

# Tunnels



Have you ever been through a tunnel? What kind of tunnel was it and what was it like?

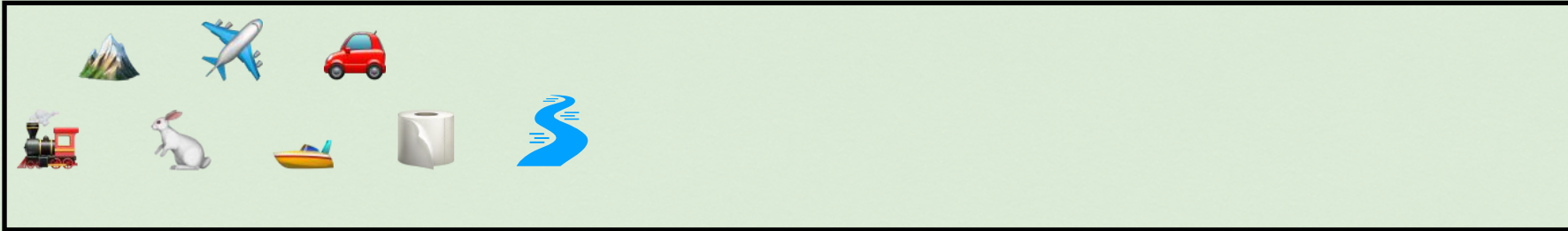


Choose some of these words to describe your experience.

noisy      fun  
dark      loud  
exciting      scary  
mysterious      long  
gloomy      narrow  
enormous  
low



Tunnels are very important. Can you think of why we might need tunnels? Circle the pictures that show why we might need tunnels and add any more that you might know.



**Why do you think animals tunnel underground?**





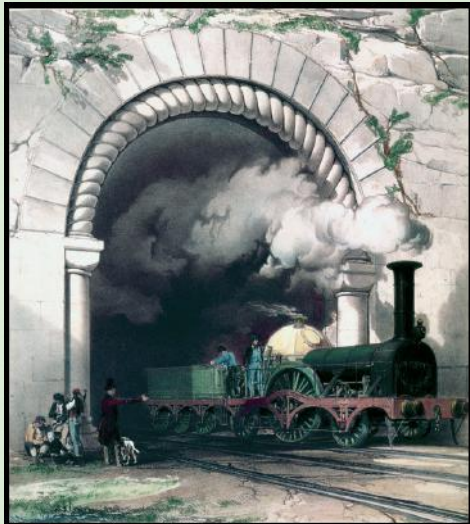
## Making Tunnels Safe

Have you ever made a tunnel? Perhaps in a sand pit or at the beach? Was it easy to make?



Tell your partner how you would make a strong tunnel.

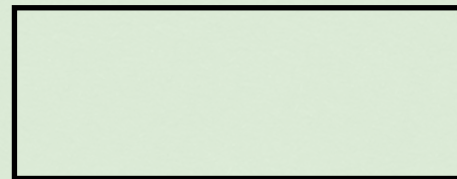
## Victorian Railway Tunnels



Building train tracks takes a long time and they are expensive. Building tracks in a straight line is the quickest and cheapest way to get from one place to another. So when the Victorians first built the railways they had to build tunnels to travel under rivers, through mountains or under towns and buildings.

Digging tunnels was a dangerous job. Some tunnels had to be built through very soft soil and some through very hard rock. Can you guess what the Victorians might have used to blast a hole in very hard rock?

Great Western Railway train emerging from a tunnel, 1840-1845.



## Victorian Tunnel Building

Join the sentences to the pictures to show how a tunnel was built



1. Men dug a hole in the soil or blasted a hole through hard rock using dynamite.

2. Wooden beams or arches are put in to stop the ceiling and walls from collapsing.

3. Bricks are laid over the wooden supports to make the tunnel section safer.

