



### George Stephenson

George Stephenson was a self-taught engineer who is often called 'The Father of the Railways' thanks to his wonderful inventions.



#### Early Life:

George was born in Northumberland on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1781 to a poor mining family. Money was very tight so his family could not afford to send George to school. When he was 10 years old, he went to work in the coal mine and was fascinated by the steam-driven engines that were used to pump water out of the mines.

#### Career:

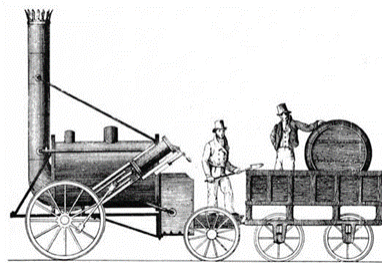
In 1811, he fixed a broken pump at the mine which impressed the owners so much he was promoted. He started designing his own locomotives and in 1828 George entered an engine design competition. His design, called The Rocket, won because the judges were very impressed with the power and speed of his engine. Once he'd opened his own factory, George designed and built many more locomotives even building the trains that ran on the first passenger railway line.

#### Family life:

George married Frances Henderson in 1802 and their first child, a boy called Robert, was born in 1803. Sadly, in 1805 their daughter Frances died after only 3 weeks and In 1806, George suffered more tragedy when his wife died of TB. In 1820, George met Betty Hindmarsh and they married a few months later. They did not have any children but they were happy until she died in 1845.

#### Death:

Seven months after he married for the third time, George contracted pleurisy and died on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1848 at the age of 67.



**Purpose:** To give the reader information about someone else's life.

#### Key features



#### Structural:

- Introduction to summarise who the biography is about
- Key events of their life in order
- Paragraphs with subheadings: early life; career; family life; death

#### Language:

- Past tense: *George was born*
- Third person: *he went to work*
- Dates: *In 1811*
- Subordinate conjunctions: *when, once, while*



#### Writer's toolbox

#### Subordinate conjunctions:

- When** he was 10, he went to work.
- Once** he opened his factory, he built more locomotives.
- While** there, he learnt to read.

#### Alan Peat:

- ly sentence
- Example: Sadly, their daughter died.

#### Punctuation:

- Remember to use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence and for proper nouns.
- Remember to use full stops.

#### Vocabulary:

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Early life | Career      |
| Tragedy    | Impressed   |
| Designed   | Locomotives |

#### Recommended reads

