

The London Underground

8 The London Underground is the world's largest and
16 oldest underground rail network. It is often called
25 the Tube because the tunnels are shaped like tubes.

34 The first line opened in 1863 and ran from
42 Paddington to Farringdon. Other lines such as the
51 Circle line, Northern line and Central line were soon
60 added. The first carriages were made of wood, lit
71 by gas and pulled along by a steam train. In 1890,
76 the first electrical-powered lines opened.

86 Today the trains are made of metal. There are 270
91 stations, 11 different lines and
96 over 250 miles of track.

100 Despite their name, many
102 London Underground
106 trains now travel *above*
108 the ground.



Quick Questions



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



2. Why is the word 'above' written in italics?



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



4. Can you order when these things happened by putting numbers 1-3 in the boxes?

☐

Other lines were added.

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Answers



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

Because the tunnels are shaped like tubes.



2. Why is the word 'above' written in italics?

Example answer: To show surprise because you would think that all of the underground trains ran under the ground and not above it.



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

Accept any inferential answer e.g. because metal is safer/stronger/lasts longer than wood.



4. Can you order when these things happened by putting numbers 1-3 in the boxes?

2 Other lines were added.

1 The first line opened in 1863.

3 The first electrical powered lines opened.