

Comprehension of Information

STUDENT INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The Isle of Wight Steam Railway is a working railway and living museum of the past.
- ▶ The railway team produce texts that inform visitors about aspects of the railway and allow them to plan their visit.

READING TASK

- ✓ Have a look on the leaflet extract on page 2.
- ✓ Your task is to show an understanding of the information within the text.
- ✓ Read the leaflet extract thoroughly.
- ✓ Answer the questions below. Your teacher may require you to write on this sheet, or on paper.

Questions

1. What year was the first railway line on the Isle of Wight opened?
2. Which king or queen was on the throne at the time?
3. How many miles of railway line made up the Isle of Wight rail network at that time?
4. What was left of the Island's railways in 1966?
5. What happened to all the old steam engines and trains after 1966?
6. What year did the current Isle of Wight Steam Railway open, and with how many miles of track?
7. What are 'sleepers' used for?
8. What is the name for the 'cab' of the steam engine? Where do the Driver and Fireman work?
9. What is the name for the mechanical device which can be controlled to direct a train from one track onto another?
10. What is the purpose of the map and leaflet information?
11. What does the leaflet say has been recycled at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway?



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HOW it all began

The first railway line on the Isle of Wight opened in 1862, when Queen Victoria was still on the throne! Eventually, nearly every town and village on the Island was connected by a daily service of steam trains on a network of 55 miles of railway lines.

By 1966 most of these lines had closed and just the eight mile Ryde to Shanklin line was electrified and remained open.

All the old steam engines, carriages and wagons were broken up, except for the few precious items saved for preservation by the Isle of Wight Steam Railway, which re-opened just 1 1/2 miles of track between Havenstreet and Wootton in 1971. At that time there was just the platform and a small station building at Havenstreet, one steam engine and six carriages.

40 years on the line has tripled in length and is an award-winning living museum attracting over 110,000 visitors each year. There are now 11 steam locomotives, three diesel locos, a dozen carriages and four stations.



WHY does it

The Drive

Drives the steam engine

making steam

arrives on the

The Fire

Shows the fire going

which boils the water

A hot and humid atmosphere

The Guard

Makes sure the train is safe

board, before the train leaves

the Drive

The Sign

Works in the background

to ensure it's safe

at a station.

See our website at www.iwsteamrailway.co.uk for lots more

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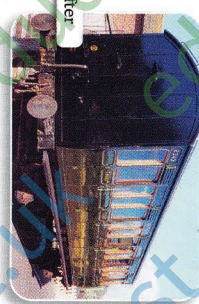
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RECYCLING

You could say all our Island Railways have been recycled!

All of our locomotives, carriages and stations were once headed for the scrap-heap, but were saved, rebuilt and restored to work again for the pleasure of our many visitors.



Railway WORDS

Footplate

The 'cab' of the steam locomotive where the Driver and Fireman work.

The Driver on the Footplate

Regulator

The lever the Driver uses to start the steam locomotive - A bit like an 'accelerator' in a car.

Sleepers

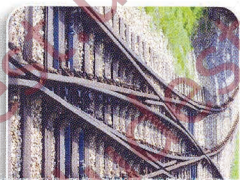
The lengths of timber to which the rails are fixed.

Fishplate

Small metal plates that tie the one end of a rail to the next rail.

Points

Where two (or more) railway tracks meet, the mechanical device which can be controlled to direct a train onto one track or the other.



The Guard



The Signman



Ashley Down



Exchanging Tokens

our Railway

See our website at www.iwsteamrailway.co.uk for lots more facts and figures about our Railway