

Process Paper
Word Count: 249

I chose my topic because I knew that the steam engine was one of the first monumental inventions, alongside the power loom and the water wheel. I knew that there would be lots of information on it to dive into. It relates to the annual theme because it was the revolution of the century and many people and industries reacted differently to it. We can still see the reforms today.

I conducted my research by using search engines like Google, Google Scholar, Yale Learning and other encyclopedias. I found it slightly frustrating because there were not many primary sources for my topic and I wasted a lot of time on the different archives trying to find sources.

I created my project by using a writing organizer to organize my research and then I added transitions and spacing so that it became one big essay. Then I created this website and split my writing into different pages. The website was pretty hard to figure out because of the complex mechanics, but I had help and ended up figuring it out.

My historical argument is that the steam engine was such a monumental invention that without it, we would lose decades of advancement and innovation.

The steam engine powered the industrial revolution, one of the main things that made the industrial revolution, so "revolutionary". Without the steam engine, society wouldn't be the same, we would lose centuries of industrialization and many of the inventions and ideas that came with it.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources:

“Amending Section 4400, Revised Statutes. February 7, 1902. -\ - Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and Ordered to Be Printed.” 2025. The Library of Congress. 2025.
https://www.loc.gov/resource/l1serialsetce.04401_00_00-016-0432-0000/?st=gallery.

This source included some details about the patents and the dangers and safety laws that were required when using a steam engine. It also gave me some information about the legal court’s reaction.

BBC News. 2018. “Steam Trains Remembered 50 Years On,” August 11, 2018, sec. Leicester.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-45143771>.

This source gave me a picture that showed the reaction of the people when the first locomotives went public. It helps show the positive reactions to the steam engine. I used it to decorate my website as well as help me understand the functioning of the initial steam engine.

Gettyimages.com. 2024. <https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/watt-engines>.

I used this source to show my viewers how the steam engine looked without the train. This shows one of the first steam engines and how it looked.

“James Watt and the Steam Engine Patent.” 2026. ScotClans. 2026.
https://www.scotclans.com/pages/1769-james-watt-patents-the-steam-engine?srsltid=AfmBOoobnuwDcvyBUO7PHWlw0G4Z-wP_uLp9EfmzwPLKJSQOGqG4XII.

This source gave me an image for the background page. This shows the appearance of the steam engine when it was in its first developments

“List of Boiler Explosions.” Locomotive Wiki. Fandom, Inc. 2026.
https://locomotive.fandom.com/wiki/List_of_Boiler_Explosions.

This source showed me the catastrophic effects of boiler explosions. It also provided a picture for my reaction page.

Llewellyn , Ludy. 2025. "Steam Engines, a Thorough and Practical Presentation of Modern Steam Engine Practice,." The Library of Congress. 2025.
<https://www.loc.gov/resource/gdcmassbookdig.steamenginesthor01ludy/?st=gallery>.

This source had all kinds of information about how the steam engine works and what it was used in. This gave me an understanding of the mechanics and the impact of transportation overall.

Secondary Sources:

Bailey, John. 2021. "The Steam Age—Evolution of Steam Engines and the 1st Steam Locomotive." Springer EBooks, November, 23–36.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-81381-9_3.

This source gave me information about the evolution of the steam engine and what it was used for in different stages of its development. This source also told me about the locomotives that are so well known now.

Cartwright, Mark. 2023. "The Steam Engine in the British Industrial Revolution." World History Encyclopedia. February 8, 2023.
<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/2166/the-steam-engine-in-the-british-industrial->.

This article told me all about the reasons why the steam engine was made and its impact on Britain's growing empire. This also told me about the politics and the problems at the time that the steam engine was made.

Change. 2025. "15-Minute History Podcast." 15-Minute History Podcast. March 3, 2025.
<https://www.15minutehistorypodcast.org/episodes/engine-of-change-how-steam-powered-the-modern-age>.

This website told me all about the impacts of the steam engine and how it is still seen today. It showed how steam engines and their later developments are still a huge part of our modern day world.

Chassignet, Marina Porrás. 2014. "The Steam Engine." Environment & Society Portal. December 1, 2014. <https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/steam-engine>.

From this source I got the German comic seen in the reaction page. This helped show me how much people were in awe of the steam engine all over the world. This source helped me prove the influence of the steam engine throughout the whole world.

DLM - MODERN STEAM. 2025. "Home - DLM - MODERN STEAM." DLM - MODERN STEAM. December 8, 2025. <https://dml-ag.ch/en/>.

This source provided me with images. It showed me and the viewers of my website what steam can be used for now.

Emary, Clive. 2016. "How the 18th-Century Steam Engine Helped Physicists Make a Quantum Breakthrough." Edited by Miriam Frankel, November.
<https://doi.org/10.64628/ab.g7y5egjeq>.

This source gave me a picture for my revolution paragraph and showed a lot of the early models. This source helped me know how the steam engine is still helping us today.

Gold, Howard R. 2018. "How the Steam Engine Spurred Modern Cities." The University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Chicago Booth Review. December 3, 2018.
<https://www.chicagobooth.edu/review/how-steam-engine-spurred-modern-cities>.

Likewise, this article also had lots of information about how the steam engine is still powerful today in many industries. The steam engine is still seen today in modern technology.

Linda Hall Library. n.d. "Locomotives." The Linda Hall Library.
<https://www.lindahall.org/experience/digital-exhibitions/the-transcontinental-railroad/04-locomotives/>.

This source gave me a picture of the locomotive. It shows the modern use for steam engines and enhances the visual aspect of my website.

Mary Bellis. n.d. "The Evolution of the Modern Steam Engine." ThoughtCo.
<https://www.thoughtco.com/captivity-of-steam-1992676>.

This article provided lots of background on the steam engine and how its evolution came to be. This source also provided some pictures that I incorporated into my

Moore, Sam. 2018. "Steam Fueled a Revolution, but Was Risky - Farm and Dairy." Farm and Dairy. May 24, 2018.
<https://www.farmanddairy.com/columns/steam-fueled-a-revolution-but-was-risky/490199.html>.

This source provided lots of information about the risks and dangers of the steam engines. This source also gave information about how the steam engine led the industrial revolution

"Operational Locomotives." 2023. Steam Railroading. 2023.
<https://steamenginesresource.weebly.com/operational-locomotives.html/>.

This source provided information about the steam engine and its current status in the world. It also provided pictures that helped me understand the appearance of an old steam locomotive.

Selgin, George, and John L. Turner. 2011. "Strong Steam, Weak Patents, or the Myth of Watt's Innovation-Blocking Monopoly, Exploded." *The Journal of Law and Economics* 54 (4): 841–61. <https://doi.org/10.1086/658495>.

This source provided lots of information on the patents and how they slowed the innovation of the steam engine. This source showed me the faults in how the steam engine was developed and how selfishness slowed innovation.

Spear, Brian. 2008. "James Watt: The Steam Engine and the Commercialization of Patents." *World Patent Information* 30 (1): 53–58. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wpi.2007.05.009>.

This source was also about the patents and how they slowed the development of the steam engine. The steam engine had two main development times. It helped me understand the development and the bad things that came out of the steam engine.

"Steam Engine | Definition, History, Impact, & Facts." n.d. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/technology/steam-engine..>

From this source, I learned more about the background of the steam engine and what the immediate impact of it was. I also learned about the impact on the economy.