



# George Stephenson

- George Stephenson was born in 1781 near Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- His dad worked at a coal mine and looked after steam engines that were used to pump water out of the mine. He taught George about machines.
- When George was 14 years old he went to work down the mine 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 railway 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 became the first locomotive in the world to carry passengers.
- The steam locomotive George is most famous for is the Rocket.
- In 1829 a new railway was planned between Liverpool and Manchester. George competed against two other engineers to design the best locomotive to run on the railway and pull heavy loads over long distances.
- With his son Robert, he built the Rocket. This travelled at a top speed of 30mph. Which was much faster than any of the other steam locomotives.
- 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.

