

-- How old is London's tube? --

The London underground, or 'tube' as it is often known, was the world's first urban underground railway. It began operating in 1863, when the Metropolitan Railway opened a line between Paddington and Farringdon.

Even in those days traffic jams caused by the congestion of horsedrawn vehicles generated complaints and as a result construction work began on the underground railway in 1860.

Although Londoners were originally sceptical about the project, calling it 'the sewer railway', the service was an immediate success. Trains were steam operated, and travel was murky and extremely grimy compared with today's electrically operated trains.

London's buses carry around four million passengers every day, and bus routes cover over 1,800 miles (nearly 2,900 kms) of the capital's roads.

The familiar double-decker buses are one of the most distinctive sights in London, and no visit to London would be complete without a trip on one.

The most famous design, with an open passenger platform at the rear of the bus, dates back to the 1950s, although now they are being replaced with more modern types with the entrance at the front.

Word list

congestion = torlódás, zsúfoltság

draw, drew, drawn = húz, vontat

generate = előidéző, kivált

complaint = panasz

sewer= kanális, csatorna

construction work = építkezés

murky = sötét

grimy = koszos

familiar = ismerős, ismert

distinctive = jellegzetes, megkülönböztető

rear = hátsó rész

replace = helyettesít

xxx