



STEAM
Museum
Burst!

STEAM POWER

- The steam engine was one of the most important inventions of the Industrial Revolution
- Steam engines were used in mines, factories, locomotives and steam boats
- Before the invention of steam engines factories and mills were powered by water so needed to be located near a river
- The first useful steam engine was invented by Thomas Newcomen in 1712; James Watt improved the efficiency of steam engines
- Richard Trevithick developed a steam powered locomotive, “Puffing Devil” in 1801. In 1829 George Stephenson’s Rocket was the first steam engine to pull a passenger train.

Let's Explore

The Industrial Revolution

From the late 1700s and during the 1800s the Industrial Revolution spread through Britain, changing it from a mainly agricultural nation to one where more people lived in towns and cities and the manufacture of goods moved from small shops and the home into large factories.

Steam Engines were one of the most important inventions of the Industrial Revolution and steam power revolutionized factories and transport. Steam engines used hot steam to drive pistons back and forth. Steam was created by heating water, usually by burning coal.

During the 1840s and 1850s thousands of miles of railway had been built in Britain.

Try it at Home

If you could invent a machine to do something for you what would it be? Perhaps it could be a machine to fill a doughnut with your favourite filling; a machine to groom your pet or a machine to find all the missing odd socks!

Draw a labelled diagram of your invention and show it to someone else so you can explain to them how it works! Don't forget to give it a name.

During the Industrial Revolution there were machines called Spinning Jenny and Flying Shuttle!

Share your creations with us online (Facebook and Instagram @steammuseum or Twitter @STEAM_Museum



Thought Stop

Can you find some out about some inventions from the Industrial Revolution?

Can you match the inventor and invention?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Alexander Graham Bell | Mechanical Computer |
| Thomas Edison (USA), Joseph Swan (UK) | Spinning Jenny |
| John Kemp Starley | Telephone |
| James Hargreaves | Modern safety bicycle |
| Charles Babbage | Light Bulb |

What were some of the advantages and disadvantages of industrialisation?

Next Steps

Take a look around your home and decide which invention is the one that you think is the most important one to you at the moment. What do others in your home think?

Read poems with a railway theme:

Robert Louis Stevenson - View from a Railway Carriage

W H Auden – Nightmail

Ted Hughes- Skimbleshanks the Railway Cat

Practise reading these aloud and see if you can make the rhythm and rhymes sound like the movement of a train!

Watch and/or read: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

The Railway Children

The Polar Express

