



# Year 3 and 4 Knowledge Organiser - Bennerley Viaduct

## Key vocab

Constructed	Made
Private railway company	Railway company owned by an individual
Influential	Control or power over something or someone
Councillors	A member of the council - responsible for making decisions in an area
Goods	things to be transported - merchandise or possessions
Act of Parliament	A law made by parliament
Significant	Important
Engineering challenge	A challenge or difficulty with designing and constructing something
Bespoke	Made for a specific use - possibly unique

Bennerley Viaduct is a grade 2\* listed railway viaduct built in 1877 by the Great Northern Railway Company. At over quarter of a mile long, it is the longest wrought iron viaduct in the country. It straddles the River Erewash connecting Ilkeston in Derbyshire with Awsworth in Nottinghamshire. The "Iron Giant" has been described by the World Monuments Fund as being an "extraordinary monument".



## Sticky Knowledge

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viaduct was constructed to carry the Great Northern Railway Company's Derbyshire and Staffordshire extension "the Friargate Line" across the Erewash Valley.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Act of Parliament was passed in 1872 which gave The Great Northern Railway Company permission to build the Derbyshire and Staffordshire extension which is also known as the Friargate Line.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A combination of reasons led to the creation of the new railway line.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The construction of the line provided a significant engineering challenge as the easy, geographical routes had already been taken.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the mid 1800s, the rail network was owned by private railway companies. The Midland Railway was the main company in the region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The biggest obstacle was crossing of the Erewash Valley between Awsworth and Ilkeston, an area with many mine workings.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The influential private coal owners in the Erewash Valley were keen to break the Midland Railway control as they controlled transport costs which raised the price of coal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The iconic Bennerley Viaduct was constructed in an 18-month period in 1877 and 1878 as a bespoke engineering solution to overcome this engineering challenge.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Midland Railway was based in Derby but businesses and councillors in the city thought that the Midland Railway were holding back the development of Derby. The Midland controlled the prices of goods coming in and out of the city.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engineers, constructors, navvies and fabricators. Navvies had a dangerous job in the construction of the railway network.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Businesses and councils lobbied Parliament for the city to be served by an additional railway company. The City of Derby were so desperate to break the monopoly of the Midland Railway that they let the Great Northern Railway build its line right through the heart of the city at Friargate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Probably the most eventful moment in the history of the viaduct was the first world war Zeppelin bombing.</li> </ul>

## Images of the viaduct and the landscape around Bennerley Viaduct

