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Romantic royals

1 Match the words with their meanings.

assassinate captain divorce
governor navy royal ~~weird~~

- 1 very strange weird
- 2 the most important person on a ship; an army officer
- 3 a group of people that fight in ships on the sea for their country
- 4 to stop being married
- 5 to kill someone for political reasons
- 6 belonging to a king's or queen's family
- 7 someone that makes the laws in a country that belongs to an empire

2 What is the family name of today's British royals? Put the underlined letters in activity 1 in order to find it.

W _ _ _ _ _

3 Look at the photos. What do you know about Edward VIII and Prince Charles? Mark these sentences E (Edward) or C (Charles).

- 1 He was born in the 1890s.
- 2 He was born in the 1940s.
- 3 He used to talk to plants.
- 4 He left the throne of England for love.
- 5 He married an American.
- 6 He has two sons - William and Harry.

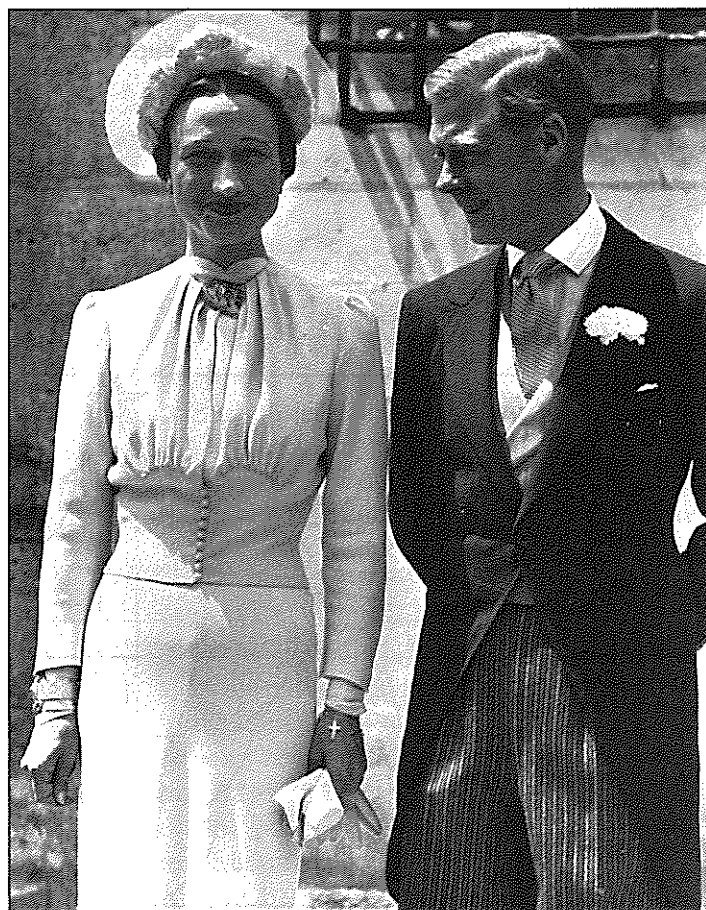
What do you think? Read the texts to check your ideas.

Edward VIII and Wallace Simpson

Edward VIII was the son of King George V. He was born in 1894. Like all the oldest sons of British Kings, he became Prince of Wales. He was handsome and popular with the British people, and he loved parties. When King George V died in 1936, Edward became king.

Edward wanted to marry an American, Wallace Simpson. She had divorced twice and the Archbishop* of Canterbury said that the King (as the leader of the Church of England) could not marry a divorced woman.

After 11 months Edward gave up the throne of England for the woman that he loved. He became the Duke* of Windsor. He married Wallace and spent the rest of his life abroad. He was the governor of the Bahamas for a time. Some people say that the Duke was friendly with the German leader, Adolf Hitler, because he hoped to go back to England as king if the Germans won the Second World War.



Charles, Diana - and Camilla!

Prince Charles was born in Buckingham Palace in 1948. He had some weird habits when he was younger - like talking to plants. After school he studied at Cambridge University. Later he joined the Navy, and was the captain of a ship. In 1981 he married Lady Diana Spencer. They had two sons, William (born 1982) and Harry (born 1984). But Diana became unhappy when she learnt that Charles had a married lover, Camilla Parker-Bowles.



Charles had first met Camilla in 1970. He fell in love with her at once. But she was older than him, and she had had boyfriends before.

Camilla divorced her husband in 1995. In 1996 Charles and Diana divorced. The next year Diana died in a car crash in Paris. Some people think that she was assassinated. In 2005 Charles finally married the love of his life, Camilla Parker-Bowles.

4 Read the texts again. Join the sentences correctly.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 1936 was the year... | a that Edward married. D |
| 2 The Archbishop of Canterbury was the person... | b that Charles met Camilla. T |
| 3 Wallace Simpson was the woman... | c that Edward VIII was king for 11 months. A |
| 4 The Duke of Windsor was the title... | d that the Duke was friendly with. C |
| 5 Adolf Hitler was the German leader... | e that Edward was given after he left the throne. I |
| 6 Cambridge was the university... | f that said Edward couldn't marry a divorced woman. B |
| 7 1970 was the year... | g that Prince Charles studied at. A |
| 8 1981 was the year... | h that Princess Diana died. O |
| 9 1997 was the year... | i that Charles married Camilla. N |
| 10 2005 was the year... | j that Charles married Lady Diana Spencer. I |

5 What do we call it when a king gives up the throne because he doesn't want to rule anymore? Put the letters in the hearts in order to find the word.

A _ _ _ _ _

* What is it in your language? Find out!

Personal Project

- Were there any famous royal couples in your country's history? What happened to them?
- Choose one royal couple and find out more about them.



The Black Death

The Black Death* was a horrible illness*. It came to Britain in 1348 and travelled across the country. It killed thousands of people.

1 Read the text and draw the route of the Black Death on the map.

The path* of death

The Black Death came to London in the summer of 1348. Then it travelled along the coast to East Anglia. After that, it arrived in the Midlands and then in Wales. In the late summer of 1349 it went across the sea to Northern Ireland.

The Scots hated the English at this time. They thought, 'Good! The English aren't strong at the moment. Let's go and fight them!' They decided to invade* Durham in the north of England. Perhaps they caught the illness there. In 1350, the Black Death arrived in Scotland. It was impossible to escape from this terrible illness.



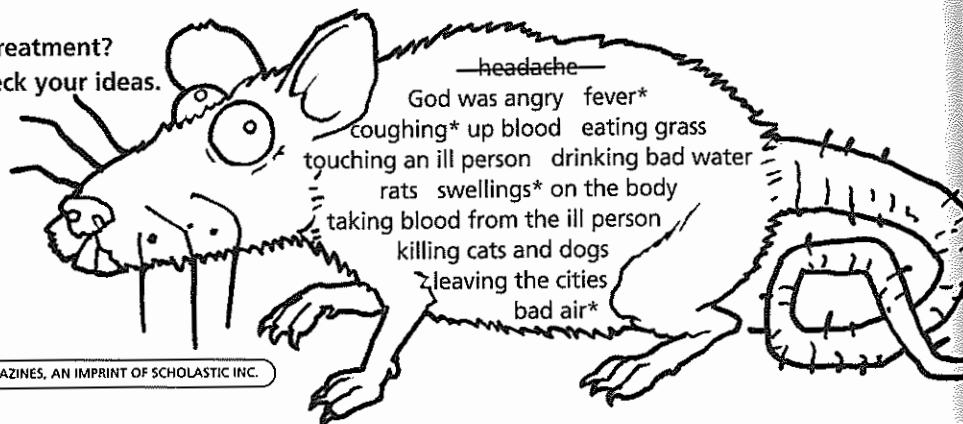
2 Write the words from the rat in the correct places in the table.

Signs of the illness	Causes*	Treatment*
headache		

3 What was the real cause and the best treatment?
Read the text on the next page and check your ideas.

1 The real cause was

2 The best treatment was



The signs of illness

The ill person felt tired and had a headache and fever. They had swellings under their arms and on other parts of their body. Then they started to cough blood. They usually died about three days later.

What was the cause? For many years, nobody knew the real cause. People had different ideas:

'God is angry with the world and he wants to show us that.'

'Don't touch the ill people. They will give us the illness too!'

'Don't drink the water. It's bad!'

'The air is bad! Put something over your face!'

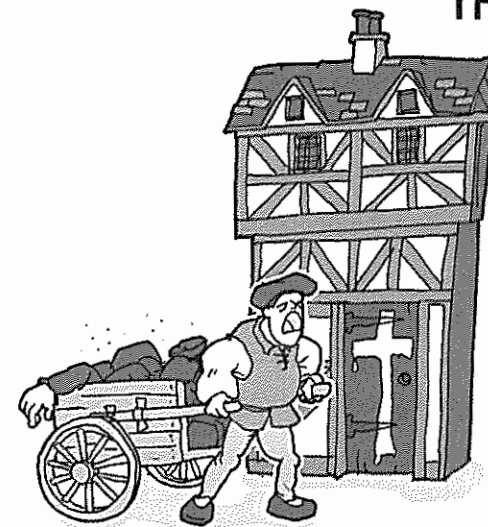
'It's the rats! They're bringing the illness into our streets and houses!'

It wasn't exactly the rats. The fleas* on the rats were the real cause. They carried germs*. When a rat died, the fleas looked for a new place to live. They jumped onto cats, dogs and, of course, people!

What was the treatment? People tried everything to stop the illness. They ate strange things like grass and made horrible drinks. Some doctors said, 'This illness is in the blood!' And they took blood from the ill person's body. Some people killed their cats and dogs. They believed the illness came from them. The best idea was to escape from the towns and cities, and go into the country. But only rich people could do that. Poor people had to stay in their houses.



The Great Plague*



The Black Death was terrible. About half the people of London died in the 1340s because of the Black Death. But the illness didn't disappear. In 1665 it came back to London. This time people called it, 'The Great Plague.'

When a family got the plague, people drew a cross on the front door of their house. Carts went around the city, and the driver shouted, 'Bring out your dead.' Then he took the dead bodies away.

One third of the people in London died of the plague between 1665 and 1666.

Now we know the cause of the illness and we can fight it. But in some parts of the world, the plague has not disappeared. It is still killing people today.

4 Read the texts about the Black Death and the Great Plague again.
Answer these questions.

- When did the Black Death first come to London? in 1348
- When did it arrive in Scotland?
- How long did it usually take to kill someone?
- How many people in London died of it in the 1340s?
- What did people call the illness in 1665?
- How many people in London died of it between 1665 and 1666?

Personal Project

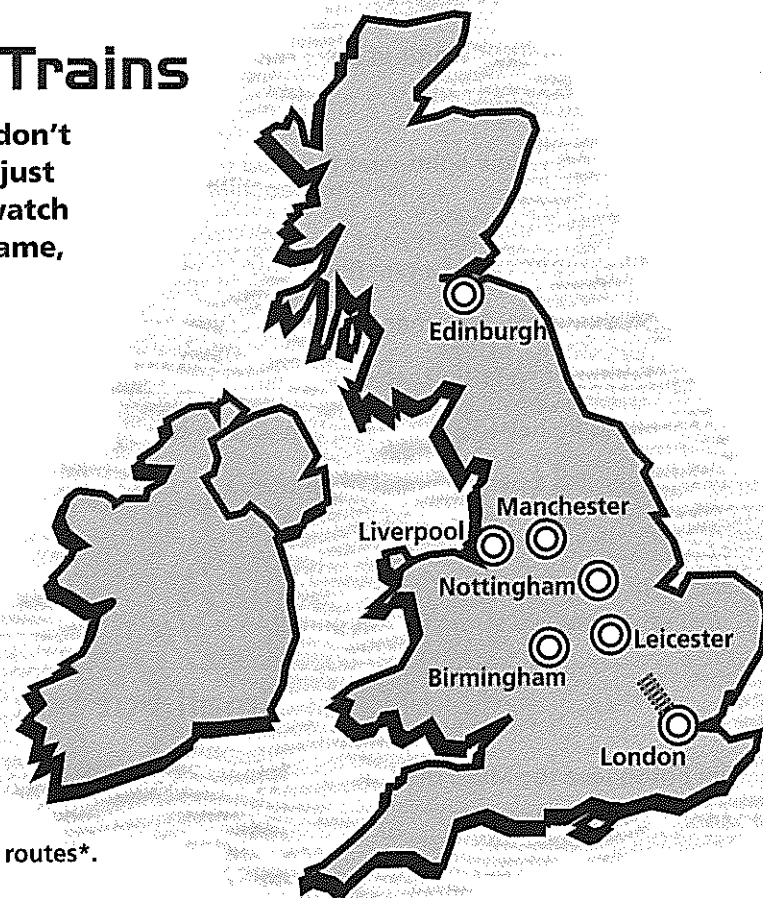
- Were there any terrible illnesses in your country in the past? Why did people get them? What were the cures?
- Choose one past illness and find out more about it.

* What is it in your language?
Find out!



Trains

Many British people love trains. They don't always travel on them. Some people just like to stand near a railway line and watch them go past! They write down the name, make, and number of each train.



1 Read the text and draw the four main railway routes*.

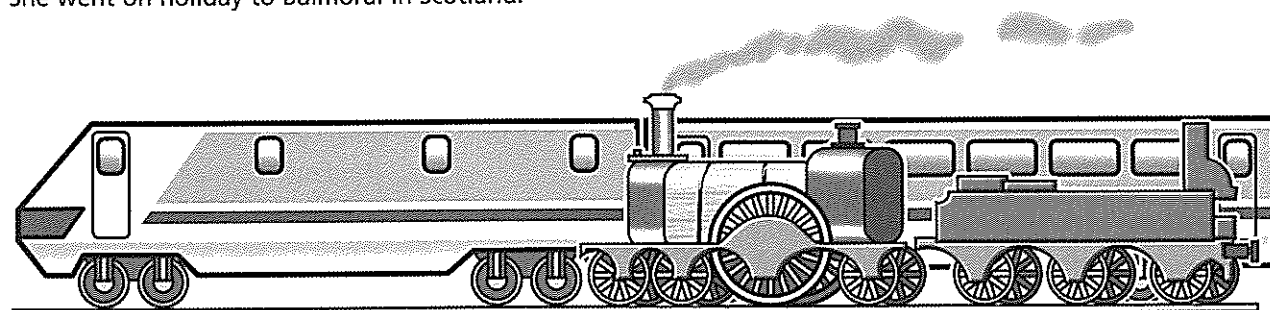
A brief history of trains

George Stephenson (1781–1848) was the 'father' of British railways. He and his son, Robert (1803–1859), built steam locomotives – engines for pulling trains. From 1830 to 1850 engineers and businessmen built railways all over Britain. The first railway line from Liverpool to Manchester opened in 1830. In 1833 Robert Stephenson became chief engineer on the first railway line from London to Birmingham. They finished it in 1838.

In 1840 people travelled for fun on a train for the first time. It took them from Nottingham to Leicester. They sang all the way! By 1850, there were over 2,500 steam locomotives in Britain. Their highest speed was 125 kilometres an hour. After 1850, Queen Victoria often travelled from London to Edinburgh by train. She went on holiday to Balmoral in Scotland.

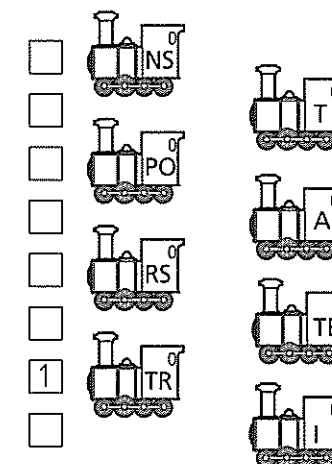
Victorian Railway stations were big, high, beautiful buildings. You can see many of them today. In London, there are nine main railway stations. The oldest is London Bridge (1836) and the newest is Marylebone (1899.) The first electric* railway opened in 1883. It was cleaner and quieter than steam.

In 1914, at the start of World War* I, no town in Britain was more than 32 kilometres from a railway station. Later, cars and aeroplanes became popular, and many smaller railway stations closed. But trains didn't go away. In 1994, the Channel Tunnel* opened. Now people can travel by train under the sea between England and France. It is one of the world's greatest railway projects.



2 Read the text again and put the sentences in order.

- People first travel on a train for fun.
- The first electric railway opens.
- Queen Victoria starts going by train to Scotland for her holidays.
- They build London Bridge Station.
- They build the Channel Tunnel.
- They build Marylebone Station.
- They build the first railway line between Liverpool and Manchester.
- They finish the first railway line from London to Birmingham.



3 Put the letters in the trains in order to make a word. These people watch trains for fun!

T R _ _ _ _ _

4 Match the underlined words in the text with their meanings

- these make cars or trains move
- the most important
- building plans
- this person builds roads and railways
- this is very hot water when it becomes air

.....engines.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

5 Complete the text about George Stephenson with the words in the box.

animals slowly son job through
money built ~~read~~ hill

George Stephenson couldn't 1 read

until he was 18. When he was 27, he got a

2 working with engines.

At night, he worked on broken clocks to

make more 3 In 1814

he 4 a steam locomotive.

It could pull 30 tons* up a 5

at seven kilometres an hour. Before this, people

used 6 to pull trains.

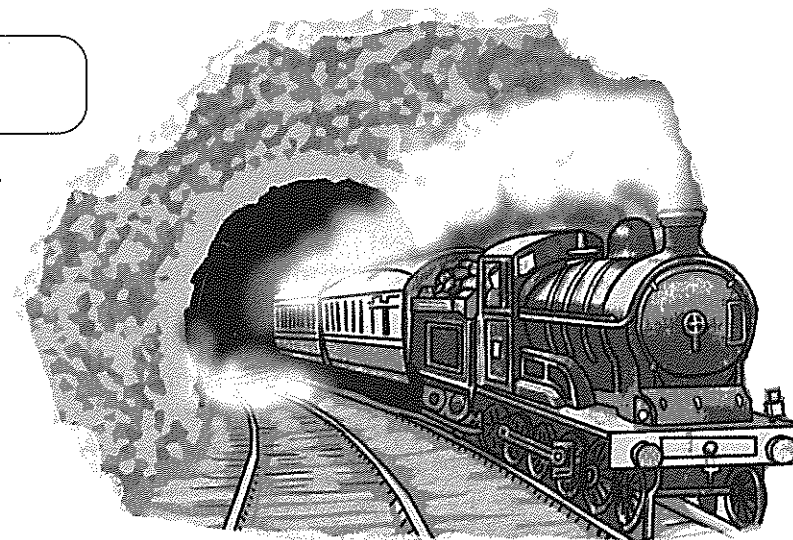
George saw that trains went very 7

up hills. He wanted trains to go 8

the hills, not over them. He worked with engineers

to build flat* railway lines. One of the best

engineers was his 9 , Robert.



Personal Project

- What do you know about the history of trains in your country?
- Were there any special trains or railway lines? Were there any famous engineers?
- Find out more about one of them.

* What is it in your language? Find out!