

# SEAT-Y OF CULTURE



**LNER**

**CRL**  
Community Rail Lancashire



**BRADFORD 2025**  
UK City of Culture

**DIAMOND**  
RAIL SERVICES

**camira**

# CONTENTS

➔ **3** ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE

➔ **4/5** ENGAGE

➔ **6** MAKE, CREATE AND DO

➔ **7 8** IDEAS AND INSPIRATION

➔ **8** NOTES FOR EDUCATORS

➔ **9** RAILWAY 200

## SEAT-Y OF CULTURE

# ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE

Learn about 200 years of the modern railway, find out what moquette is and how to create a good design, enter a competition to have **YOUR** design installed on an LNER train.

You will need:



A seat design template (included in this pack)



Coloured pencils and pens



Hints and Tips from the experts in the Engage and Now Explore sections of this page

**Approx session times:**

**Engage Activities:** 30 minutes to 1 hour

**Make, Create and Do Activities:** 30 minutes to 1 hour

**Key Words:** Moquette/Wool/Weave/Design/Pattern/Train/Carriage/Seating

**Recommended Age:** Open to any learners in the Bradford District aged 16 and under

**ART/DESIGN/MATHS/HISTORY/LOCAL LEARNING/HERITAGE**

## SEAT-Y OF CULTURE

# ENGAGE

Moquette is the durable, woollen seating material that is used in upholstery on public transport all over the world.

Coming from the French word for carpet, moquette has been seen and sat upon by millions of commuters on buses, trains, trams and trolleybuses for over 100 years. In 2025 Bradford is UK City of Culture, and we are also commemorating 200 years since the start of the modern railway. **To celebrate these two huge milestones, young people across the Bradford district are being invited to design a new moquette to install on an LNER carriage.**

Who has been on a train or bus before? What do the seats look like? How do they feel? What type of patterns do they have on them?

Moquette was first used on public transport seating in London in the 1920s, when the designs reflected the art deco fashions of the day. Moquette was chosen for public transport for two reasons. First, because it is hard wearing and durable. Second, because its colour and patterns disguise signs of dirt, wear and tear. On top of this moquette had the advantage of being easy and cheap to mass-produce. What types of colours and patterns would need to be used to disguise the dirt and wear and tear?

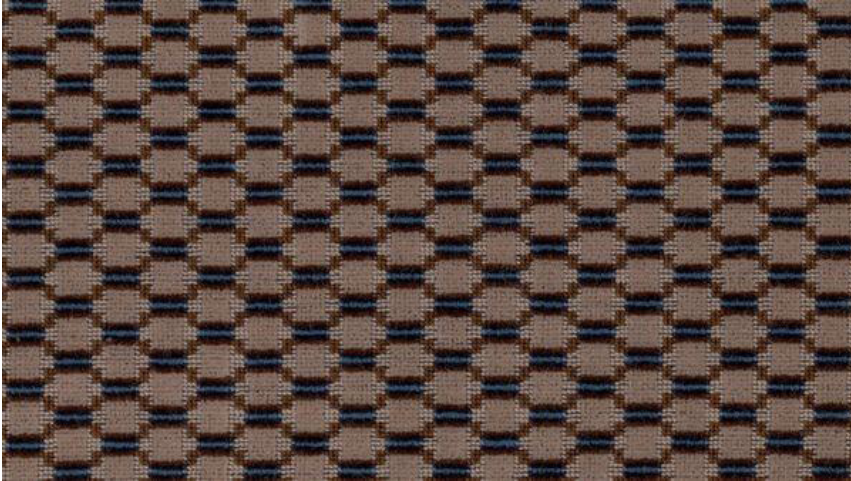
When London Transport was created in the 1930s, artists and designers were commissioned to create stylish patterns especially for the transport network. Designs changed throughout the decades, reflecting the changing fashions of the day for colour, shape, and pattern.

In the 1990s, the London Underground began to give each line its own moquette, incorporating the colour of the line as seen on the tube map and complementing the colours used throughout the carriages. Moquette can also be found on other railway lines, and other forms of transport across the world.

## SEAT-Y OF CULTURE

# ENGAGE

TAKE A LOOK AT THESE EXAMPLES



Try to match each design to the decade you think it comes from



What elements of each design reflect what you know about that time period? You might think about colour, pattern, or other soft furnishings you might have seen in old photographs or on television!



Where do you think the designs were used?

## SEAT-Y OF CULTURE

# MAKE, CREATE AND DO

## MOQUETTE EXAMPLE SHEET DOWNLOAD

Have a look at these designs and discuss:



**What you like about them?**



**What you do not like about them?**



**Which patterns do you prefer and why?**

Using the template linked below, design a pattern that could be turned into a moquette for an LNER Intercity Carriage. Think carefully about the colours and the design of the pattern. The template is 1:1 scale sized swatch, which means it's the real size that your design would be printed on the material.

## TEMPLATE

Camira Fabrics (once known as John Holdsworth and Co.) make fabrics for trains, trams, underground, overground, buses and coaches. They are going to make the winning design come to life ready for Diamond Rail Services to install on an Intercity 225 carriage

Honor Clough of Camira Fabrics and Jenny Dempsey of Diamond Rail Services have these top tips for a winning design:



**Stay away from straight lines, as is more difficult to line up, or have them looking exactly the same seat to seat.**



**Use bold colours that won't show dirt**



**Stay away from white details as this can show through when the moquette pile lays in different directions**

## SEAT-Y OF CULTURE

# IDEAS & INSPIRATION



## COLOUR:

Branding is everything, part of the judging panel will include representatives from Bradford 2025 and LNER. What colours are their logos? What colours would you like to use in your design? Would your colour scheme complement these brands or provide a stark contrast? You need to keep your design to four colours.



## FEATURES:

One design from the London Underground features some of the capital's famous landmarks. What landmarks from Bradford would you like to incorporate into your design? Bradford Landmarks sheet - [BRADFORD ATTRACTIONS DOCUMENT](#)



## REPETITION:

Moquette features repeating patterns. How can you make sure your design is the right size? You want the features to be clear and identifiable, but easy to repeat all over the fabric.

# NOTES FOR EDUCATORS

The competition is open to any young person aged 16 and under who attends a school or lives within the Bradford District.

Entries can either be posted to:

 Community Rail Lancashire, Eagle Street, Accrington, BB5 1LJ

Or emailed to:

 [TrainEd@communityraillancashire.co.uk](mailto:TrainEd@communityraillancashire.co.uk)

**All entries should be received by midnight on 31st October 2025**

A judging panel formed of representatives from Community Rail Lancashire, Bradford 2025, LNER, Camira and Diamond Rail Services will choose one winning entry.

## USEFUL LINKS

[EDUCATION MATERIALS – RAILWAY 200](#)

[200 YEARS OF HERITAGE](#)

[A HISTORY OF MOQUETTE | LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM](#)

[RAILWAY HISTORY - TEACHER SLIDES KS2 - TRAINED](#)

[HISTORY KS3 & KS4/GCSE: LOCOMOTION: DAN SNOW'S HISTORY OF RAILWAYS - BBC TEACH](#)

[LONDON UNDERGROUND MOQUETTE](#)

## SEAT-Y OF CULTURE



# RAILWAY 200

2025 celebrates 200 years of the modern railway. In 1825, the UK's first railway line was opened between Stockton and Darlington. The locomotives on this line were used to transport coal from the Wylam Colliery (coal mine) to be sold at market, and didn't operate a passenger service until 1833.

This line was built by George Stephenson, who designed a train that became known as the 'Rocket'. Trains were much slower in the 19th century than they are today, and this legendary train reached speeds of just 30mph.

This might not seem so impressive to us now, but at the time the country got swept up in Railway Mania inspired by the success of Stephenson's Rocket. Between 1825 and 1835, Parliament agreed to the building of 54 new rail lines. From 1836 to 1837, they agreed to 39 more. By 1900, Britain had 22,000 miles of rail track.

Railways revolutionised life in Britain, helping industry by making it quicker, easier, and cheaper to transport large quantities of goods like coal, food, and textiles. The speed at which people could travel also opened up the country like never before, with small seaside towns flourishing into fashionable holiday and day trip destinations.

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE RAILWAY**



## SEAT-Y OF CULTURE

This Activity Pack was created **Karen Bennett**, Education Team Leader at Community Rail Lancashire, **Cat Stiles**, Cultural Learning Programme Developer at Bradford 2025, **Aaron Jackson**, Print and Merchandise Lead at Cosmos Solutions.



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