

D.O.W.D.L.E

# TRAIN STATION™

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# TRAIN STATION

Hissing to a stop at the station is one of histories and possibly your favorite invention, the steam engine! Invented between 1763 and 1775 by Scottish inventor James Watt, this glorious invention sparked a new era for people to travel faster and in a more luxurious way. As time went on, the train's function and practicality grew, from steam, to electric, to diesel, and even magnetic, creating an undeniable hope in building a better future. Come board the train and see how trains have influenced our history as you build this folk art puzzle!

1. Evidence indicates that around 600 BC a system called the Diolkos, a paved track way where men and animals would pull boats across the Isthmus of Corinth in Greece, existed. This can be considered the first "train" recorded in history that was used for about 650 years. After the Diolkos, for nearly nineteen hundred years, early trains relied on ropes, horses or gravity.
2. The modern trains you're thinking of first came to light in the mid 1700's being powered by a steam locomotive. It generally burned coal in a furnace, which heats water in a boiler to make steam, feeding into cylinders to drive pistons that turns the wheels, propelling the train.
3. Other varieties for trains to be powered began to emerge in the mid 1900's, diesel and electricity. An electric locomotive uses electric motors to drive wheels and diesel locomotives power comes from an engine that burns diesel oil.
4. The Trans-Siberian Railway, residing entirely inside Russia, is the longest direct rail route in the world, taking a minimum of a week to traverse the distance of 5,778 miles.
5. In the children's fairy tale of The Little Blue Engine, a small train is given the task of traveling up the mountain with a heavy load. As he meets tough obstacles, he states, "I think I can" and persevered in traveling up and over the toughest mountain he has every faced. He has inspired generations that hard work is tough but worth it in the end when you finish a task.
6. In 1869, Chinese and Irish laborers working on the Central Pacific Railway managed to lay down 10 miles of tracks in just one day. This accomplishment has not been matched even in modern times.
7. Most train horns are based on musical chords. Common passenger trains found in the U.S. are usually based on major 6th chords, which are not as threatening as most freight trains, which are based on more dissonant, frightening, such as diminished 7th chords.
8. On May 10, 1869, the Golden Spike, the ceremonial 17.6-karat gold final spike, was driven in by Leland Stanford to join the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads to create the First Transcontinental Railroad across the United States at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory.
9. In 1993, a 16 year-old Brooklyn teen pretended to be a subway conductor and drove a train for over 3 hours, safely picking up and discharging passengers at normal station stops along the route, before getting caught.
10. During the late 1800s, American train stations would set their own clocks according to the highest point of the sun above the city. This made it a serious problem to coordinate train schedules, which confused passengers traveling by train. For many years the issue was unresolved until November 18, 1883, where four standard time zones for the continental United States were introduced.