

# TEACHER NOTES

## Understanding Railway Texts and Contexts - Reading for Meaning



### Contextual Summary

This is an English reading task that enables students to practise their reading and comprehension skills. The task links to specific information about the history of aspects of the Isle of Wight Railway that should be interesting, and relevant in terms of skills application, to students in lower key stage 2.

Questions have been chosen because they enable students to practise their comprehension and reading of unseen texts, focusing on form, purpose, audience, language choices, as well as retrieving information.

### Task Implementation

This task can be undertaken before the visit, as a taster activity, during the visit using the available classroom space, or after the visit as a follow-up task. There is maximum flexibility here.

The task could be useful in preparing students for visiting the Isle of Wight Steam Railway museum, as they will then have an insight into the kind of document and historical aspects they will find there.

Essentially, this task links with the visit in a supporting, peripheral sense, allowing for the key skills of English to be practised whilst engaging with the aspects of the Isle of Wight Steam Railway and of rail history on the island.

### Ability Levels






There are 3 versions of this resource, generally adapted for low/mid/high ability students in lower key stage 2. These could be adapted further by teachers if required, i.e. for SEN. For example, students could be tasked with answering fewer questions, or the ones that interest them the most, or perhaps work in teams to find the answers. There are resources available for key stage 3 that could be adapted for stretch and challenge.

### Key skills practised in this unit:

- ▶ Reading for meaning and information
- ▶ Analysing language choices and identifying intent
- ▶ Identifying techniques used by the writer to inform, and perhaps persuade
- ▶ Use quotations and other evidence to summarise and evidence their understanding

### Relationship to Curriculum

The above skills are required to be taught and practised as per the National Curriculum, for lower key stage 2, READING - COMPREHENSION.

SUBJECT	
English	
UNIT	
Reading - Comprehension	
OPPORTUNITIES FOR USE	
✓ Pre-Visit	 30-45 Mins
✓ On-Site Activity	
✓ Post-Visit	
✓ Peripheral Task	
APPLICABILITY	
  	Lower KS2
	P4 - P5
CURRICULUM / SYLLABUS	
✓ National Curriculum 2014	
✓ Curriculum for Excellence	

Applies to Resources Numbered:

1	0	1	1	9	1
1	0	1	1	9	2
1	0	1	1	9	3

## Learning Opportunities

Reading for Meaning - Understanding Railway Texts and Contexts

Resource ID: [101191](#) (low ability), [101192](#) (mid ability), [101193](#) (high ability)

### Pre-Visit

The resource/questions could be used/answered in class prior to the trip so students are aware of the type of historical documents and information they will see at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway, and will be thinking more analytically about exhibits.

### During the Visit

The resource/questions could be used/answered using the classroom available on site, so students gain a better contextual understanding of the venue and how it fits into the history of Isle of Wight rail services.

### Post Visit

The resource/questions could be used/ answered as a follow-up task to allow for more skills-based curriculum work after the visit to be undertaken.

## Enrichment Opportunities

This resource enables students to gain an enriched view of the historical context and aspects of social history relating to the railways on the Isle of Wight. Although historical documents, they allow for cross-curricular English skills to be applied successfully. Students will hopefully explore the venue with a greater desire for contextual knowledge.

## Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to demonstrate many aspects of their reading skills, by answering challenging questions and comprehending/analysing the language choices and literary techniques contained within the text.

## See Also...

Other resources at Isle of Wight Steam Railway relevant to this age group include:

<a href="#">101022</a>	English	10 Questions to Ask at the Steam Railway
<a href="#">101161</a>	Maths	Applying Simple Maths
<a href="#">101302</a>	History	How the Past is Represented in the Present
<a href="#">101131</a>	History	Place Events in Chronological Order
<a href="#">101041</a>	Science	Forces
<a href="#">101071</a>	Science	Changing Materials - The Power of Steam!

For further details visit [www.edudest.info](http://www.edudest.info) and click:

- ▶ *Resource Finder* - to locate specific resources identified above
- ▶ *Venue Finder* - to learn more about education at this venue
- ▶ *Subject Finder* - to find other relevant Isle of Wight venues

