

Autumn Term 1 Year 1 History Overview

Key facts

Isambard Kingdom Brunel was a British civil engineer and is considered to be one of the most ingenious and prolific figures in engineering history.

He was born in Portsea, Portsmouth on 9th April 1806.

His father was French and was also an engineer. His parents ensured that Isambard had the best schooling in England and France to learn the skills he needed to be an engineer. He worked with his father to build the Thames Tunnel project which took 16 years to complete during which he was seriously injured in a flooding accident. Whilst convalescing he entered a competition to design the Clifton Suspension bridge which he won and was subsequently built across the Avon Gorge. Brunel was also responsible for the creation of the Great Western Railway with Paddington Station being the London Terminus, The Royal Albert Bridge across the River Tamar, and SS Great Western. He was working on a number of other projects before his untimely death on 15th September 1859.

Isambard
Kingdom
Brunel

Brief summary/ overview

Isambard Kingdom Brunel was born on 9th April 1806 and is one of our most celebrated engineers.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel was a famous engineer in Victorian times. He built bridges, ships, tunnels and railway stations.

Brunel changed transportation in Britain. He designed the railway line between Bristol and London and built a ship that took only 15 days to get from Liverpool to New York. People were able to travel further and faster!

Brunel died when he was just 53 years old but his contributions to engineering and transportation live on.

Prior Knowledge

Through Understanding of the World element of EYFS, children have had the experience of talking about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members.

Key Vocabulary

Past, present, engineer, design, iron, tunnel, success, viaduct, aqueduct, suspension bridge, railway station.

Resources

On line clips and footage
Photographs
Non-fiction texts
Newspaper reports/articles

Cross curricular links/visits

Visit to Severn Valley Railway