

What do I already know?

- I know how to order events in time and use everyday terms about the passing of time.
- I know how to answer questions about people/events in the past using pictures and written sources.
- I can recount episodes from stories about the past.
- I can look for similarities and differences between today and the past.

What will I know by the end of the unit

- I will know some of the main events in Brunel's life and be able to sequence them correctly.
- I will be able to explain how his work as an engineer changed people's lives.
- I will use pictures, books, interviews and videos to find out about him.
- I will be able to set his life in the context of the Victorian period.
- I will be able to compare pictures or photographs of people and events in the past.
- I will be able to discuss the reliability of photos, accounts and stories from the past.

Who was Isambard Kingdom Brunel and why do we remember him?

Brunel was an inventor, a designer and engineer who built not just bridges or tunnels or ships but all three! In Victorian England he created structures and vehicles which to others seemed impossible. Chances are, at some time you have travelled through a tunnel or crossed a bridge which Brunel built.

Some people have even called him the Greatest Britain ever.



Brunel 1806-1859



Clifton Suspension Bridge



North Star



SS Great Eastern

Key Dates

1806- Isambard Kingdom Brunel was born.

1831- Work starts on Clifton Suspension Bridge but is abandoned in 1843.

1833- Brunel appointed Chief Engineer to Great Western Railway and starts surveying route. Begins modernisation of Bristol Docks.

1836- Work begins on Box Tunnel. Appointed engineer of Great Western Steam Ship Company and construction begin.

1838- SS Great Western sails from Bristol to New York in 15 days.

1852- Construction of Paddington Station begins.

1858- SS Great Eastern launched.

1859- Brunel dies.

Key Vocabulary

railway- A set of tracks on which a train runs.

bridge- A structure built over a river, railroad or obstacle that allows people to cross.

station- A regular stopping place for vehicles.

impact- A strong and powerful effect.

research- A careful study of something to find out more information.

significant- Having an important consequence.

evidence- Something that gives proof.

historians- An expert on History.