

WORDS TO KNOW

Budapest
collect
conductor
different

Bu • da • pest
col • lect
con • duc • tor
dif • fer • ent

railway
station
uniform
unusual

rail • way
sta • tion
u • ni • form
un • u • su • al

Kids' Railroad

Since they were first invented, trains have interested people. You	10
don't have to be a kid to love trains. Lots of adults collect and play with	26
toy trains.	28
Many children are given toy trains when they are much too young to	41
enjoy them. But Dad sure has a good time!	50
There is a very unusual train, a real full-sized train in Budapest,	63
Hungary. The reason it is so unusual is that it is run completely by	77
children. It is called the Pioneer Railway.	84
For over 30 years, children from the ages of 10 to 14 have been	98
running this train. About 700 children work on the railroad. About 50 are	111
on duty at a time. They wear dark blue uniforms with red hats.	124
They work as station masters, ticket sellers, and conductors. They	134
operate the controls and do all the other jobs to keep the Pioneer Railway	148
on the track.	151
The train runs back and forth on 7 miles of track. Each year it	165
carries thousands of people in its cars back and forth through the	177
country. The train goes through tunnels, onto side tracks, and into the	189
station at each small town.	194
Each worker gets a chance to try many different jobs. To be a	207
railway worker on the Pioneer, the young people must do very well in	220
school. Then they must pass tests to make sure they can do the work.	234
They go to classes for about four months to learn all about running	247
a train. When they are ready they start with some of the easier jobs. As	262
they learn more by watching and helping they are able to do more. The	276

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7. Name two of the criteria young people must meet before they can work there.

6. How long has the railway been running?

5. Why must the children be very good at their jobs?

4. How long is the track?

3. How many children are on duty at one time?

2. What is the name of the "children's" railroad?

1. Why do fathers buy toy trains for very young children?

WORDS READ	TIME	WORDS PER MINUTE
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289 workers take their jobs very seriously. They know that they must do their
 303 very best each day. People's lives depend on how well they do those jobs.
 316 The train has been running for more than thirty years. It runs from
 331 early in the morning until late in the evening. And in all that time, the
 338 Pioneer Railway has never had an accident!

(Continued)

Name _____ **Kids' Railroad**