



Richard Trevithick

- Richard Trevithick was born in **1771** in Cornwall.
- He was a mining engineer and inventor.
- In **1803** Richard began to build the first steam locomotive to run on rails in Britain.
- He had been asked by the boss of an ironworks company in South Wales to build a steam locomotive to run from the ironworks to a local canal.
- In **1804** the locomotive had been built and it successfully made the nine mile journey to the canal.
- It pulled five wagons of iron along with it.
- The return journey to the ironworks couldn't be finished until the next day because there was a leak in the boiler.
- It was decided that the engine was too heavy to run on the rails.
- Although there were problems with Richard Trevithick's locomotive, this event was still very important in the history of trains. Until this time, galloping on horse back was the fastest mode of transport.
- Richard's work also led the way for other people to try and build steam powered engines for the railways and these engines became better and better over time.
- Richard died in **1833**.

