

Year: 2

Subject: History

Unit of Study: A Bristol Hero – The life and work of Brunel

Linked Literature: Brunel The Great Engineer

Topics

The stories of Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale

A Bristol Hero – The life and work of Brunel

The Great Fire of London

Vocabulary

Industrial Revolution	A period of major changes in the way in which products were made. The process of manufacturing saw a rapid change from primarily hand production methods to the machine, chemical, and mechanized factory systems.
factory	a building or group of buildings where products are made
railway	a network of tracks made of steel rails along which trains run, connecting towns and cities.
steamship	a ship that is propelled by a steam engine
engineer	a person who designs, builds, or maintains engines, machines, or structures.
tunnel	an artificial underground passage, especially one built through a hill or under a building, road, or river.
bridge	a bridge is a structure that allows people and vehicles to cross over an open space. Bridges span, or stretch across, deep pits in the earth, bodies of water, and roads.
station	a place on a railway line where trains regularly stop so that passengers can get on or off.
empire	a group of countries or regions that are controlled by one ruler or one government

I need to know:

Isambard Kingdom Brunel was a Victorian engineer who was one of the main architects of Britain's industrial revolution. He was famous for his pioneering work on Britain's railways and ships. He built railways and designed bridges, tunnels, viaducts and passenger ships. He built dockyards, the Great Western Railway (GWR), and a series of steamships including the first propeller-driven transatlantic steamship. Brunel was the chief engineer of the Great Western railway, and he designed the railway line between London and Bristol. He also designed the Temple Meads station in Bristol, and Paddington station in London. and a prefabricated army field hospital. To add to this he was a keen social engineer, building housing estates, churches and hospitals. His designs revolutionised

public transport and modern engineering.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel was born on 9 April 1806 in Portsmouth. His father Mark was a French engineer who had fled France during the revolution. Brunel was educated both in England and in France. When he returned to England he went to work for his father. Brunel's first notable achievement was the part he played with his father in planning the Thames Tunnel. Brunel worked on the Thames tunnel with his dad, who was also an engineer. He almost drowned when the roof collapsed and flooded in 1827! While Brunel was recovering, he entered and won a competition to design a bridge over the Avon river gorge in Clifton, Bristol – this later became the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Construction began the same year but it was not completed until 1864. Isambard Kingdom never saw his bridge. The erection of its two towers exhausted construction funds, and the elegant bridge was only completed in 1864, undertaken by the Institution of Civil Engineers as a memorial to him.

Prior to the opening of the Great Western Railway, Isambard in 1835 had suggested that the transport network of the railway be further expanded by using the sea-route from Bristol crossing the Atlantic Ocean and finally reaching New York and so the Great Western Steamship Company was established. Brunel married Mary Horsley in 1836, one year before Victoria became Queen of England. They had three children: Isambard Junior, Henry Marc and Florence Mary. Henry also became an engineer when he grew up. Brunel was known for wearing a tall black top hat – very stylish in Victorian times!

Isambard Kingdom Brunel designed the first ever prefabricated hospital after Florence Nightingale highlighted the poor conditions of wounded soldiers. Renkioi Hospital was a pioneering prefabricated building made of wood, designed as a British Army military hospital for use during the Crimean War. The NHS Nightingale hospitals erected to take Covid-19 patients take inspiration from pop-up medical facilities from the Crimean War. The new hospitals are named after Florence Nightingale, who pioneered modern nursing during the 19th century.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel was born in a time of great change and innovation for Europe and the United States called the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution was a period of major changes in the way products are made. It greatly affected the way people lived as well as the way they worked. In earlier days, people made products by hand. They worked mostly in their own homes or in small workshops. During the Industrial Revolution, many factories were built. Labourers began making large numbers of things using machines powered by engines. The Industrial Revolution helped the British Empire expand further.

We still use some of the bridges and railway stations built by Brunel. Even though people don't sail on his ships anymore, you can still visit the SS Great Britain. The Great Western Railway is still operating.

I need to do:

Continue to develop understanding of chronology, placing events and dates on timelines.

Begin to describe changes across time.

Ask and answer questions about the past.

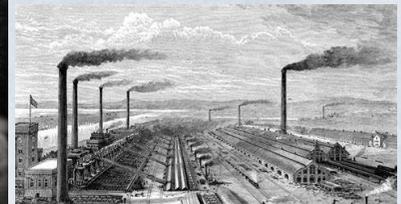
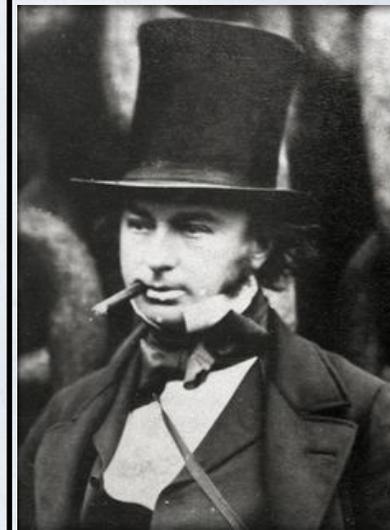
Use a range of sources to find out about the past.

Understand that events from the past

Prior knowledge:

People from the past shape the present. Isambard Kingdom Brunel was an engineer whose designs revolutionised public transport and modern engineering. He built many bridges and tunnels but he was also involved in pioneering work on ships.

Throughout history countries have wanted to control lands beyond their borders. This practice is called imperialism, and the lands that they control are called an empire. The ruler of an empire is sometimes called an emperor. Countries build empires mainly to get power or wealth. Great Britain had an empire which was made up of lots of different countries. The Industrial Revolution helped the British Empire expand.



What was life like during Isambard Kingdom Brunel's lifetime?

Who was Isambard Kingdom Brunel and why was he important?

What did Isambard Kingdom Brunel do to improve the railway?

What did Isambard Kingdom Brunel do to improve shipping? What were the Great Western and the S.S. Great Britain?

What was happening in the world during Isambard Kingdom Brunel's life?

What have I learned about Isambard Kingdom Brunel's life and work?