STEPHENSON STEAM RAILWAY
NORTH TYNESIDE

Definitions for parts of a Steam Locomotive

Buffers- Fitted at the end of trains. When trains are joined together or to carriages, the buffer stops them from crashing into each other.

Cab- The part of the train where the driver and fireman stands

Chimney- The place where the smoke (which is created when water is boiled in the boiler) leaves from.

Connecting rod- Connects the piston to the crank to turn the wheels.

Cylinder- Round and smooth tube which contains the piston. The cylinders and pistons are the parts of the locomotive where the power in the steam is converted into useful motion of the train.

Dome- The dome is an important safety feature on a steam engine. It contains the opening to the main steam pipe, which must be kept as far away from the water in the boiler as possible. If water gets into the cylinders, it can cause the pistons to stop working.

Pistons- Round disk which fits perfectly and slides in the cylinder. Steam pushes on the piston to turn the wheels by using the connecting rod and crank.

Smokebox-Essentially the exhaust system of the locomotive, as it is responsible for collecting smoke by-products from burned coal and releasing it through a chimney into the atmosphere.

Tank- This is place where the water is stored before it passes into the boiler to make steam.

Wheels-The wheels are powdered by the pistons and support the train on the tracks. When they rotate, the train moves forward.