History - Year 2 – Term 1

What did Brunel design and build? Why were these important at the time? Why are they still talked about today?

Prior Knowledge	Prior Skills
That transport changes over time due to invention of new technologies. That significant people we learn about now often overcame challenges. That new technologies are invented as a consequence of these challenges. That communities develop around new technology. Children have learned about Victorian Reading in the 3Bs unit at the end of Year 1.	Children can compare similarities and differences in homes and city/town development over time. Can discuss changes over time and understand that these changes were significant as they can cause permanent change.

Planned outcome:

Isambard Kingdom Brunel was a talented engineer who overcame challenges of physical geography in order to design and build some of the world's most famous railways, bridges, tunnels and ships. He was chief engineer on the Great Western Railway line, which linked London and Bristol and led to increased **trade**, travel and communication between Britain and the rest of the world. This made many Victorian businesses and individuals wealthy. Communities grew around the railway lines.

Hierarchy and Power	Community and Culture	Conflict and Conquest	Exploration and Invention
The construction of the GWR linked London and Bristol so that **trade** was easier with parts of the British **Empire**. It was important to have the fastest ships crossing the Atlantic in particular.	The railway and SS Great Britain were built to link Britain with its Empire. Settlements and **communities** grew and were linked along the GWR. Many of the structures built then are still in place now and are instantly recognisable as Brunel's work/ **architecture**.		The GWR is considered one of the 'masterpieces of railway design'. It included the longest tunnel at the time and bridges that were the longest brick spans. This enabled huge **progress** in railway development and trade with America.

Similarities and Differences	Chronology	Causation and Consequence	Changes over Time	Significance	Enquiry
Compare transport before the railway with after the railway. Compare trains in living memory with steam trains (Year 1) Same time period as Mary Seacole, the 3B factories and Louis Braille.	Brunel lived 200 years ago during the Victorian era. This was the same time as the **communities** around the 3Bs factories began growing, and when EP Collier school was built.	During the Victorian era, we had an **empire** that was spread around the world. We needed to travel easily within our own country and overseas in order to **trade** and communicate more easily and grow the **economy** and increase wealth. The GWR was built as a consequence of this need.	Over this time period, railways were developed across the country. Tunnels and bridge technology was **invented** and huge progress was made in engineering. **Settlements** and **communities** grew around the railways – Reading and Swindon specifically.	Brunel's inventions were huge leaps forward in engineering. They enabled 'ordinary' Victorians to travel the country and the world, leading to increased global **trade** and communication. How would people have felt about it then?	What did Brunel design and build? Why were these important at the time? Why are they still talked about today?

Learning journey – planned steps to ensure children meet the planned outcome

Brunel lived during the Victorian era, which was 200 years ago and before the time of living memory. Compare this to the growth of Reading due to the 3B factories where the railway had an impact on how people were able to move around the country, Louis Braille's inventions and Mary Seacole's experiences in the Crimea. Put this on a class timeline.

Compare how people travelled before and after the invention of the steam train. Walking, horse and carriage, horse, canal boat etc. Trains would have changed their lives by reducing travel times and allowing more people to travel further in order to find work.

People wanted to travel faster so they could trade more easily and make more money by trading with other countries, particularly America from Bristol. They needed a fast train line to link London with the docks in Bristol.

Find out who Isambard Kingdom Brunel was. What did he design and build? Overview of his life including Great Western Railway, Box tunnel, Clifton Suspension Bridge and SS Great Britain.

The Great Western Railway was built by Brunel as chief engineer. It took an indirect route north to allow for links to Oxford and Gloucester. The route involved cutting through large hills in 'cuttings' and tunnels, and crossing the river Thames more than once. It was built in the 1830s in sections. The Box Tunnel was the longest tunnel in the world at 2.95km long. As well as providing the link for docks and trade with America, the GWR became known as the 'Holiday Line' as it took people to the south west of England. Several of his bridge designs are iconic. The Clifton Suspension Bridge, the Tamar Bridge. They are still standing now.

Brunel designed the SS Great Britain. This was the first propeller-driven, ocean going iron ship. When it was launched in 1843, it was the largest ship ever built. She began as a passenger ship travelling from Bristol to New York, although didn't do the journey particularly quickly. Eventually she was used to transport coal.

Brunel's legacy is a railway line with structures that were innovative design at the time, and are still in use today.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel		steamship
Dockyard	Victorians	

engineer	propeller	travel
tunnel	invention	trade
bridge	design	passenger

bridge

railway

first