**Isambard Kingdom Brunel**



**Who was Isambard Kingdom Brunel?**

**Isambard Kingdom Brunel was a famous engineer in**[**Victorian**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/victorian-era)**times.**He built bridges, ships and even railway stations – you can still see some of those today!

Brunel changed transportation in Britain. He designed the railway line between Bristol and London, and built a ship that only took 15 days to get from Liverpool to New York City. People could travel further, faster!

Brunel died when he was just 53 years old, but his contributions to the world of engineering and transportation live on.

**Top 10 facts**

1. Isambard Kingdom Brunel was born on 9 April 1806 in Portsmouth.
2. Brunel’s parents sent him to the finest schools in England and France to learn the skills he needed to be an engineer.
3. Brunel worked on the Thames tunnel with his dad, who was also an engineer. He almost drowned when the roof collapsed and flooded in 1827!
4. While Brunel was recovering, he entered and won a competition to design a bridge over the Avon river gorge in Clifton, Bristol – this later became the **Clifton Suspension Bridge.**
5. He married Mary Horsley in 1836. They had three children: Isambard Junior, Henry Marc and Florence Mary. Henry also became an engineer when he grew up.
6. Brunel was known for wearing a tall black top hat – very stylish in Victorian times!
7. **Brunel was the chief engineer of the Great Western railway**, and **he designed the railway line between London and Bristol. He also designed the Temple Meads station in Bristol, and Paddington station in London**.
8. Brunel also designed fast **ships** – the SS Great Western, the SS Great Britain and the SS Great Eastern.
9. Brunel died on 5 September 1859. He is buried at Kensal Green cemetery in London.
10. Brunel’s legacy has lasted long after 1859. His constructions are still used today!