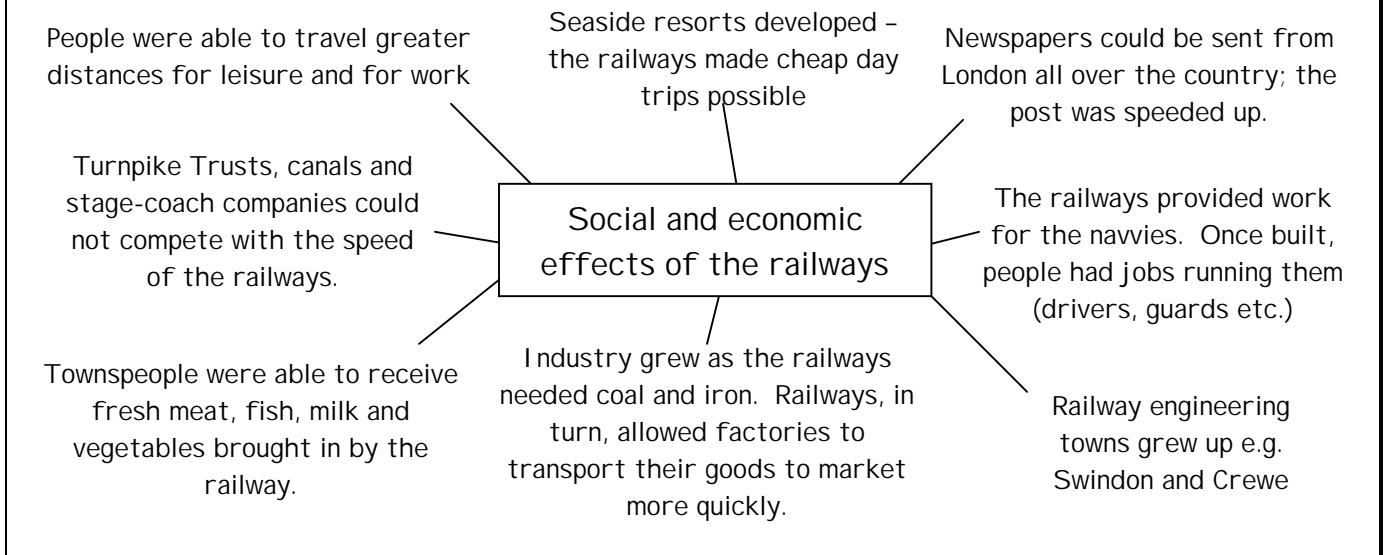


Impact of the Railways

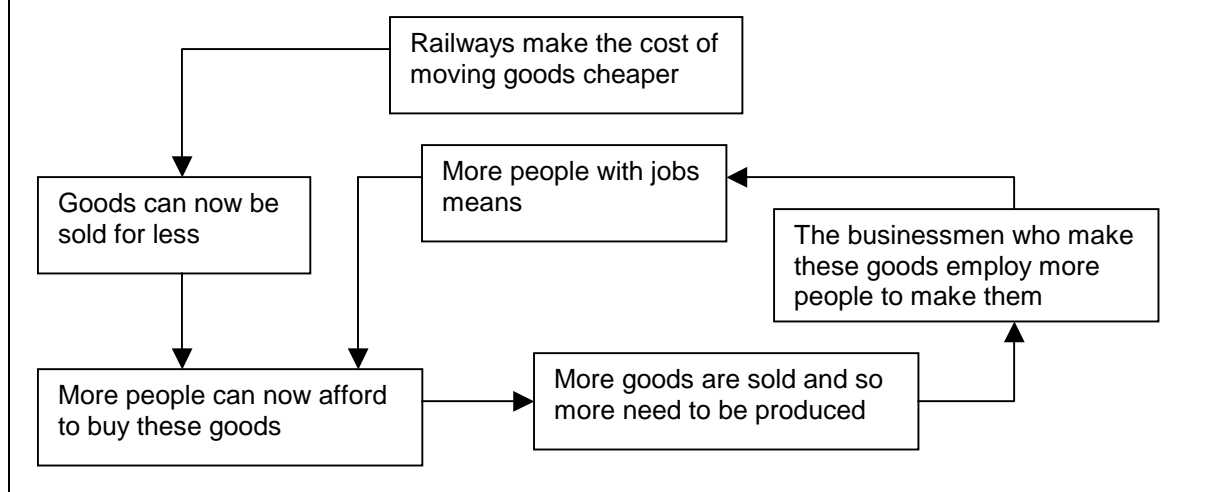
The building of the railways had big impact or effect on Britain. It created jobs, made goods cheaper, helped to spread information faster and changed the countryside in a way that neither the canals nor the new roads had ever been able to do.

Source A: Social and economic impact of the railways.



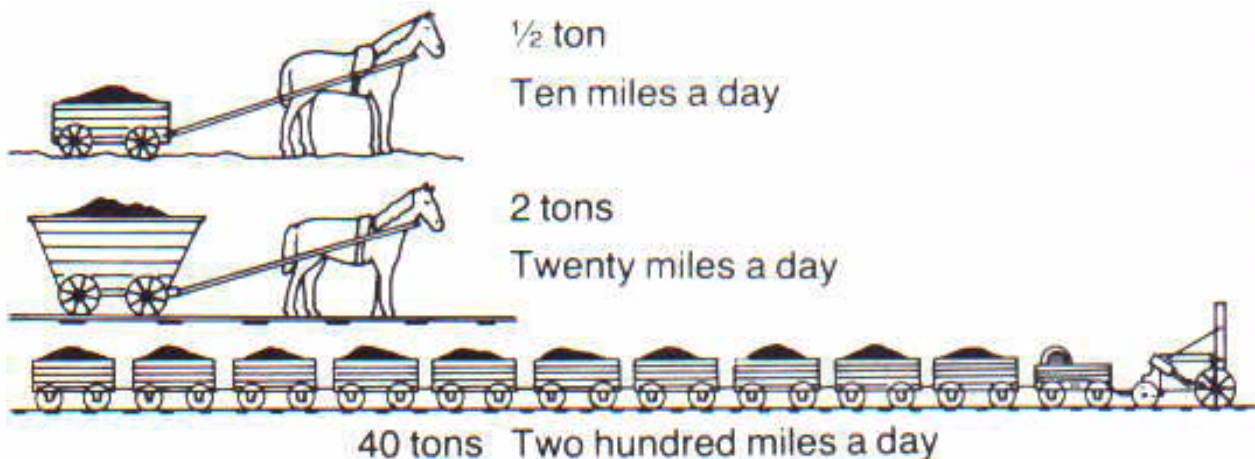
The railways did not just create jobs in the railway industry, they also created jobs in the coal and iron industries. They also helped to reduce the cost of transporting or moving goods from one place to another. This in turn meant that the people who made these goods could sell them cheaper. Once these goods became cheaper more people could afford to buy them so the people who made them had to make more of them, which created even more jobs. This is shown in Sources B and C.

Source B: How the railways created more jobs, 1997



Impact of the Railways

Source C: Transport of goods by road and rail



The railways did just change the way goods were transported. They changed the way people travelled about the country. Instead of travelling on mail coaches people started to travel by train, which was not only cheaper but also faster.

Source D: Journey times from London, 1997

JOURNEY TIMES FROM LONDON (IN HOURS)

Year	Mode	Destination	Time (Hours)
1836	Horse-drawn coach	Edinburgh	43
1850	Steam locomotive	Edinburgh	12½
1836	Horse-drawn coach	Liverpool	24
1850	Steam locomotive	Liverpool	6½
1836	Horse-drawn coach	Exeter	18
1850	Steam locomotive	Exeter	4½
1836	Horse-drawn coach	Birmingham	11
1850	Steam locomotive	Birmingham	3
1836	Horse-drawn coach	Brighton	6
1850	Steam locomotive	Brighton	1½

Source E: Train Ticket



The new trains meant that for the first time, even poor people could travel long distances. The working class started to make day trips to Blackpool, Scarborough, Whitby, Skegness and Brighton. Some east coast villages grew into large seaside resorts because of the railway.

Train travel encouraged people to read. The railways also meant that national newspapers and letters could be taken anywhere in Britain and even delivered the next day. People began to read the latest news about Parliament and the social reforms taking place. This led

Impact of the Railways

to more and more people becoming interested in politics and led to a growth of political parties.

Source F: 1862



Railways also changed the time that people lived by! Before the railways each part of the country had its own time, which was set for when the sun reached midday in their area. When the railways were built this had to change as a number of train crashes were caused by trains running to different times. Station clocks like the one in Source H began using London GMT time . In 1880, Greenwich Mean Time became everyone's time in Britain.

Sources J & K show how the village of Itchen Abbas in Hampshire changed as a consequence (result) of the railways.

Source H: Station Clock



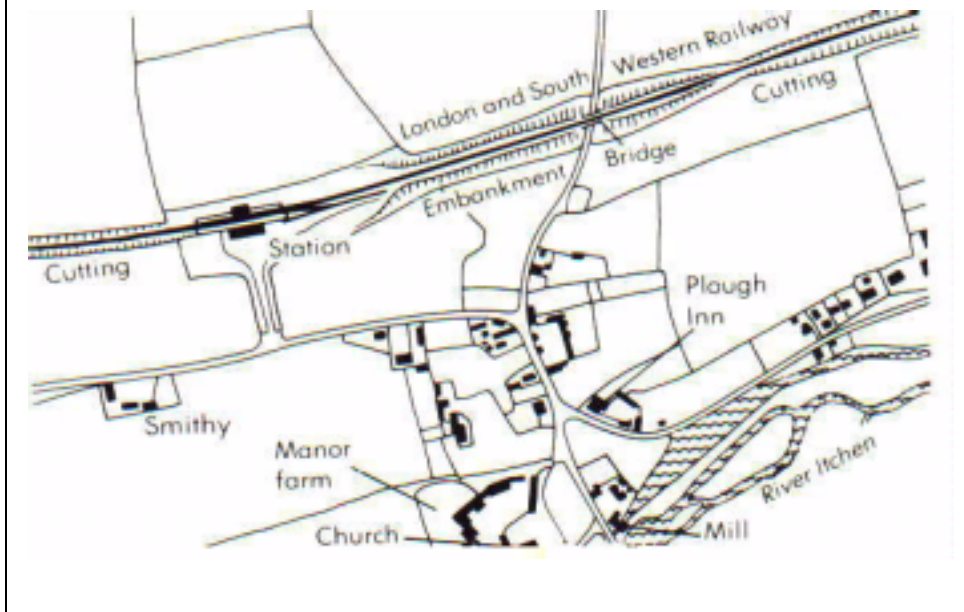
Source I: RJ Huggins, 1997.

The speed at which trains could travel also changed the food that people could eat. Fresh eggs, milk and fish could be carried into the new industrial towns. Fish and chips began to replace pigs' trotters as a cheap working class supper!

Differences between different areas started to break down as people from different areas came into contact with each other. For example, local accents and dialects became less noticeable as people began to mix and talk to each other.

Impact of the Railways

Source J: Map of Itchen Abbas, 1870



Source K: Itchen Abbas - Birth Places of villagers - census returns 1861 and 1881

Birth Place	1861 (Before railway)	1881 (After railway)
Born in Itchen Abbas	92	68
Born elsewhere in Hampshire	92	105
Born outside Hampshire	30	71
Total Population	214	244

Impact of the Railways

Activities: Impact of the Railways - Give reasons for all your answers!

Look at Source B

1. What effect did the railways have on the cost of transporting goods?
2. How did railways help to create more jobs?
3. Copy Source B into your book.
4. Look at Source C. Why was it cheaper to transport goods by rail rather than roads?
5. Look at Source D. What effect did the railways have on journey times from London?
Give examples.
6. Look at Sources E and G. What effect did the railways have on where ordinary working class people travelled?
7. What changes did the railways bring to the time that people set their clocks and watches?
8. What effect did the railways have on the books and newspapers people read?

Look at Source I

9. What changes did the railways bring to the food the working class ate? Why?
10. What effect did the railways have on the way people spoke? Why?

Look at Sources J & K.

11. What impact (changes) did the railways have on Itchen Abbas?
12. Copy Source A into your book.

Extended Writing

Write an essay of about 500 words describing the changes that the railways had on Britain.
Include all yours answers to the above questions in your essay.

Warning:

Your essay may be used to assess your National Curriculum Level!