



Of all the technological advances of the 19th century, few capture the imagination quite like the railway locomotive. Steam-powered, they heralded a new era in transportation, allowing people to travel further and to places previously hard to reach by other means, and goods to be carried in greater amounts - the magical world of trains had arrived. In the program we cover train travel and train-spotting, great trains of the world, and the future of locomotion; we delve into great train journeys, famous and infamous trains, and examine the influence trains have on our popular culture. We learn that the use of rail in the U.S. during the 1830's expanded from 75 miles of track to 2,800 miles in just ten years; also by 1880 it was producing more than a thousand locomotives a year. Also the rest of the world was beginning to benefit from the advantages of a rail link-up with neighboring nations; one example being Russia's Trans-Siberian Railway. From history we move to the romance of the railroad as movies, such as *The Great Train Robbery*, *Strangers on a Train*, and *North by Northwest*, immortalized trains. Today, train travel is one of the most widely used and most affordable modes of transport. Trains, such as Japan's Bullet Train, which has moved from diesel engines to electric power, are getting faster and more efficient. Lastly, even as modern rail travel is getting faster, we discover there are still relics of the old steam engines in use around the world much to the delight of train enthusiasts and those who want to relive their romantic past.

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THE MAGICAL WORLD OF TRAINS

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