

DUCK BILLS

GREAT RAILWAY ADVENTURE



PRESENTED BY

FUNDED BY



Duck Bills loves an adventure! Unlike other ducks, he likes to travel on trains. This is because it's much easier than waddling and much kinder to the environment than driving.

His mother, Duck Darling, recently bought a Friends and Family Railcard, which gives them discounted train fares. She plans to take her ducklings on many exciting train adventures soon!

Duck Bills' younger sibling, Duck Small, finds the big world a little scary so, to show them how great it can be, Duck Bills writes a letter to Duck Small after each trip he takes.



Join Duck Bills on his quest to discover fun facts and write a letter to Duck Small. Follow the story, using the map to guide you, and complete the activities to remember fascinating facts for the letter.

Together we can help a small duck conquer their big fear of leaving the pond!

1. THE LIBRARY

QUACK QUACK! Hello, my name is Duck Bills. I've just borrowed a book about Stoke-on-Trent from the wonderful library and have a few places to visit. I have two hours to explore the city before I need to catch my train back home to London.

I'd be very grateful if you could help me remember what time I need to return. Using the library clock tower on the left of this page, draw the clock hands so they display the time two hours from now – that way, I won't forget.





2. THE MARKET

Stoke-on-Trent has held markets for over 200 years – the first one recorded dates all the way back to 1794! My book says this beautiful building was built in 1883 but sadly, it was later destroyed. However it doesn't say what happened. Maybe I could include this fact in my letter to Duck Small.

Can you find the Heritage Trail sign outside the entrance to the old market (it's now the library door leading to Church Street) and discover how the market was destroyed? Write the answer below.



3. SPODE ROSE GARDEN

Stoke-on-Trent is famous for its pottery industry and Josiah Spode (who this garden is named after) was one of the greatest potters the city has produced. Spode Rose Garden is where people working in the pottery factory went to enjoy fresh air and beautiful surroundings. Working conditions in pot banks were very dusty and confined, so they needed a place to enjoy nature.

I would love to design a teapot for my mother, Duck Darling. Artists often get their inspiration from nature. Can you decorate this teapot using Spode Rose Garden to inspire your design?

Great job, this looks wonderful! Duck Darling will love to drink her puddle tea from it.





4. THE CENOTAPH

This big stone structure is called a Cenotaph and was built to honour local members of the armed forces who were sadly lost in battle. During the war, people relied on trains to transport food and help evacuees escape danger, so the railway played an important part in the war effort.

Read the plaques on the Cenotaph. How many different places can you see? Note them down for me and I'll include them in my letter.



5. THE KING'S HALL

Now, I do love a good tail-shaking to music and apparently, the King's Hall is a great place to do that. Since 1910, this building has been the main town hall and it hosts concerts, festivals and functions. I wonder if my favourite singer, Duck Sheeran, will perform here anytime soon?



Unfortunately, my book doesn't say who designed the building. Can you help me find out? Look for the Heritage Trail sign in front of the King's Hall and write their name below.



6. STOKE MINSTER

Graveyards can be scary at night, but during the day, they're full of fascinating history! This one is filled with memorials to people who helped build the city you know today. Did you know that one of Stoke's most famous historical figures is buried here?



Enter the graveyard and head to the far end. There you will see two large brick arches and a guarded, gated grave. Can you spot the famous person's name on the tomb stone? Make a note of it below.

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Stoke's oldest relic is in this graveyard. Have a look around and see if you can guess what it is. The picture on the right of this page might give you a clue. Does it look familiar? When you think you know the answer, walk to the burgundy information board near the entrance to Stoke Minster and check.



Stoke's name originated from an old English word. Looking at the same information board, write below what Stoke used to be called and what the word means.

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7. NEWCASTLE CANAL

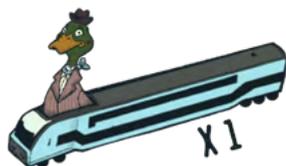
Local potters, such as Josiah Wedgwood, were key to the development of the canal system. They recognised that a smooth boat ride down the canal was a much safer way to transport their delicate pottery than a bumpy horse and cart. This saved a lot of money in broken pots!

Whilst you are here, let's play a quick game of car-spotting. Count the number of cars that pass you in 30 seconds and tally it below.

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Did you know that, on average, one passenger train takes 500 cars off our roads? Think how much less pollution that is! Amazing, isn't it?



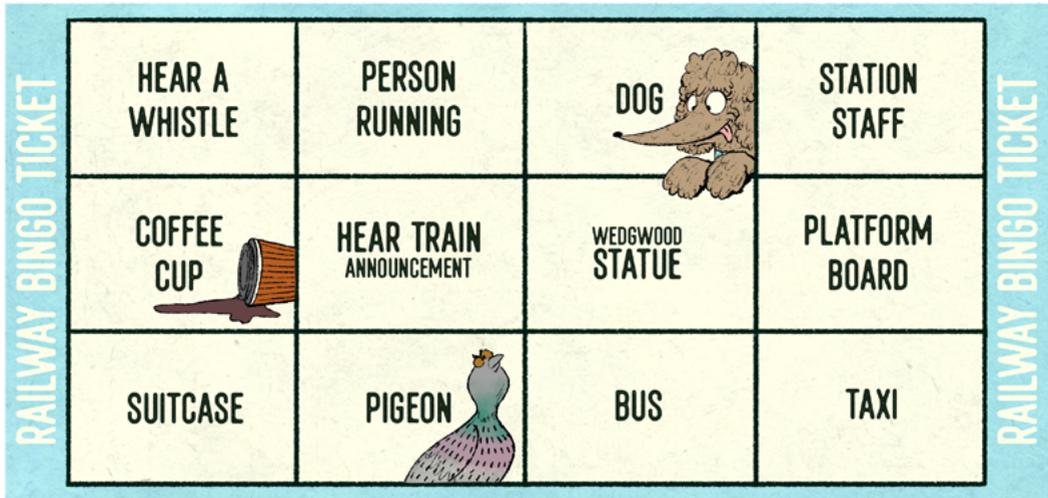
8. STOKE-ON-TRENT TRAIN STATION

Great work, we've made it to the station with plenty of time to board my train. Wow, just look at how beautiful the train station architecture is! It says in my book that this Victorian station opened to the public on the 9th October, but it doesn't say in which year. Find the Heritage Trail sign to the left of the station to discover the answer.



I like to think about where trains are going. If you were catching a train right now, where would you like to go and why? Discuss it with the person you're queuing with.

Now, cross the road so you can see the entrance to the station and let's play railway bingo!



Thank you so much for exploring Stoke with me. I have so many amazing facts to put in my letter to Duck Small. It would really help them get excited and venture out of the pond if you sent them one too. Using the template on the next page, write a letter about your discoveries. I'm going to write mine whilst I wait for the train. Good-bye!

We would love to see your letter! Either hand it to a member of staff at your local Stoke-on-Trent library or send us a picture on Facebook. Just search 'Stoke Reads'.



TRAIL KEY

1. THE LIBRARY
2. THE MARKET
3. SPODE ROSE GARDEN
4. THE CENOTAPH
5. THE BINGS HALL
6. STOKE MINSTER
7. NEWCASTLE CANAL
8. STOKE RAILWAY STATION

