

# The Victorian Times

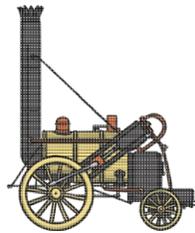
## Rocket Railway Race

15<sup>th</sup> September 1830

9 Today, at 11 o'clock, the lives of ordinary people  
17 changed forever. Today was the opening of the  
24 Liverpool and Manchester Railway, the first ever  
31 steam powered railway open to the public!

38 Crowds of people gathered in Liverpool this  
47 morning to see the first journey of this amazing  
54 invention. The carriages were pulled by an  
60 incredible machine called **The Rocket**, designed  
67 and built by the engineer Robert Stephenson.

76 The air was filled with smoke from the engine and  
84 people gasped and cheered when the train began  
93 to move without the help of any horses! Three  
101 ladies then fainted because they had never seen  
106 something move so fast.



1. What was opened on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1830?

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2. Why do you think the reporter chose the words 'Rocket Railway Race' for the headline?

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3. Why do you think people gasped and cheered?

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4. Number these sentences 1-3 to show the order that we find out about these things in the text.

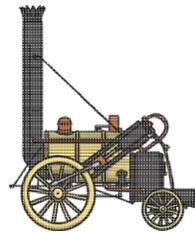
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- People cheered and gasped when the train moved.

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106 something move so fast.



1. What was opened on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1830?

**The Liverpool and Manchester Railway.**

2. Why do you think the reporter chose the words 'Rocket Railway Race' for the headline?

**I think the reporter chose the words 'Rocket Railway Race' for the headline because they all begin with the same letter (alliterate).**

3. Why do you think people gasped and cheered?

**Accept any sensible inference relating to the text, e.g. I think people gasped and cheered because people were used to transport being moved by horses, because it went so fast.**

4. Number these sentences 1-3 to show the order that we find out about these things in the text.

- 3 Three ladies fainted.
- 1 Crowds of people gathered in Liverpool.
- 2 People cheered and gasped when the train moved.