

Bahamas Locomotive Society – STEM workshops

What was the issue?

The Bahamas Locomotive Society wanted to create a learning offer for schools focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. This had been identified as an opportunity during their audience research work in 2013 and consultant Mandy Pattison had come up with some interesting ideas, but they still needed help to design the workshops.

How did Museum Development Yorkshire help?

Debbie Cross, the Audience Development Coordinator discussed the idea with Liz Denton, who is the MDY team learning specialist. This was followed by a successful application for an MDY Small Grant to help pay for Mandy Pattison and Gillian Waters to help create the STEM workshops. Mandy specialises in science topics and Gillian in maths.

What happened?

Debbie met up with Liz, Mandy and Gillian on site to discuss the ideas for the workshops and to show them the museum and the resources available. After their site visits Mandy and Gillian started developing their workshops which were refined through discussion with Debbie and her team. Once everyone was happy and all the resources in place, Mandy, Gillian and Liz made another site visit in December 2014 to spend the day teaching the workshops to the learning team at the museums so they could deliver the workshops themselves with confidence. A few adjustments were needed and in March 2015 there was a further training day for the learning team at the museums. This was carried out with a pilot school with the museum team observing.

“The work carried out by Liz, Mandy and Gillian was exceptional and so important to the development of the learning offer on the railway. Using their knowledge and

expertise they created several science and maths workshops relating to the railway and national curriculum for us to offer to schools. The feedback from the pilot schools has been extremely positive with all the children and staff saying that they learnt new things and would like to come back and do more workshops with us. Not only did we gain a wonderful series of school workshops but they also took the time to train the learning team so that they felt confident in delivering the workshops. Everyone is so pleased and grateful for the work carried out by the MDY team and their consultants”.

Find out more

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