

Find out about the history of The Station Agent's House

Hello and welcome to the Station Agent's House! My name is Frances and I'm 9 years old. It's 1835 and I've come to stay with my uncle Joe who lives at the Station Agent's House right next to the railway. His real name is Joseph Green and he's the **Station Master**, what a cool job!

Being next to the station is noisy and smelly, but it's exciting! I love coming to visit the station - there is always something going on. We watch the trains arriving, steam bellowing from engines, animals being loaded and unloaded. Sometimes there are animals on the trains, sometimes goods travelling on to London. My uncle's job is hard and he comes in at the end of the day tired, smelling of soot.

The first passenger trains

Before steam trains were invented, people used horses and carts to move things from one place to another, but this was slow and tiring.

In 1830 the world's first passenger railway opened here between the cities of Manchester and Liverpool. People were so excited! They could now travel between these cities much faster than ever before. 700 guests were invited to watch the event and the guest of honour was the Duke of Wellington – he beat Napoleon Bonaparte at Waterloo. Many people also gathered along the railway line to watch the train make its way along the track.



THE OPENING DY THE LIVERPOOL & MANCHESTER RAILWAY KEP? II THASO, WITH THE MODELSH ARCH AT RESSER BILL AS IT APPRAISED. ON THAT DAY.

Some trains carried goods like coal, cotton, and toys. Others carried people visiting their friends or going on adventures. The first trains didn't go very fast, but they were still magical. People loved riding them!

After that, trains were built that connected other cities too. Imagine a train going from London to Birmingham, and another one from Manchester to Leeds. It was like a big web of train tracks connecting everyone.

Today Manchester is a bustling urban city with many train stations, trams and an airport.



The Rainhill Trials

In 1829 when new railway tracks were being laid down between Liverpool and Manchester there were lots of ideas about how locomotives should be built. A competition was held between different inventors to decide who could build the best locomotive.

The Magical Locomotives: Different inventors had made their own steam engines, which they called locomotives.

The Challenge: The Rainhill Trials were like a big race for these locomotives. Not all the track was finished yet, so the

railway directors chose a 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (that's about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ km) stretch at Rainhill that was finished – and flat. The engines had to go backwards and forwards to cover the competition distance. Here's what they had to do:

Fact: Locomotive (say: loco-mote-iv) is the part of a train that makes the train move. Normally, locomotives are much stronger than regular carriages, it is the

first part of the train, and

has the engine.

- 1. **Weight Test**: First, they weighed each locomotive. Imagine putting your train on a giant scale. The weight of the locomotive and its water had to be three times the weight of the load it would carry.
- 2. **Cold Start**: Each locomotive was given the same amount of coal for the trial. They all had to start with cold water in their boilers and no fuel in their fireplaces. Then they lit the fire to make steam that drove the engine.
- 3. **Speedy Journey**: Each train had to travel back and forth for a total of **35 miles** (that's like going from Liverpool to Manchester). They had to go at least **10 miles per hour** (that's **16km per hour** as fast as a running deer) and get up to a maximum speed of **24 mph** (**38 kmph**).

4. **Fuel and Water**: After the first trip, they got more fuel and water. Then they did it all over again!

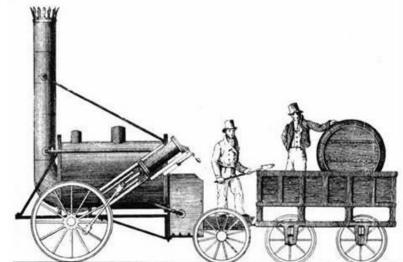


And the winner is...:
The locomotive
called Stephenson's
Rocket won the race!

Why was it important?

The Rainhill Trials helped everyone see that locomotives were the

future. Trains could carry people and things faster than ever before.

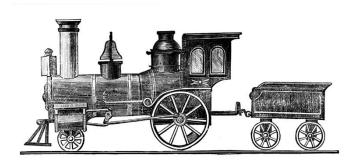




Design your own locomotive

Imagine you are entering the Rainhill Trials with your own locomotive design.

In the box below draw your own steam engine with its train. Make sure you add a chimney for the steam, wheels and a place for the fire to power the locomotive. If you need to, use the other side of this page!



Unruly Rulers

Who were the Saxe-Coburgs and Windsors?

Saxe-Cobura was the surname of German Prince Albert who was Queen Victoria's husband. When Victoria died Saxe-Coburg continued as the royal family surname. It changed to Windsor in 1917 because England was fighting against Germany in World War One and King George V was worried British people wouldn't like a German royal family anymore - so he changed their name to Windsor, after the castle.



1837

Queen Victoria

A good queen who was never 'amused'. She ruled more than a fifth of the earth's population as Empress - Wowza!

King Edward VII

A king who loved hunting. A grandad by the time he became king, he wanted peace not war.

1901

1910

King George V

A steady and good king. He loved stamps but also loved his country, always trying to do the best for it.

1936



King Edward VIII

A romantic king. He married the woman he loved and 6 months later gave the throne away to his brother, George.

1936

King George VI

A very good king who loved his people. Even when Buckingham Palace was bombed in World War Two he stayed in London with his family to show that everyone was in it together!

1952



Queen Elizabeth II

Good queen Lilibet was on the throne the longest of all the rulers! She loved animals and had 5 corgis.



2022

King Charles III

A king who waited until he was 73 to be crowned. Cares about the environment.





Prince William



Meet Queen Victoria who ruled when the Green family lived at the Station Agent's House



Hi Vicky!

So when did you become queen?

I became queen on the 20 June 1837 when I was 18 years old.

What's your nickname?

Some people call me The Grandmother of Europe. I had 9 children who married different European princes and princesses. I had 42 grandchildren in total!

What is your favourite thing to do?

I loved visiting Scotland. I even built a castle there so that I could go all the time!

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

How dare you, I am never naughty. Everyone must be well behaved at all times.



Discover more about the Station Agent's House

The Station Agent's House was built in 1808 when Manchester looked very different than it does today. Follow this Quest to discover more about it. Put a tick in the boxes when you've completed each one.

Station Agent's Quest	Write your answers below
In which room can you find the Station Master's safe? Hint: built into one of the walls in the Station Agent's House is a clever metal box to hide things for safe keeping. What would you keep hidden in a safe?	
How many bridges can you see from the windows at Station Agents House?	
How many tall buildings can you see?	
Which public museum is next door to Station Agents House? Have you visited yet? Psst, it's free!	
Find something in the house that would make your journey more comfortable on a long train journey.	
Find the largest and smallest objects in the house.	
Find an object that reminds you of your home.	
Find an object you think is both beautiful and useful.	
Find something with an interesting pattern on it.	
Find something with the highest number on it.	
Find something that has parallel lines.	



Living in the Station Agent's House

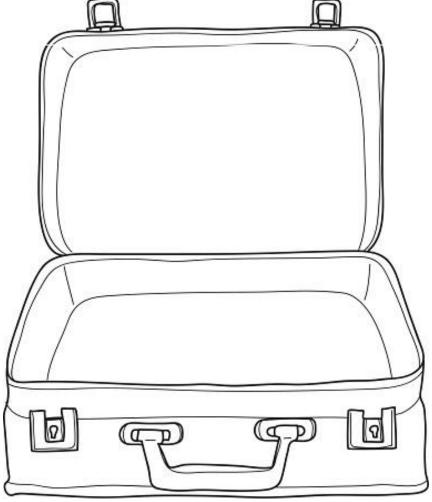
These floorplans are a map of the rooms on the ground and first floors of the Station Agent's House. Take a walk around each room and write on the plan what each room is used for (the second floor is not included here).





Can you find an example of each of these things inside the Station Agent's House. Describe or draw the object when you find it.

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor A fireplace

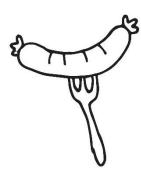


Pack your bag for a holiday by train.

Did you come by train on your trip to Manchester? What will you need with you on your journey? Draw them in the suitcase. Don't forget your train ticket!



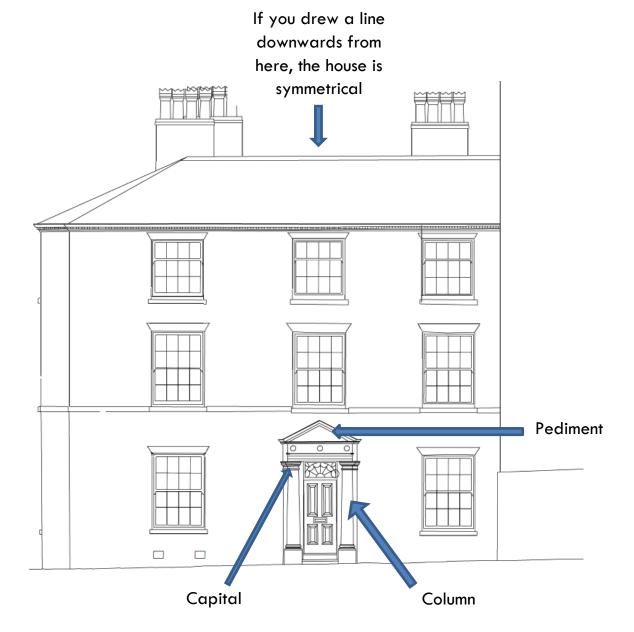
What does the Station Agent's House look like?



Station Agent's House was built in 1808 when classical architecture was in fashion. This made the outside look very symmetrical and used columns. In the 20th century the house was converted into a shop selling car parts and then sausages! In the 1980s, it was put back to how it looked at first in a 'Classical style'.

Fact:

Classical style is a type of architecture based on ancient Roman and Greek buildings.

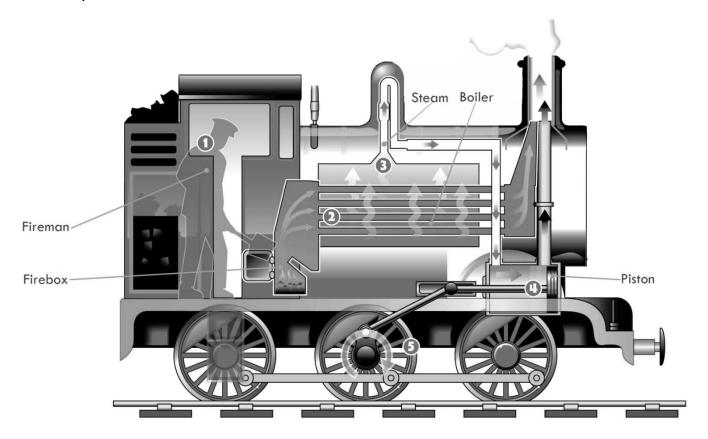


The arrows mark the bits that make the Station Agent's House look classical.



How do steam engines work?

The engine at the front pulls the *train* which means all the carriages. Look at the diagram below and follow the numbers to see how a steam engine creates power to move.



- 1. The fireman feeds the firebox with coal.
- 2. The fire heats the water in the boiler to make steam.
- 3. The steam makes the pressure in the boiler rise.
- 4. Steam pressure moves the piston forwards.
- 5. The moving piston pulls a connecting rod that turns the wheels.

It wasn't easy being a Fireman. Imagine how hot and tiring it was shovelling coal into the firebox all day!

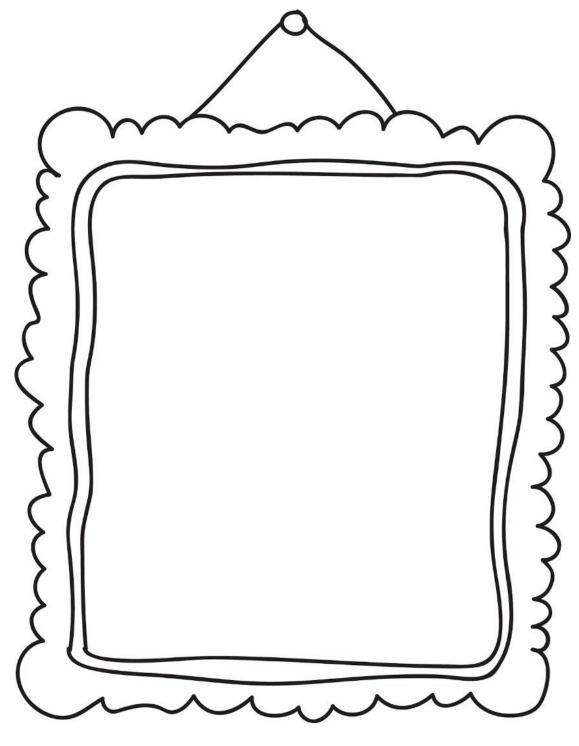


Cityscapes

A 'cityscape' is a view of a city showing all the different buildings. Some are very tall, while others are shorter and wider.

From the windows of the Station Agent's House you can see the skyline of Manchester with tall modern buildings and old railway bridges. Find a view from a window where you can see old and new buildings and draw your cityscape. Make the buildings different shapes and sizes. Add windows, doors and rooftops. Is it daytime or nighttime in your drawing?







What is the Station Agent's House built from?

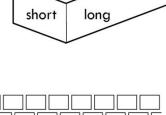
The Station Agent's House is made from bricks. Clay is dug from the ground and thrown into a mould. It is then baked in a giant oven. The new bricks are then tipped out a left to dry. Some sand in the mix helps it not stick to the mould – and voila!

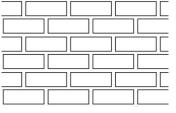
Fact:

The earliest bricks date back to about 7,500BC and were made of mud. The mud was packed into wooden moulds. They were then turned out and left to dry in the sun until they were hard. The first fired bricks were made around 3,000BC. Fired bricks (which are 'baked' in a kiln) are harder and last longer in wetter climates.

Today we make bricks in factories by mixing together clay, sand and lime. This mixture is poured into a mould, dried and then fired in an oven at 1100 degrees. Bricks have a long and a short face like this.

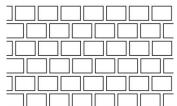
They are arranged in layers, or courses which have different patterns.





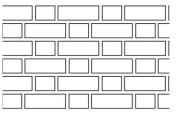
Stretcher bond

The simplest bond to lay – using the long face of the brick.

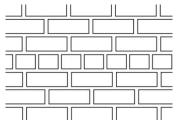


Header bond

The bricks are laid with the header facing outwards. The header is the end of the brick.



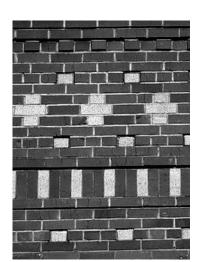
Flemish bond Bricks are laid with one header and one long face.

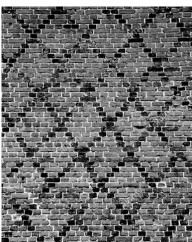


English bond

Three rows of long face and one row, of headers.

Some architects and builders were a bit more creative and designed very beautiful walls like these ones here. They used different coloured bricks to make these patterns.

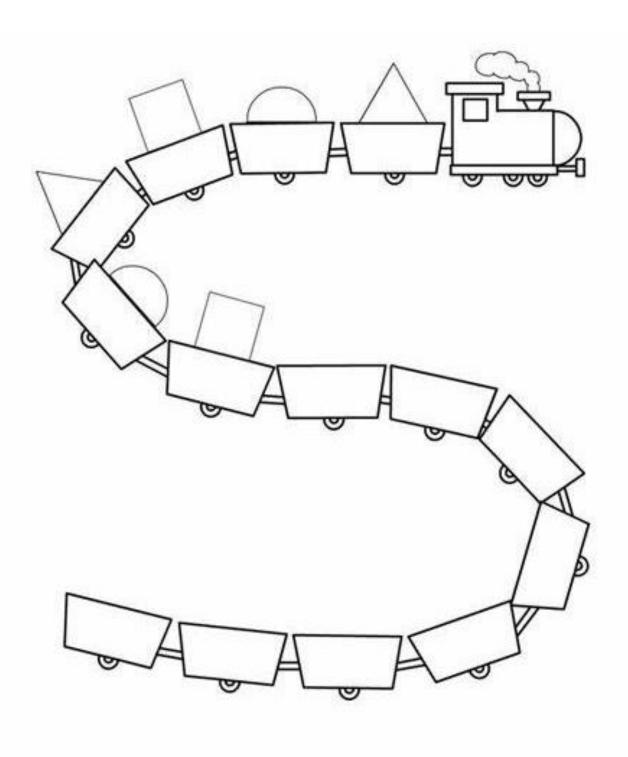






Train cargo

The first trains carried all kinds of cargo making it easier to move food and supplies around the country. The trains from Liverpool to Manchester often carried cotton to make clothes or animals. Draw in the wagons below some different types of cargo your train would carry.





Write a diary entry

Imagine that you have attended the opening of the new railway line between Liverpool and Manchester in 1830. You came from far away and travelled by train for the first time in your life! Write about your journey and trip below. Can you remember the first time you went on a train in real life?



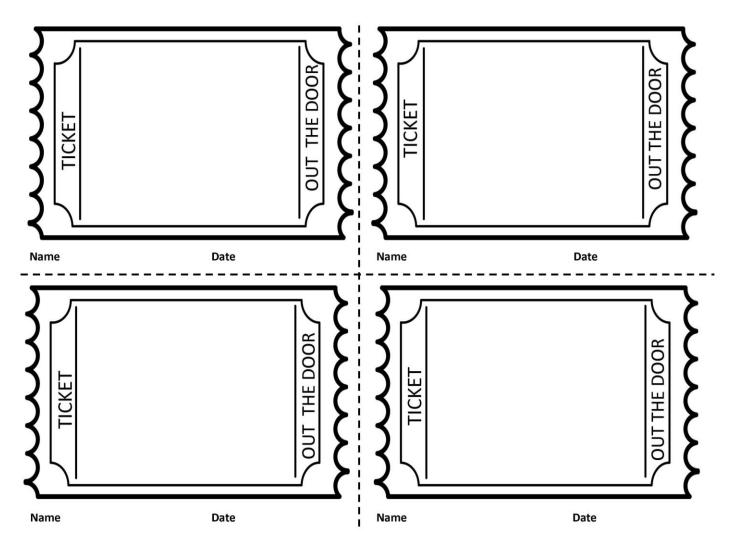
Design your own train tickets

Victorian tickets were fancy and decorated with fancy lettering to show how important they were.

Design your own tickets below. Think about what information your tickets will need on them? Where will your train travel to? How much will the ticket cost?

SEPT 29 G.00 PM W2 C3 S15

Will you include any pictures on your ticket?



Next try this: (perhaps at home)

You can make a shiny ticket using tin foil! Cut out a piece of foil and wrap it around a piece of card and use a blunt pencil to write the ticket information on to create your embossed, unique ticket! Is the ticket for a special train journey?



Station Master's word search

Have a go at this word search. Think about different parts of the building and what might have been here in the past. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

٧	A	Ν	Н	Ε	K	C	Α	R	T	G	J	F	R
S	P	Α	S	S	E	Ν	G	Ε	R	S	K	Υ	Α
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TRAIN PASSENGERS TRAVEL SIGNAL RAILWAY STEAM SUITCASES MASTER

PORTER TRACK STATION VISITORS VALLEY MANCHESTER CITY COAL



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1624	1830	1990	1240
2. Who was the gu	est of honour when th	ne new line opened?	
Joseph Green	Duke of Wellington	Thomas the Tank Engine	David Beckham
3. Which football te	eam in Greater Manch	ester play in red?	
Manchester City	Manchester United	Bolton Wanderers	Wigan Athletic
4. Who looks after	the station?		
Station Chief	Station Master	Station Boss	Station Care-take
5. How fast did a lo	ocomotive train travel	l in 1825?	
100km an hour	59km an hour	25km an hour	19 km an houi
6. Who invented the	e first Diesel engine?		
Mr Barry Diesel	Dr John Parker	Dr Rudolph Diesel	Mr Alfie Diese
7. What railway lin	e was Station Agent's	s House part of?	
North Staffordshire Railway	Great Northern	Liverpool to Manchester	Great Westerr
8. How many miles	s is it from Mancheste	r to Liverpool?	
35	5	100	63

To find the answers skip a page...



Answer sheet:

^	•			
Q	UIZ	an	SW	ers:

- 1.1830
- 2. Duke of Wellington
- 3. Manchester United
- 4. Station Master
- 5. 19 km an hour
- 6. Dr Rudolph Diesel
- 7. Manchester to Liverpool
- 8.34

How many did you get right?



Imagine you lived here in 1830 when the railway opened. Write an acrostic poem describing life at Station Agent's. Each line has to begin with the letter shown, so that the lines spell Station Agents!

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