

Car, Carriage or Caboose?

Passengers and mail were transported throughout Western Australia. People could travel overnight in a sleeping compartment, or by day, seated in a first or second-class carriage. Find out how things have changed since the early days of rail travel in WA.

Use the clues, listen to your guide, and read the signs to answer the following questions.



1. Fa 66 was one of twelve bogie brakevans owned by the Midland Railway Company.

What was it used for? _____



2. AQL 288 began its life as a first class sleeping car. Later it was changed into a buffet car.

What would you do in a sleeping car? _____

What would you do in a buffet car? _____



3. What was built here? _____



4. AV425 was the dining car used on Perth to Kalgoorlie trains.

How did the kitchen staff cook the meals and keep foods like milk and butter cold?

Ride control bogies were fitted to the undercarriage of the dining car. Why was this done?



5. How many people could be served in the dining car at one time?

What technologies have been used in the design of the furniture in the dining car? What materials were used for the tables, chairs, flooring, lighting, curtains etc.?



6. Who would have been likely to travel in these carriages? Where would they have been travelling to? How many people would share this compartment?



7. What changes are evident between this compartment and that of question seven? Why do you think these changes took place?



8. What was this room used for? Why do you think that there are two basins side by side?



9. What materials have been used in this compartment?

What would this compartment have been used for and who would have used it?



10. By examining the materials and technologies used to build this carriage, can you work out when it was built?

Why do you think so much wood panelling was used in the construction of this carriage? Do you think that wood is a good material for the interior of a passenger carriage? Why/ why not?



11. What is the significance of this emblem? Why is it attached to the wall of this carriage?



12. Note the differences between the materials used in this compartment and those of the carriage at question nine. What do you see that is different?

Why do you think that the chairs are not fixed to the floor or walls as they are in other carriages? Who would have used this compartment?



13. Why does a royal crown appear on the outside of this carriage?

Would this carriage always have the crown attached to its side? How do you know?

Name one person who used this carriage and when they used it.



14. When you look at the ceiling of this carriage, what do you notice?

Why did the craftsmen who built this carriage use this material and ceiling style?



18. AG 14 shows what Western Australia's first bogie type passenger carriages looked like. It was built in England and arrived in Fremantle in 1885. What does this carriage tell you about the people of England and WA at this time?

In 1905 three of these cars were converted to brake cars and were used on suburban trains in Kalgoorlie. What would a *brake car* do? Why did passenger trains at that time need to use them?

In the 1930s these cars were converted into brakevans for Perth suburban goods trains. In 1947, with a different classification number, this car was used as a breakdown van at accidents and derailments in Geraldton. What was the new number? _____



19.

What do you think this car was used for? _____

In what ways is it different to AV425 (Question 5)? What new technologies and materials have been used to create this car? _____

In what decade do you think that it may have been created? _____