

The London Underground

6 The London Underground is the world's
12 largest and oldest underground rail network.
21 It is often called the tube because the tunnels
30 are shaped like tubes. It was designed to help
35 reduce congestion on the streets.

44 The first line opened in 1863 and ran from
49 Paddington to Farringdon. Other lines
56 were soon added, including the Circle line,
63 Northern line and Central line. The first
71 carriages were made of wood, lit by gas
80 and pulled along by a steam train. The first
85 electrical-powered lines opened in 1890.

93 The trains today are made of metal. There
100 are 272 stations, 11 different lines and
108 approximately 250 miles of track. A lot of
115 this rail network is actually above ground
122 and known as the London Overground. There
126 are six overground routes.

Questions



1. Why is the London Underground often called the tube?



2. Can you think of another way of saying **congestion**?



3. Why do you think the carriages were changed from wood to metal?



4. Number the events from 1-3 to show the order in which they happened.

- ☐ Other lines were added.
- ☐ The first line opened in 1863.
- ☐ The first electrical powered lines opened.

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Answers



1. Why is the London Underground often called the tube?

The London Underground is often called the Tube because the tunnels are shaped like tubes.



2. Can you think of another way of saying **congestion**?

overcrowding



3. Why do you think the carriages were changed from wood to metal?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the carriages were changed from wood to metal because metal is a safer material to use and it lasts longer.



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1 The first line opened in 1863.

3 The first electrical powered lines opened.