

Clifton Suspension Bridge

- Designed by Brunel, work began on the bridge in 1831.
- Cold winters, riots and a lack of money meant that, by 1853, all work on the bridge had stopped.
- Following Brunel's death in 1859, engineers John Hawkshaw and William Henry Barlow finished the bridge in his memory. They improved Brunel's design, even engineering a new deck for the bridge.
- When the bridge opened in December 1864, thousands of people came to Bristol to celebrate.



Clifton Suspension Bridge



Temple Meads Station

- The original station, designed by Brunel, included an engine shed, ticket office and passenger hall.
- The first train from London to Bristol on Brunel's Great Western Railway arrived in 1841.
- The current main entrance to the station was added in 1870, and the Brunel-designed buildings closed in 1965.



Bristol Temple Meads



Did you know?

The bridge is 214 metres long – the same length as 18 buses.

Each tower holding up the bridge weighs 4,000 tonnes – as heavy as 572 elephants!

Underfall Yard

- In its early days, Bristol's Floating Harbour kept filling up with mud, making it difficult for ships to use.
- In the 1830s, Brunel helped Bristol to manage its mud. He made improvements to the "Underfalls", the tunnels that open to let water and mud out of the harbour.
- Brunel also suggested using dredgers, a special boat for dealing with mud.
- The "Underfalls" have been changed several times over the years.



Did you know?

Before Brunel's improvements, parts of the harbour had to be emptied for the mud to be dug out by hand.

The "Underfalls" are still used every single day and help prevent flooding in Bristol.

SS Great Britain

- Designed by Brunel, the SS Great Britain was built in the Great Western Dockyard using over 60,000 metal rivets.
- Launched on 19 July 1843, she was the world's first screw-propelled, oceangoing, iron-hulled steam ship.
- She sailed around the world 32 times, travelling more than 1,000,000 miles at sea.
- In 1970 she returned to Bristol, passing under the Clifton Suspension Bridge for the first and only time.



Did you know?

There was a firework display at Bristol Zoo to celebrate the ship's launch.

Due to her size, the entrance to Bristol Harbour had to be widened to let her out!

SS Great Western

- The first ship designed by Brunel, the SS Great Western, was a wooden-hulled paddle steamer.
- She was built at William Patterson's shipbuilding yard which is now the site of M Shed and Wapping Wharf.
- She made her first crossing between Bristol and New York in 1838, taking 15 days.

