

Resource 5a

The Coming of the Railways

Use this sheet to record positive and negative viewpoints about the development of railways across Britain during the Victorian period.



Positive	Negative

Resource 5b (1 of 3) Character Cards



This is Edward Cunningham. He lives in a large manor house and his family has always had plenty of money because of his daily newspaper business. Edward is proud to live in a country like Britain that is making so many new, life-changing inventions.

Edward wants his newspapers to be taken all over the country. He owns a printing factory in London but until now he has never had a way of transporting his newspapers to different cities, too. If the daily newspapers were transported by horse and cart, it is no longer the same day by the time they get there and nobody wants to buy a daily newspaper from last week.

This is Elizabeth Dipple. She is the housekeeper for a family home in the English countryside. Every day she works incredibly hard to keep the home peaceful and clean. The family that she works for treats Elizabeth well and she likes working here.

The house looks out over beautiful scenery. Deer and wild rabbits make their home there and the air is clean and fresh.

There is talk about a new railway line to be built near to the house. If the steam locomotives are noisy, the family might decide to move away to a different house and may no longer require a housekeeper.



Resource 5b (2 of 3) Character Cards



This is Daisy Smith, who is one of 8 brothers and sisters. Her family is quite poor and all the children have had to look for work. Daisy's job is to serve a wealthy household in Manchester.

Five of Daisy's brothers have found work on the new railways. The more Daisy hears about the railways, the more she feels frightened for the safety of her dear brothers.

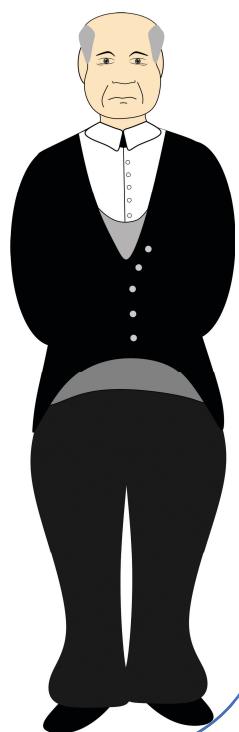
Daisy has never seen the railway for herself, but she has heard about the enormous boilers that could explode and the monstrous machines that could crush young workers. She is also worried about the smoke that the workers will breathe into their lungs. Daisy thinks that you cannot trust machines and it is only a matter of time before somebody gets hurt.

This is William Turbot. In the last few years, William has made his fortune!

William feels like his luck is in. Several years ago, he invested some money in a company that builds railway lines and bridges. The truth is that William only made the investment to help out a friend and he never really believed in the railways.

Little did William know that the demand for railways would be so high that he would become rich!

Not only that, but William can now afford to send his children to school. Because of the railways, the children can travel from their remote house to get to a good school near London.



Resource 5b (3 of 3) Character Cards



This is Jane Windermere. Jane helps to run a small inn in a seaside town on the South Coast of England.

For years, the seaside town has been a quiet place, with just a handful of visitors during the summer. Since the railway line between the seaside town and London was installed, business has boomed.

Suddenly, people are flocking to the town for holidays in the summer. Visitors love sunbathing on the beach and watching special shows and concerts.

For the first time in years, Jane's inn is a lovely place and the money is rolling in for all of the businesses in town!

This is George Teeton. For most of his life, George has run a successful company shipping goods along the canals. He is an old fashioned man and does not like the look of the monstrous steam locomotives.

Factories that need goods usually come to people like George to do business. That's why the biggest factories have always been built near to canals or rivers. Using his boats, George can organise supplies to be transported to the factories and goods to be shipped out.

Recently, George's business is beginning to stop doing so well. All of a sudden, factories are turning to railway companies to ship goods. With railway lines, factories do not need to be near to the waterways or rely on slow-moving boats.

George hopes that people will stop using railways and turn back to the good old reliable waterways.

