

BRUNEL'S
SS GREAT

BRITAIN

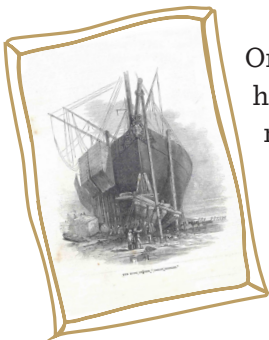
**A BIT ABOUT
BRUNEL'S
SS GREAT BRITAIN**



At 98 metres, the SS Great Britain was the longest passenger ship in the world from 1843 to 1854. She was also the first screw-propelled, ocean-going, iron hulled steam ship.

The SS Great Britain was launched on the 19 July 1843, it had taken four years and more than 60,000 rivets to build her. She remained in Bristol Harbour until December 1844 while her cabins and engine were finished. Due to her size the entrance to Bristol docks had to be widened to let her out!

The ship's first transatlantic voyage was from Liverpool to New York; leaving on 26 July 1845, she arrived on 10 August. With the most powerful steam engine available at the time, she achieved an average speed of 9.4 knots. This is about 10.8 miles per hour.



On 22 September 1846, during her fifth transatlantic voyage, she ran aground in Dundrum Bay, on the coast of Northern Ireland and was not re-floated until August 1847.



In 1850 the SS Great Britain was sold to become a passenger liner, travelling to Australia from Liverpool. She carried thousands of passengers, many of whom hoped to start a new life in Australia.

During the Crimean War (1855-6) and the Indian Rebellion of 1857, the SS Great Britain served as a troop ship for the British Army.

In 1882 the SS Great Britain was sold again, this time to become a sail only ship carrying cargo to and from California, USA.



Whilst on a voyage to Panama, severe weather conditions badly damaged the SS Great Britain. Repairs would have been very costly, so she was turned into a floating warehouse in Port Stanley, Falkland Islands. She was finally abandoned and left to rust in Sparrow Cove, a small isolated area in the Falklands.

She remained abandoned in the Falkland Islands until 1970, when the ship was salvaged and towed triumphantly back to Bristol.

The SS Great Britain sailed around the world 32 times, that is more than 1,000,000 miles at sea!