

# Journeys

## All aboard!

There are many good reasons to use trains today. They help connect cities, towns, and communities with each other and their inhabitants with the land around them. They are a safe and reliable form of transportation. And they are better for the environment than airplanes and cars because they can transport greater numbers of people and goods while using less fuel.

There are so many different kinds of trains: tourist trains with glass-topped observation cars for seeing the landscape; high-speed commuter trains that bring people from their homes to their jobs; sleeper trains for hotel-on-rails vacations; and freight trains that carry food, fuel, and materials that we all use in daily life. Railways are used all over the world—they span mountain ranges, tunnel under harbors, zip through cities, and cross plains, deserts, and forests.

Trains are almost as diverse as the people who ride them! This book will show you just a few special services operating in the world today and introduce you to some of the people who ride and work on them, as well as the sights you can see from their windows. Rail travel is fun and exciting; let's take a ride!



Words marked with an asterisk\* are explained in the glossary, p.70.