Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806–) was a great British engineer of the 19th century. His designs were innovative and they changed and modern engineering. During his short career, he designed twenty-five railway lines, eight dockyards for ships and ships.

His famous railway line, the Great Western Railway, travels from London to. He studied the route for many months because he didn’t want many hills or curves. He also wanted the journey to be so he made the trains wider than normal. The trains on this line travelled at 100 kilometres an hour and not the usual 55 kilometres an hour.

Brunel’s dream was for passengers to buy one ticket to travel from London to. He built a steam boat, the Great Western to travel from Bristol to New York. The journey took 15 days.

1. did / when / die / Brunel?
2. his / what / change / did / designs?
3. build / how / he / ships / did / many?
4. to / Great Western Railway / where / travel / the / did?
5. he / what / did / train journey / the / to be / want?
6. with one ticket / want / where / to / travel to / did / Brunel / passengers?

Work in pairs. Take it in turn to ask your questions and complete the text.

Discuss with your partner what you remember about Brunel. Don’t look at your texts.
1 Read the text about Brunel. Then put the words in order to make questions about the missing sections in the text.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806–1859) was a great British 1 ______________ of the 19th century. His designs were innovative and they changed public transport and modern engineering. During his short career, he designed 2 ______________ railway lines, eight dockyards for ships and three ships.

His famous railway line, the 3 ______________, travels from London to Bristol. He studied the route for many months because 4 ______________. He also wanted the journey to be comfortable and fast so he made the trains wider than normal. The trains on this line travelled at 5 ______________ and not the usual 55 kilometres an hour.

Brunel’s dream was for passengers to buy one ticket to travel from London to New York. He built a steam boat, the Great Western to travel from Bristol to New York. The journey took 6 ______________.

1 Brunel’s / what / job / was?  
__________________________________________________________?

2 design / did / how many / he / railway lines?  
__________________________________________________________?

3 was / what / called / his / railway line?  
__________________________________________________________?

4 the route / did / why / he / for many months / study?  
__________________________________________________________?

5 fast / travel / did / how / the trains?  
__________________________________________________________?

6 to New York / take / how long / from Bristol / did / the journey?  
__________________________________________________________?

2 Work in pairs. Take it in turn to ask your questions and complete the text.

3 Discuss with your partner what you remember about Brunel. Don’t look at your texts.