The Nine Lives of Isambard Kingdom Brunel

Rules: Four to six players. Throw a six to start. Follow the railway line through Brunel's life. Count and land on the red arrows. Go back three spaces if you land on a problem circle. Find out how Brunel resolves his problems by picking up a card and reading it out aloud. Then carry on with the game.

1. Brunel's mum and dad thrown into debtors' jail.
2. During work on the Thames Tunnel an explosion nearly kills Brunel.
3. Telford says Brunel's plans for Bristol's suspension bridge won't work.
4. Brunel wants to build a railway from London to Bristol but there are many people who object.
5. Brunel likes to ride horses but he keeps falling off!
6. Brunel's SS Great Britain won't fit through the lock.
7. A worker dies on the day of the launch of Brunel's third ship, the SS Great Eastern.
8. Rats chew holes in the leather seals used in his atmospheric railway.
9. Brunel dies but leaves many fantastic achievements for future generations.

Brunel is born in 1806
1. The Duke of Wellington gets £5,000 from the Government to free Brunel's parents from prison, but they have to promise to work in England.

2. Brunel is very unwell but goes to Clifton in Bristol to relax and get better.

3. Brunel sends another design to the Bridge Building Committee judges and makes them believe his design is best.

4. Isambard Kingdom Brunel takes his Great Western Railway plans to Parliament. He does a lot of talking to explain why his railway idea is good for the country - he is very persuasive.

5. Brunel doesn't give up and carries on riding horses!

6. Brunel asks again for the lock walls to be widened and finally the ship floats out into the river Avon.

7. Even though a worker died, Brunel keeps trying to float the great ship. He borrows and buys equipment and even uses rams. Months later she floats.

8. Brunel admits his idea doesn't work properly and the atmospheric railway is scrapped.

9. People still use Brunel's bridges and railways around the world. So Brunel made communication and travel much easier for people even after his death.
These are the characters you can use to go around the "Nine Lives" game and the "Ropes and Rigging" game.

You can colour them in yourself or you can make up new characters and draw them in the blank spaces.