

English Reading Comprehension Practice

Years 4-6 | KS2

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Passage 1: The Iron Bridge

Read the passage below carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

The Iron Bridge at Coalbrookdale, Shropshire, was the first bridge in the world to be made entirely of cast iron. It was built in 1779 by Abraham Darby III and spans the River Severn. The bridge measures 30 metres across and weighs over 378 tonnes.

At the time it was built, many people thought it was impossible to create such a structure from iron. However, Darby proved them wrong. The bridge became a symbol of the Industrial Revolution and attracted visitors from all over Europe who came to marvel at this extraordinary feat of engineering.

Today, the Iron Bridge is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and remains one of the most important monuments of the Industrial Revolution. Although vehicles can no longer cross it, pedestrians still walk across it daily.

Questions:

1. In which county is the Iron Bridge located? (1 mark)
2. What river does the bridge span? (1 mark)
3. Find and copy a word that means "achievement". (1 mark)
4. Why do you think people thought the bridge was "impossible"? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks)
5. Explain why the author describes the bridge as "a symbol of the Industrial Revolution". (3 marks)

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