

# STEAMTOWN NHS EDUCATION PROGRAM

## I've Been Working on the Railroad! (K-2)

### Standards met:

**1.2. Reading, Analyzing and Interpreting Text** - 1.2.PK.D Use illustration clues and story sequence to infer and predict what happens next in a story.

**1.5. Quality of Writing** - 1.5.PK.B Generate ideas for a picture, story, or shared writing.

**1.6 Speaking and Listening** - 1.6.PK.A Listen attentively and respond in conversation.

### Pre-visit Activity

**1. Any time before your field trip to Steamtown.**

Read the book "Trains on the Track" to your students. (Included in a pre-visit package sent to you when a field trip is scheduled.) It should give them a good introduction to trains in general – what they look like, how they work, etc.

**2. A few days before your field trip to Steamtown.**

Following the procedure below, read the book "Railroad People" or "Railroad Worker", (one of these books will be in your pre-visit packet) which gives insight into the work people do to keep trains running. Either book should be partnered with the laminated 'people cards' included in this packet. (The cards show images of actual statues on display in the Steamtown History Museum.)

### **Procedure:**

As you read the book "Railroad People/Worker" to your students, take time to reinforce the many jobs it describes.

After you've read the book, call out each job title on the back of the 'people cards' and hand a copy of that card to the first 1 or 2 students who can name one of the responsibilities that go with that job. Then move onto the next 'people card' and repeat until every student has one card. (There are two identical 'people cards' in each set for a total of 26. *Note: if you have more than 26 students, there are two additional "Master Mechanics" cards at the end of the pack. If you use them, you can emphasize how many mechanics it took to maintain the steam trains.*) Ask students to take the cards home and tell their parents what job their 'person' represents. Ask them to talk with their parents about what it would be like to do that job. Explain that it took all these people to keep the trains running!

Ask them to bring the cards back to school the next day because they will need to bring them along on the Field Trip. Let them know that they'll need to remember these jobs when they visit Steamtown.

**\*\*\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING ALL PRE-VISIT MATERIALS WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF YOUR FIELD TRIP.**

## **Onsite Activities**

**Group I – train ride or self-guided museum tour**

**Group II – Ranger-led activities as follows.**

### **Introduction in STEA classroom**

1. Consider the importance of trains - spreading population, carrying goods
2. Learn about types of trains - use classroom murals to show passenger and freight
3. It took many people to keep trains running – do they have their ‘people’? (brought with them from classroom exercise)

### **Move to ‘people’ section of History Museum**

1. See if the students can match items in the ranger’s backpack with the appropriate statue and tell how the item was used as part of that person’s job.
2. Walk through the simulated train station and ask them to close their eyes and listen. Lead a discussion about the sounds they hear. Might their grandparents or great-grandparents have heard these sounds? What did train travel mean to them? To us?
3. Explain the PPO and business cars and ask “What would it be like to work/ride in this car?”

### **Move to caboose**

Talk about life in a caboose and its function – ask them to identify things they see in the photos that made the caboose feel like home.

### **Move into roundhouse**

1. Explain the function of the roundhouse
2. Explain how the engines work (simple – fuel, manpower)
3. As you walk through, ask them what it would be like to work there.  
(Sounds, smells, motion) (Use smell pots)

**Group I – Ranger-led activities above**

**Group II – train ride or self-guided museum tour**

## **Conclusion**

**Both Groups gather back in classroom for a Railroad Safety Movie.**

**Post-visit Activity** - Have students draw a picture of something they learned about at Steamtown, or draw a picture of themselves doing a railroad job of their choice. Please send these pictures to Steamtown in the postpaid envelope provided. They will be used to evaluate and improve this program. Thank you!