



FUTURE MAIL

TEACHERS' NOTES

Background information

Clever engineering earned Mail Rail the nickname **Robot Railway**, the first of its kind anywhere in the world.

Mail Rail ran under London for over 75 years, carrying 4 million letters a day at its peak. However, over time the needs of the country changed. Mail Rail closed in 2003 because it had become cheaper to move mail by road.

Over the years the Post Office has experimented with lots of different ways to move the mail from rockets to rail planes.

How will mail be moved in the future?

Who is it for?

7 - 11 year olds

How long will it take?

1 - 2 hours (depending on Extension activities)

Learning outcomes

Students will consider the challenges of moving mail in the future. Working in teams, students will research the forms of transport already in use around the world and use what they have learnt to design a new delivery system for the future. Students will build a simple prototype out of paper and share their invention with their class.

What to do

Download the Classroom PowerPoint and print STUDENT CHALLENGE CARDS.

Read through the PowerPoint and Mail Rail Fact File to familiarise yourself with the content.

To set the scene use the classroom PowerPoint to explain that Mail Rail closed in 2003. It had become too expensive to run and it was quicker to move mail by road.

Explain that the Post Office has experimented with lots of transport methods over the years. Use the classroom PowerPoint to show examples.



Divide the students into small groups. Explain that the year is 2050. They must design a new delivery system for the future.

Use the classroom PowerPoint to set the brief.

Give each group paper and pens and ask them to discuss ideas. Encourage groups to be ambitious, original and to think big!

Give students about 15 minutes to develop initial ideas.

Ask each group to choose one idea. They must make a simple paper prototype of their transport method and could prepare a PowerPoint presentation to pitch their idea to the class.

Groups take it in turns to present their ideas.

Extension activities

This is an accredited CREST SuperStar Challenge.

The Challenge can be used towards a CREST SuperStar Award.

Visit postalmuseum.org/learning to claim The Postal Museum CREST SuperStar stickers for their passports.