



2020

How Trains Work

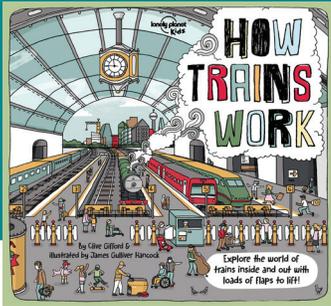
Jennifer Haltli

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Haltli, Jennifer (2020) "How Trains Work," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 41: Iss. 11, Article 11.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol41/iss11/11>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Book Review

How Trains Work

Author

Clive Gifford

Illustrator

James Gulliver Hancock

Reviewer

Jennifer Haltli

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary, Intermediate

Pages

24

Year

2019

ISBN

9781788683289

Publisher

Lonely Planet
Global Limited

It all began with two wooden rails and a horse-drawn mine cart—these would ignite a technology that utterly transformed mankind. On, above, and below the ground, trains connect to tracks in various ways and are powered by wood, diesel, and electricity. The purposes of trains are highly varied. Some take passengers between cities or across continents. One train in England even carries passengers only 128 feet from a cliff top to the beach. When trains are combined with other mediums of travel, like ferry boats, bridges, and undersea tunnels, train limits disappear. Also, the ever-changing train station is the stuff of architects' dreams, where famed domed roofs combine with shopping malls and restaurants, music venues and theatres, apartment buildings and hotels. Train prospects remain bright, even as other travel technologies advance.

Readers of this unique book will unfold its sturdy pages and lift its flaps to kinesthetically and spatially experience the visual evolution of the train and its associated technologies. Its intuitive layout, with numerous captions and a wealth of technical and historical information contained in its hidden pages, is a treasure for amateur historians, architects, geographers, and engineers alike. Third graders to adults will revel in the breadth of information it offers. Presenting so much more than a technological snapshot, this book brings in city planning, land features, and tourism as major topics. Furthermore, the illustrations' hand-drawn quality creates a friendliness that will draw readers unwittingly into information that is actually quite complex. Readers will be so engrossed that not even a steam-belching locomotive would be able to pry them away from their reading, though the French-invented hover train just might.