

Main idea and details

The main idea or key point is what the text is about. Details support the main idea.

Read the passage.

Circle
which trains were pulled by steam engines

Box
how steam is made

OLD TRAINS

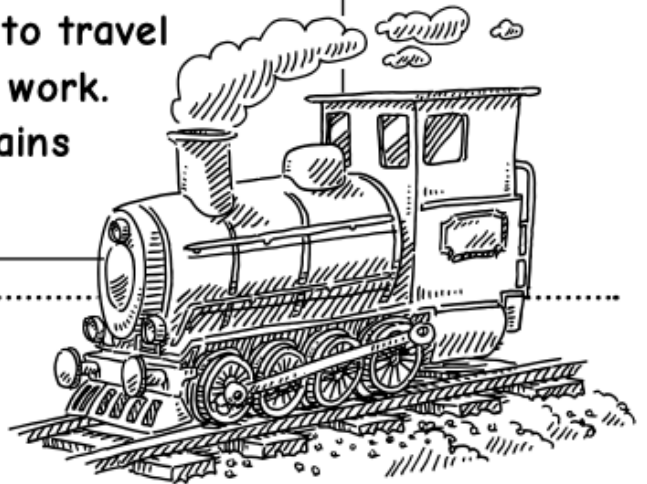
The first trains were pulled along by steam engines.

Steam engines burn coal. The burning coal heats water to make steam. The steam makes the wheels turn.

In the 1800s steam trains were a quick and cheap way to travel for fun as well as for work. Today most steam trains are for tourists.

Underline
what steam engines burn

Colour
when steam trains were used



Circle the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main idea of the text?
 - a to give facts about why train travel is fun
 - b to describe how steam trains burn coal
 - c to explain how steam trains work and were used
 - d to tell others where to ride steam trains

- 2 Which two sentences best support the main idea?
 - a Today most steam trains are for tourists.
 - b The first trains were pulled along by steam engines.
 - c In the 1800s steam trains were a quick and easy way to travel.
 - d The steam makes the wheels turn.

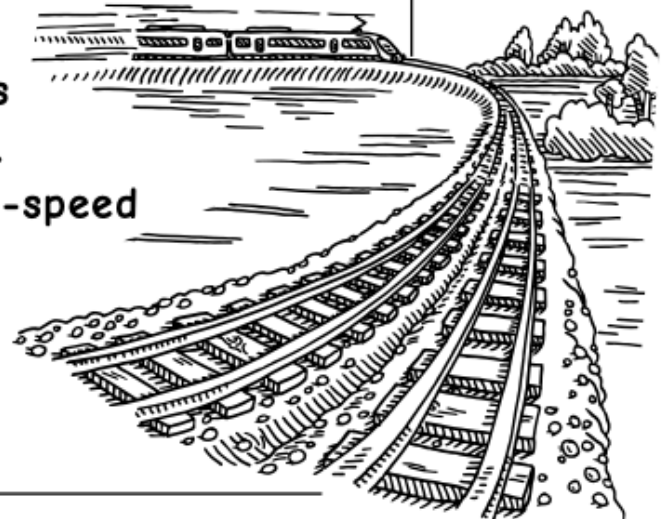
Read the passage.

New Trains

Today, most trains have diesel or electric engines.

The new engines are quieter and cleaner than coal-powered steam engines. Diesel trains are often used in country areas. Many electric trains run in cities.

Some electric trains can travel very fast. They are called high-speed trains. The bullet trains in Japan can travel three times faster than a car.



Colour
how modern trains are powered

Box
where new trains are used

Underline
features of new trains

3 Fill in the missing words.

This text is about different types of _____.

4 Give two details that support the main idea.

a Most trains

b New train engines

