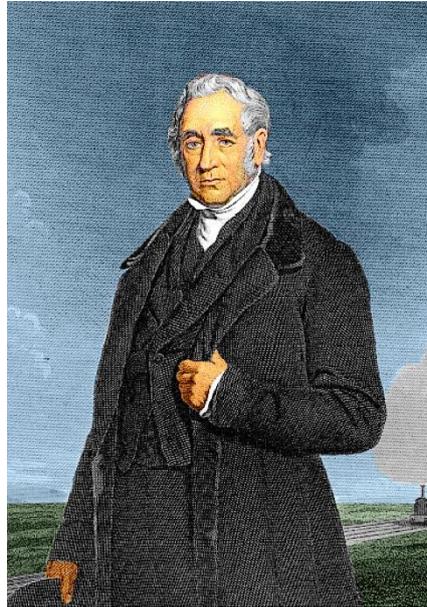


George Stephenson Fact File



- George Stephenson was born in **1781** near Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- His dad worked at a coal mine and looked after the steam engines that were used to pump water out of the mine. He taught George about these machines and when George was 14 he went to work down the mines himself. He would play about with the machines to learn more about how they worked.
- In **1814**, George designed his first steam locomotive for the railways for Killingworth Colliery near Newcastle. The loco was a success and George was asked to work on other railways being built.
- In **1825** a new railway was opened between Stockton and Darlington. George and his men built the track and the locomotive for this railway. It later became the first steam loco to carry passengers in the world!
- But the steam loco George is probably most famous for is the **Rocket...**
 - In **1825** a new railway was planned to run between Liverpool and Manchester.
 - George competed against two other engineers to find the best locomotive to run on the railway and pull heavy loads of materials over long distances. With his son, Robert, he built the 'Rocket'. This travelled faster than all the other trains at 36mph.
 - The opening of this railway line and the success of the rocket led to many more railway lines and steam locomotives being built across the country.

Richard Trevithick Fact File



- In 1803 Trevithick began to build the first steam locomotive in Britain to run on rails.
- He had been asked by the boss of an ironworks company in South Wales to build a steam loco to run on rails from the ironworks (a place where iron a strong metal is used to make things) to the local canal.
- In 1804 the loco had been built and it successfully made the 9-mile journey to the canal, pulling 5 wagons of iron along with it. But when it started to make the journey back, there were a few problems. There was a leak in the boiler and the return journey to the couldn't be finished until the next day.
- In the end, it was decided that the engine was too heavy to run on the rails.
- Even though there were problems with Robert Trevithick's loco, this event was still very important in the history of trains as until this time, galloping on horseback had been the fastest way of travelling.
- His work also led the way for over people to try and build steam powered engines for the railways and these engines became better and better over time.