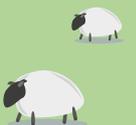
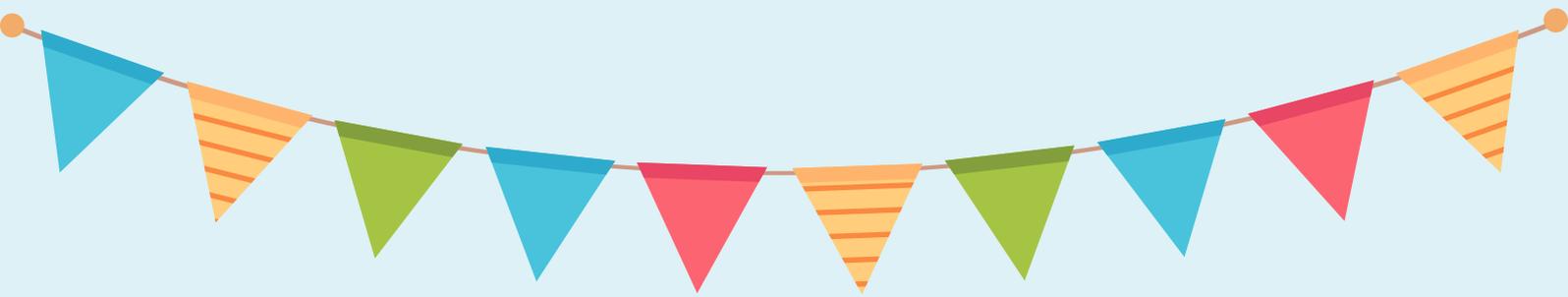


# DISCOVERING RIBBLEHEAD

FAMILY  
ACTIVITY PACK



SHADOW PUPPETS, COLOURING, AND  
COMIC STRIPS FOR YOUNG HISTORY HUNTERS



# 150

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS  
SINCE THE BUILDING OF  
THE RIBBLEHEAD VIADUCT



# Hello History Hunters!



## Welcome to the Ribbleshead 150 Activity Book!

We are here to celebrate 150 years since over 2,300 brave men, or navvies as they were called, started building the Ribbleshead Viaduct - a Victorian construction and one of the most iconic landmarks in the Yorkshire Dales, forming part of the world's most iconic train lines - The Settle-Carlisle Railway.

Inside this book you will find things to draw, create, imagine, colour - and you might even learn a couple of things along the way.

**If your interest has been piqued, then you can find more exciting content about the viaduct here:**

[www.settlestories.org.uk/community/ribbleshead-150](http://www.settlestories.org.uk/community/ribbleshead-150)

# What is a Navy?



Navvies were men who worked on building roads, railways and canals.

Navvies working on the Ribblehead Viaduct lived in **Shanty Towns** - makeshift temporary villages built near the construction site of the viaduct.

**Be guided around a shanty town by a navy's wife in the interactive online fiction here:**

[www.settlestories.org.uk/community/ribblehead-150/shanty-life/](http://www.settlestories.org.uk/community/ribblehead-150/shanty-life/)

**You can also find out loads more facts about the Ribblehead Viaduct and how it was built with 1960s teacher Mrs Thewlitt in Class 4T here:**

[www.settlestories.org.uk/community/ribblehead-150/class-4t-with-mrs-thewlitt/](http://www.settlestories.org.uk/community/ribblehead-150/class-4t-with-mrs-thewlitt/)



# Life as a Navy was dangerous

Life wasn't easy working as a navy. The men were prone to many dangers. The key dangers were construction accidents, fighting amongst the men and outbreaks of Smallpox.

## Here are some shocking stories from back in the day:

- Peter Miles, aged 30, had a drink at the nearby pub. When walking home at night he felt sleepy so took a nap on the tram tracks. A couple hours later a tram took his head right off!
- A hospital for Smallpox patients was made with coffins kept in the back. The hospital staff were shocked to find a body in a coffin one morning. The body then woke up! It was navy who had found it a comfortable place to sleep after a long night of drinking.
- George McConnell, 86, took a lift on the tramway and ignored advice to sit in the bottom of the wagon. When the tram jolted he got caught between two buffers and later died.
- It was said that the winds were so strong in the valley that one labourer, standing on the viaduct, lost his hat to one particularly strong gust, until it was blown down through an archway and then back up onto his head!



# Create a Shadow Play



**Why don't you make a shadow play with these silhouettes? Here is how to get started:**

1. Trace the outline of these figures onto a piece of paper and cut out the silhouette - ask an adult for help with scissors.
2. Find some small sticks and tape them to the cut-out silhouette.
3. Use a dark room and the light from a lamp or a torch to cast shadows of the figures onto a blank wall.
4. Think up a story with these three figures involved and play it out in the shadows.

Need a different character or a prop? You can always design your own shadow puppet.



## ACTIVITY TIP

**Come up with a story:**

- What does your Navy character want?
- Who or what is trying to stop them from getting what they want?
- How does your character get what they want?

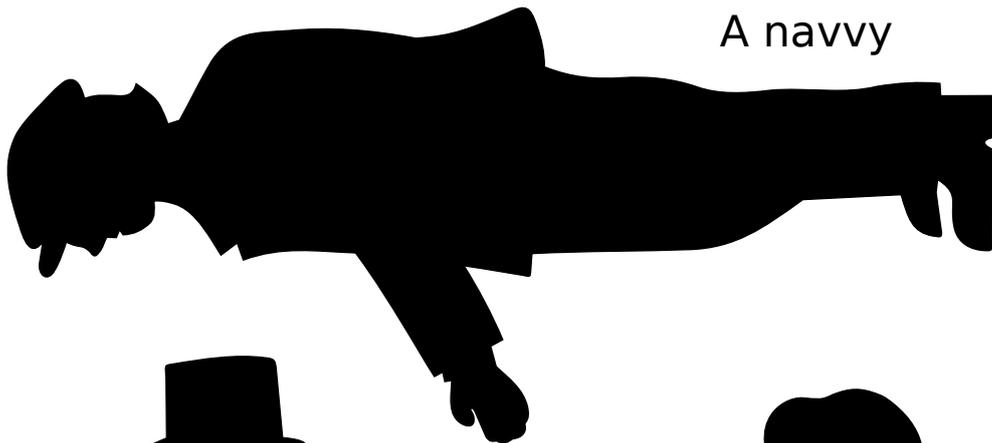
**Are you stuck on your plot?**

- What could happen next? What could my Navy character do? How do they respond to a surprise?

**Want some inspiration? Why not head to this site to find a shadow film about the Ribblehead Viaduct by Lois Conlan:**

[www.settlestories.org.uk/community/ribblehead-150/building-the-ribblehead-viaduct-a-shadow-play/](http://www.settlestories.org.uk/community/ribblehead-150/building-the-ribblehead-viaduct-a-shadow-play/)

Here we have the silhouette of a navy, his wife and **John Sydney Crossley** - the man in charge of making sure the viaduct was built in time and on budget



A navy

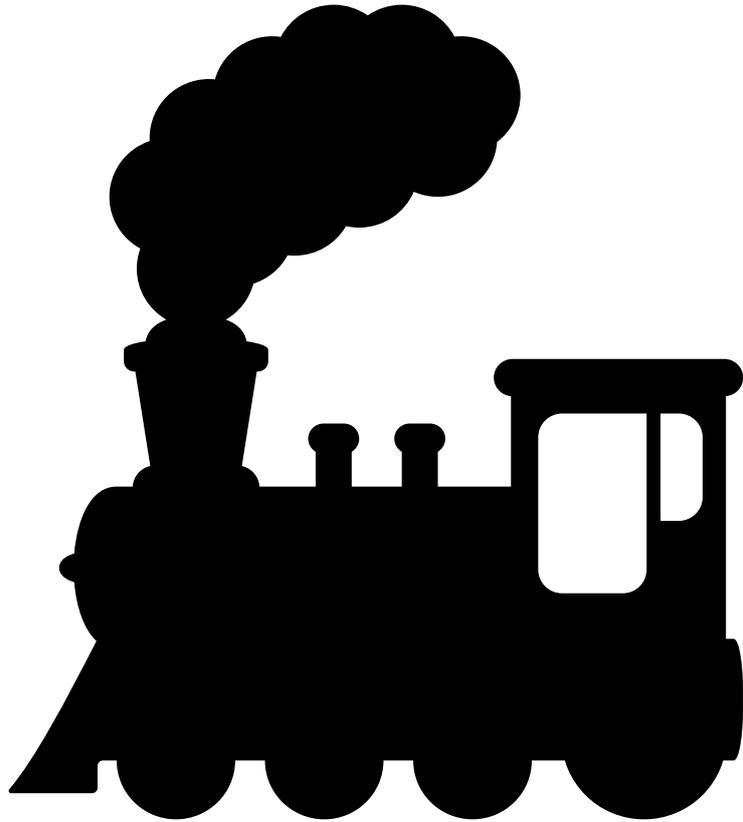


John Sydney Crossley



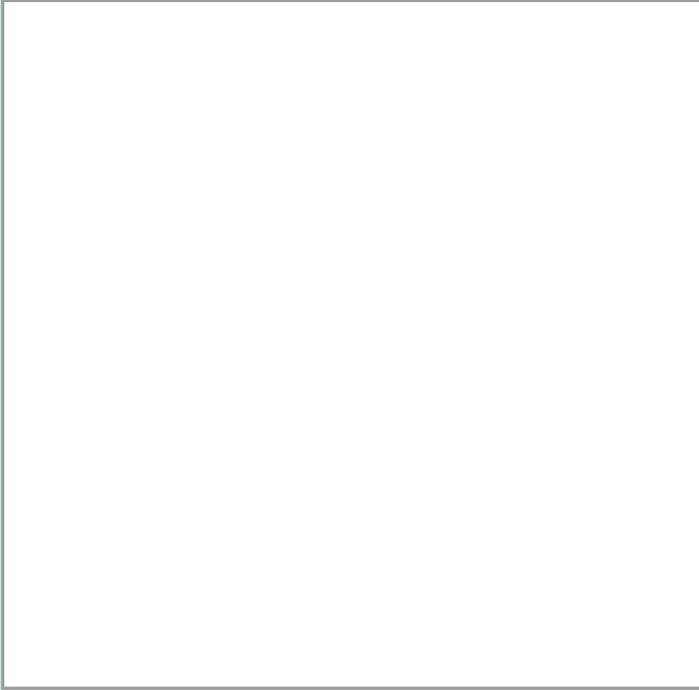
A shanty town female

Credit: Lois Conlan





**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_



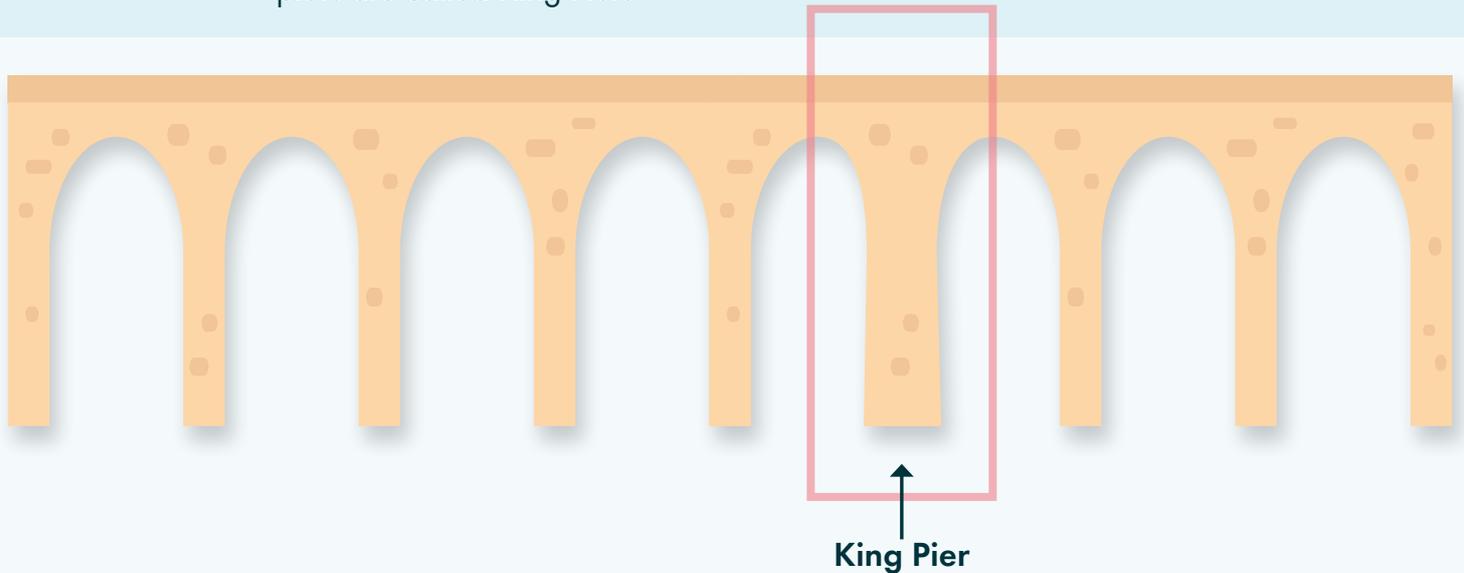


**Don't forget to sign your work:**

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# Are you as strong as a Viaduct?

The Viaduct is a beautiful structure that crosses the Batty Moss bog. It has 24 arches and every 6th pier is twice as big as the other ones. This makes the structure more stable. These extra big piers are called King Piers.



## Test out how a wider base makes a structure more stable:

- Stand with your legs together
- Get a friend, sibling or guardian to gently push you
- Now stand with your legs wide apart
- Ask your friend, sibling or guardian to push you again

Notice how having your feet further apart improves your balance and stability, which is why the posture is often used in martial arts. Similarly, the wide base of the king pier increases its stability.



Colour in this scene of the Ribbleshead Viaduct...

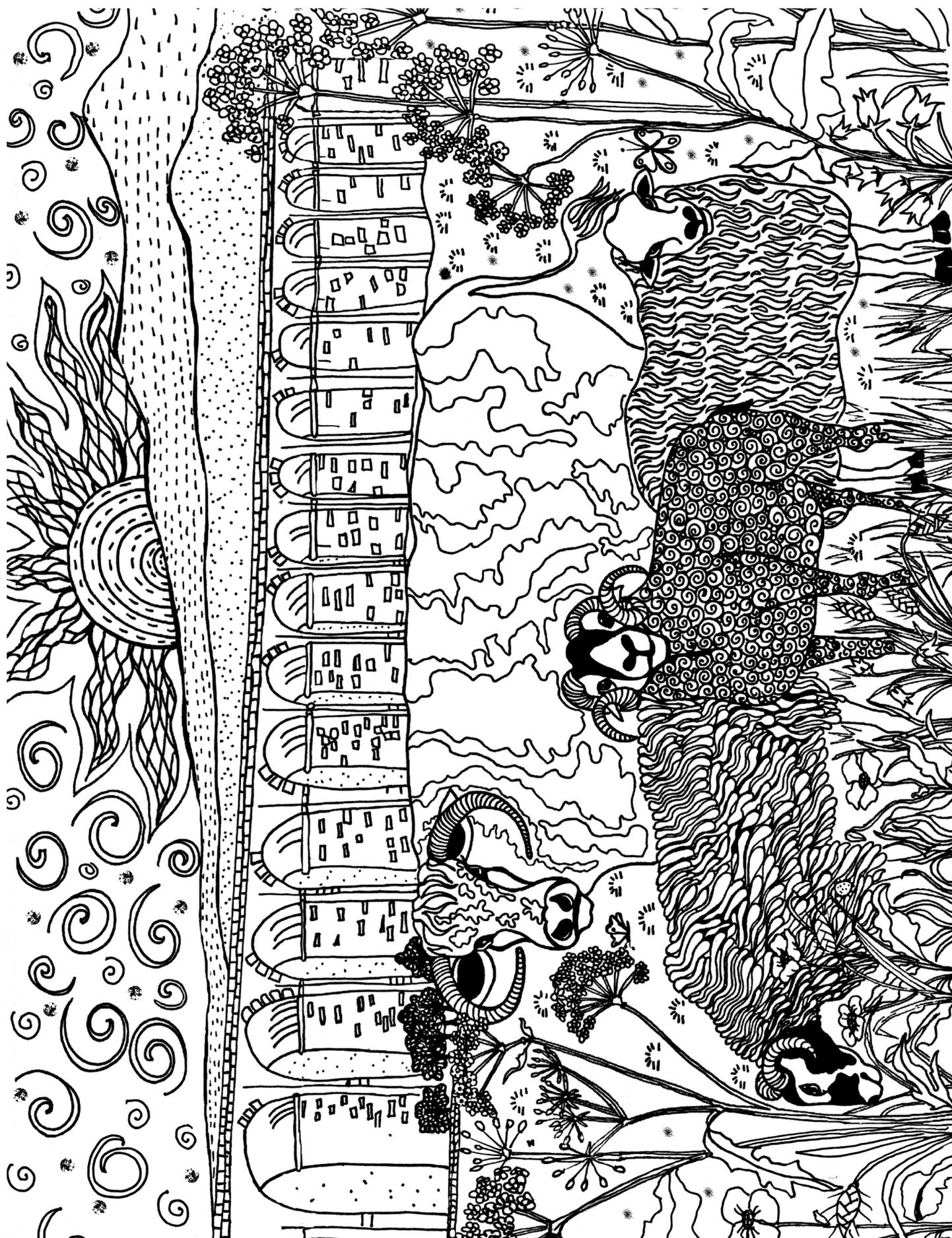
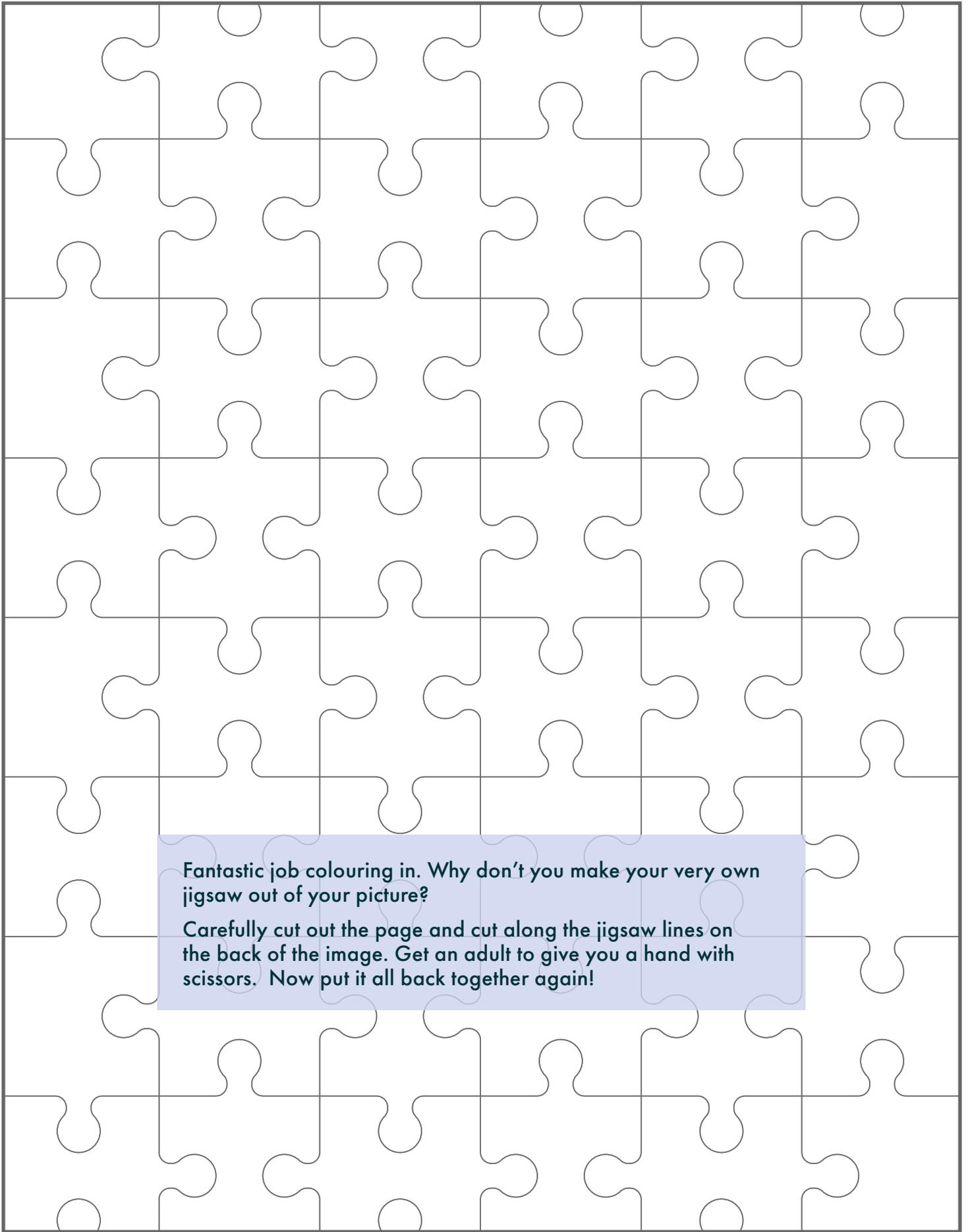


Image drawn by Tash Goswami



Fantastic job colouring in. Why don't you make your very own jigsaw out of your picture?

Carefully cut out the page and cut along the jigsaw lines on the back of the image. Get an adult to give you a hand with scissors. Now put it all back together again!

# What have you learnt?



Can you answer all these questions?

1. What is the name for the makeshift villages that the Navvies lived in?  

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2. About how many Navvies worked on the Viaduct?  

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3. What is the name of the extra big piers on the Viaduct which were built for stability?  

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## Virtually visit the Ribblehead Viaduct

Experience this iconic landmark through 360° panoramas. Check out the first Google Tour in the Yorkshire Dales by Settle Stories made possible thanks to funding from Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company. Visit:

[www.settlestories.org.uk/whats\\_on/google-tour-ribblehead-viaduct](http://www.settlestories.org.uk/whats_on/google-tour-ribblehead-viaduct)

Answers: 1) Shanty Towns 2) 2,300 3) King Piers

# RIBBLEHEAD 150

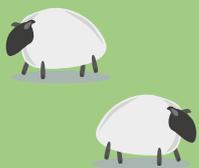
The Ribblehead Viaduct was a great feat of Victorian Engineering.

The Viaduct is part of the Settle-Carlisle Railway - the last major railway in England to be built with manual "Navy" Labour.

To celebrate 150 years since work commenced on this fantastic structure, Settle Stories has collaborated with exceptional artists so that the whole family can get interested in this rich history.

**Find out everything we have been up to here:**

[www.settlestories.org.uk/community/ribblehead-150/](http://www.settlestories.org.uk/community/ribblehead-150/)



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