



## HISTORY OF RAIL

# GEORGE STEPHENSON

George Stephenson was a self-taught English civil and mechanical engineer sometimes called the "Father of Railways". He developed the 'Rocket', an early locomotive, with his son Robert and pioneered rail transport and the development of the first passenger railways. Most of the world's railways run on the standard rail gauge (a fixed spacing between railway tracks), sometimes called 'Stephenson gauge', which he established.

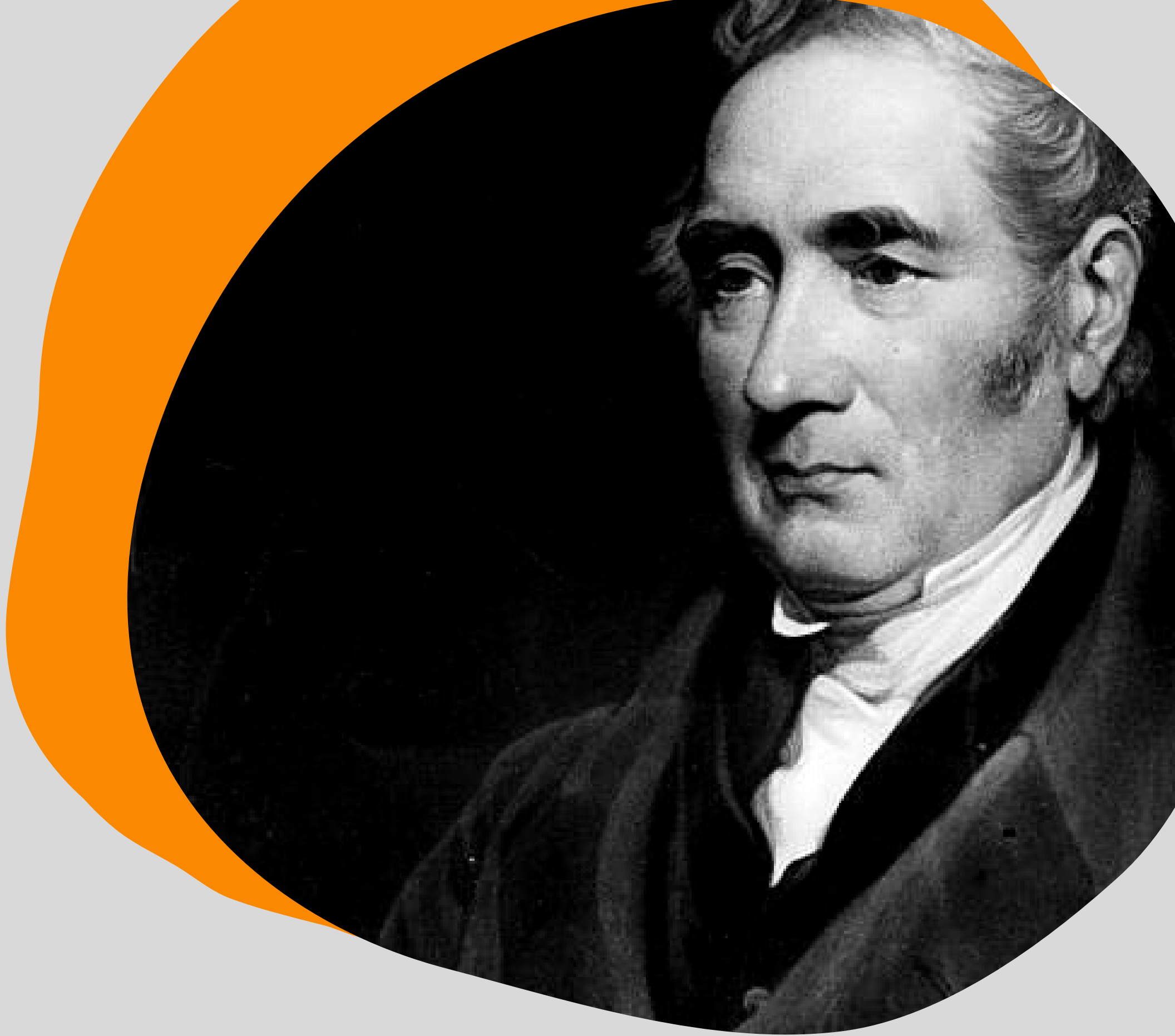




## FACT SHEET

- George Stephenson was born in 1781 near Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- His dad worked at a coal mine and looked after the steam engines that were used to pump water out of the mine. He taught George about these machines and when George was 14 he went to work down the mines himself. He would play about with the machines to learn more about how they worked.
- In 1814, George designed his first steam locomotive for the railways for Killingworth Colliery near Newcastle. The loco was a success and George was asked to work on other railways being built.
- In 1825 a new railway was opened between Stockton and Darlington. George and his men built the track and the locomotive for this railway. It later became the first steam loco to carry passengers in the world!
- But the steam loco George is probably most famous for is the Rocket. In 1829 a new railway was planned to run between Liverpool and Manchester. George competed against two other engineers to find the best locomotive to run on the railway and pull heavy loads of materials over long distances. With his son, Robert, he built the 'Rocket'. This travelled faster than all the other trains at 36mph. The opening of this railway line and the success of the rocket led to many more railway lines and steam locomotives being built across the country.





WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT ABOUT GEORGE STEPHENSON...

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