

Unit 4: New Frontiers in Engineering

Reading 2: Engineering Miracle Under the Sea

Answer the questions as you read.

1. What can you infer about the difficulty involved in building the Channel Tunnel from the preview text in italics and paragraph 1? _____

2. What was the main reason the tunnel was finally built? What is the reason it could be built in the 1980s? (paragraph 2) _____

3. How many tunnels were built and why? (paragraph 3) _____

4. What was the cost of the tunnel boring machines (TBMs)? What can you infer about the amount of commerce between England and the rest of Europe? (paragraph 4)

5. What does a *protective barrier* do? (paragraph 5) Why was it important in this situation? _____

6. What can you infer about how the teams on both sides of the tunnel were feeling in October 1990 while they waited to see if the two tunnels were aligned? (paragraph 6)

7. Think about Reading 1 in this unit which stated that in the 1930s workers were not required to have basic safety equipment. After reading paragraph 7, how safe do you feel the Channel Tunnel project was? _____

8. Why might underground railways be “the way of the future”? (paragraph 9)
