

24th March



Memory verse for the week:

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude,
and as the voice of many waters,
and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying,
Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Revelation 19:6

Read and practice your memory verse together.

Something to read

In 1896 towards the end of March the Snowdon Mountain Railway was nearly finished. The railway runs from the village of Llanberis to the top of Snowdon. The track was five miles long and the gauge was a narrow one: 2ft 7½ ins. It was modelled on the mountain railways of Switzerland and even the locomotives were built in Switzerland.

The first run on the railway after its official opening ended in a disaster. The locomotive ran off the rails and crashed down a gully, where it smashed itself to pieces. However the carriages remained on the track.

The Swiss engineer responsible for the design of the track said it must have been badly laid and that it was really quite safe. When iron guard rails had been added to the rack up which the locomotives moved, the railway went into operation again and there has been no further trouble. It has the steepest British railway gradient: 1 in 5½.

Things to Find Out

You can see the rack in the picture above. Can you find some other pictures of the Snowdon Mountain Railway?

What do we mean by gradient of 1 in 5½?

What do we mean when we speak of the gauge of a railway?

To Do

Here is a good chance to get out your brio trains or Lego trains or any similar toys. Try making gradients – slopes – for your trains to run downhill. If you lay a flat track and put your train on it the train will not move – unless you push it. From the top of a slope the train will run down. What do we call the force that pulls the train down the gradient? If you don't have any toy trains any wheeled toy can roll down a gradient. If you use Lego bricks you might even be able to make an exact gradient of say 1 in 6. Is this steeper or less steep than the Snowdon Mountain Railway?

Things to Find Out

If you put your brio train at the top of a slope it will run down even without a motor to push it. This is because of a force called gravity. Gravity is a Law of Physics. The scientist who first discovered and described it was Sir Isaac Newton. Newton, like many of the founders of modern science was a man who believed the Bible was true. He wrote, "I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily."

Something to Think and Talk About

Older children might like to consider what such a thing as a Law of Physics can be. How could it come to exist? The Laws of England are made by Parliament. Who made the Laws of Physics?

More Things to Find Out

Other things that happened on 24th March

On 24th March 1603 Queen Elizabeth the I died. Can you find out some things about her? Who became King after her? Her nickname was "Good _____".

On 24th March 1199 King Richard I of England was fatally wounded in battle. Do you know his nickname?