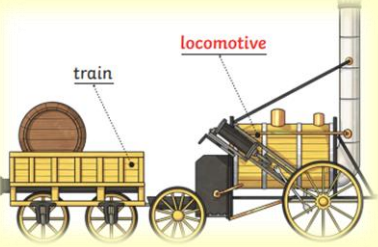




The Railways



Year 3 History Knowledge Organiser Spring Term 2025

This term, in History we will learn about the development of Railways in Great Britain, including the history of the railways and significant early locomotives. We will also investigate some important historical events, such as the Rainhill Trials, and some of the key people who were influential in the development of the railways. In addition, we will learn about the development of locomotive technology. We will use geographical skills to map out some key routes.

Some Key Dates

British Rail	
1914	The government took control of all British railways and continued to manage them until 1921.
1923	All railways were grouped into four main companies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Western Railway • London, Midland & Scottish Railway • London & North Eastern Railway • Southern Railway
1948	All railways were nationalised and the Big Four companies were merged to form British Rail.
1994-1997	British Rail was privatised over three years and has been run by separate companies ever since.

Key Vocabulary

*locomotive nationalised passenger
privatised trade railroad network
Rainhill Trials transport Steam engine
industry combustion pantograph*



Richard Trevithick (1771 -1833)

Richard was a Cornish engineer, brilliant mathematician and inventor. In 1804, whilst working in the Penydaren Ironworks in Wales, he built the first ever high-pressured steam engine locomotive, that ran along a track. His engine was able to pull five carts, with ten tonnes of iron and seventy ironworkers, along nine miles of track.

John James Sainsbury was a grocer who set up and ran a chain of grocery stores with his wife Ann. The development of the railways helped Sainsbury to bring goods to stores more quickly which meant that they were fresher for the customers who bought them.

