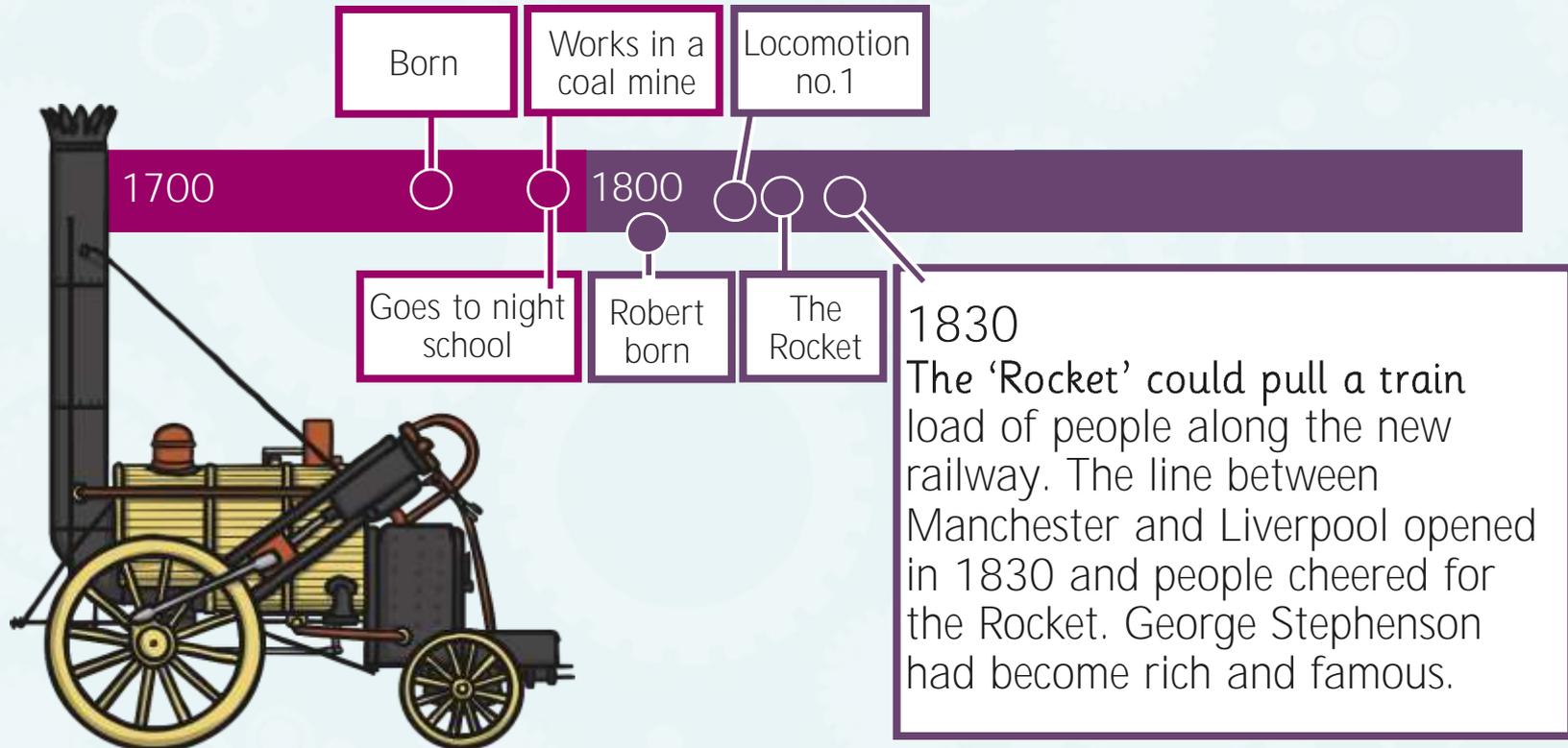
Who was the 'Father of the Railways'?





George Stephenson

Who was the 'Father of the Railways'?

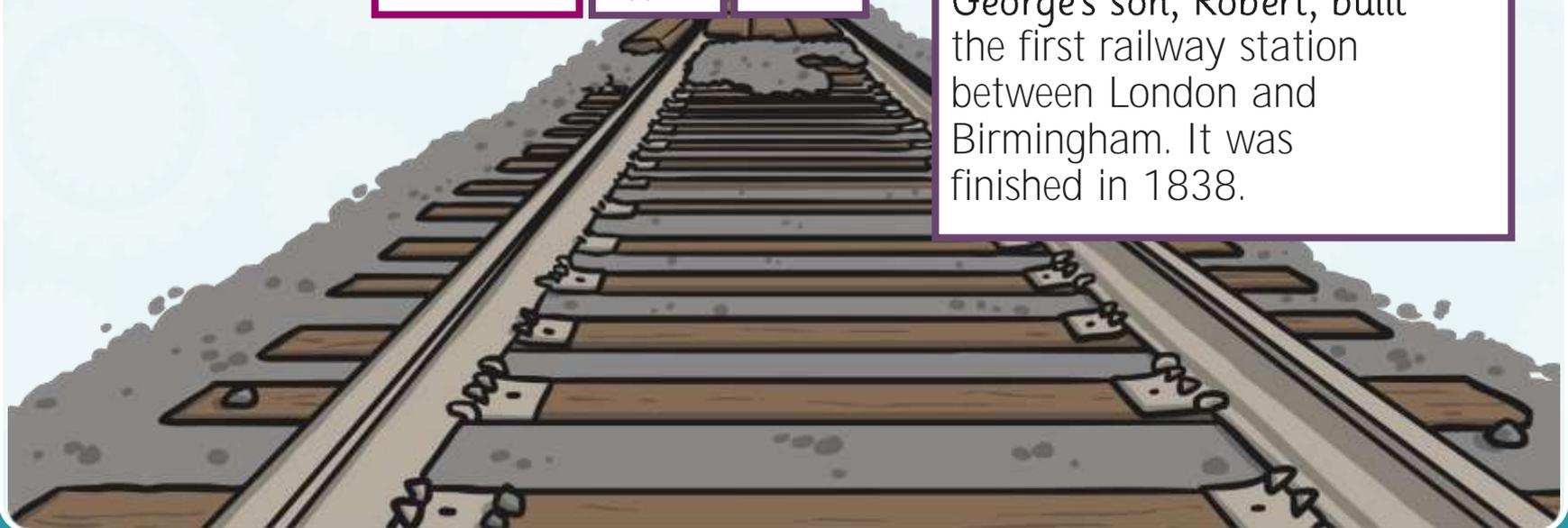
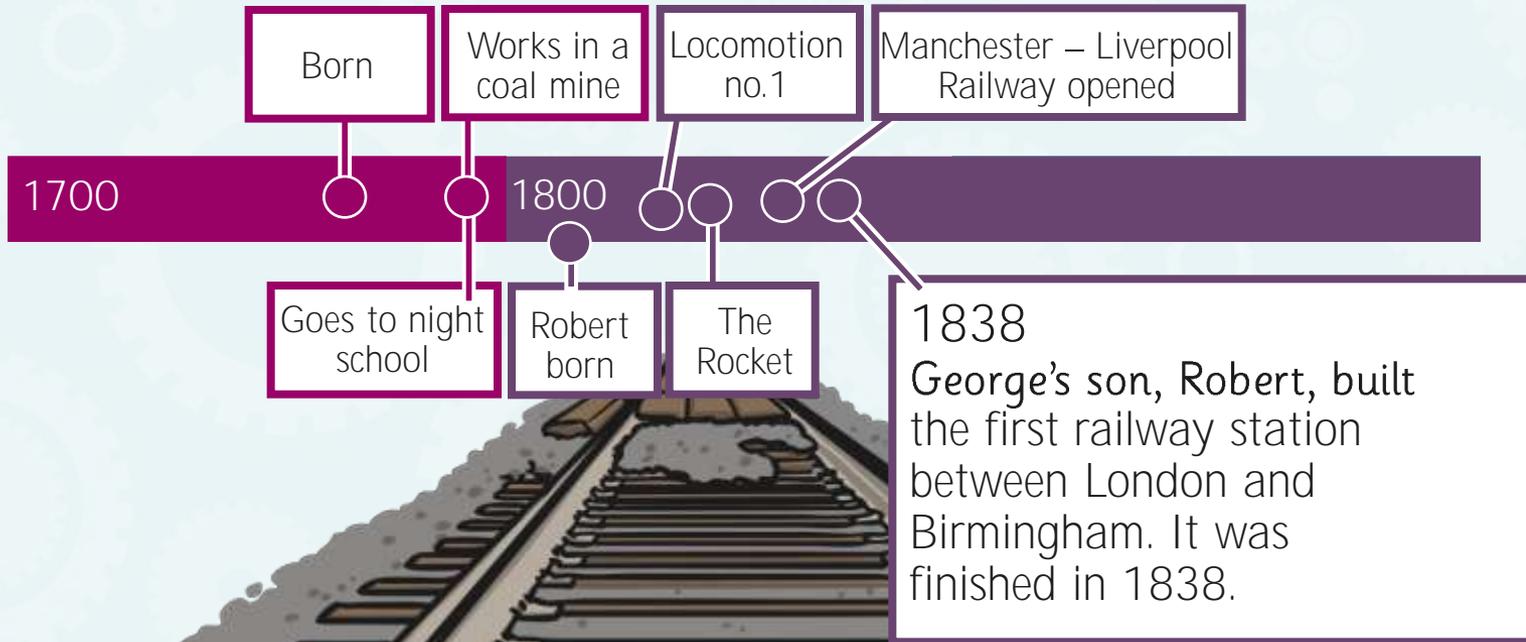


The Rocket could pull people along the railway at 36 miles an hour. **No one had ever travelled so fast before!**



George Stephenson

Who was the 'Father of the Railways'?





George Stephenson

Who was the 'Father of the Railways'?



Trains



What difference did trains make?

Steam trains firstly carried goods, such as coal, but then people began using trains to travel between places. Remember, people never had travelled at such speeds before!

1. How do you think trains changed people's lives?
2. What differences are there between these types of transport?



Coal wagons pulled by horses (pre-1825) Steam engines pulling coal wagons (post 1825)

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How Did People Feel About the Development of Trains?



Which of these people's thoughts are for or against the development of the railways across the country?

The trains will carry my farming goods to the market much more quickly so I can sell more.



The trains will bring all the riff-raff into London and cause all sorts of problems!



The railway will cut right through my land!



The trains mean that I can visit my family much more easily and quickly than I could before.



My First Steam Train Ride



Imagine you are living in 1830. The railway line from Manchester to Liverpool is about to open and you will be riding on its first steam train!

- Let's take a look at some steam trains [here](#).

Questions:

1. How would you be feeling?
2. What will you see on your journey?



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How Did the Railways Change the Way People Live?



- Rail travel was 50% cheaper than coach travel.
- It was also a lot quicker and opened up Britain in a way that coach travel could not do. Seaside fishing villages became popular destinations for day trips as visits to the coast became more common.
- Even the poor could afford rail travel as three different classes of travel existed; third class meant travelling in open-topped carriages but the price was affordable.
- Towns and cities had cheaper food as farmers could get their produce to market quicker and more cheaply. Inland towns could now get fresh fish!
- Many thousands of miles of rail were built and they transformed Britain.



Modern Trains



Modern trains use electricity from overhead lines to power them.



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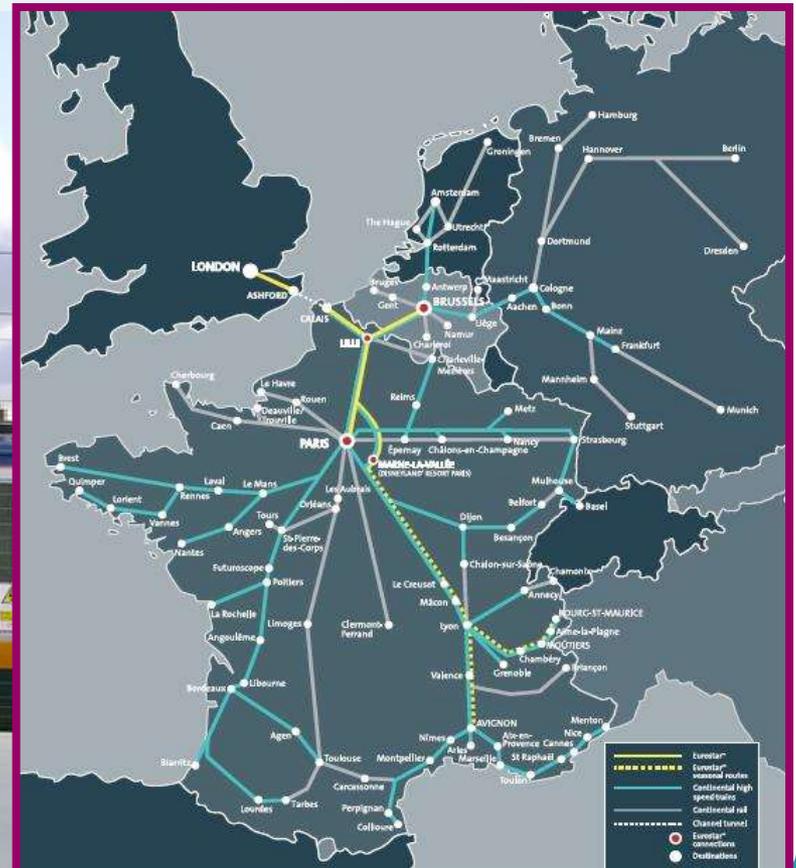
Modern Trains



In 1994, the Eurostar opened. It is a high-speed train service that connects the United Kingdom and France. The trains run through the Channel tunnel.



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Modern Trains



This is a 'bullet' train in Japan. What will future trains look like?



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