Car, Carriage or Caboose?
Passengers and mail were transported throughout Western Australia. People could travel overnight in a sleeping compartment, or by day, seated in a first or second-class carriage. Find out how things have changed since the early days of rail travel in WA.

Use the clues, listen to your guide, and read the signs to answer the following questions.

1. Fa 66 was one of twelve bogie brakevans owned by the Midland Railway Company.

   What was it used for? __________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________________

2. AQL 288 began its life as a first class sleeping car. Later it was changed into a buffet car.

   What would you do in a sleeping car? _______________________________________

   What would you do in a buffet car? ________________________________________
3. What was built here? __________________________________________

4. AV425 was the dining car used on Perth to Kalgoorlie trains.

How did the kitchen staff cook the meals and keep foods like milk and butter cold?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Ride control bogies were fitted to the undercarriage of the dining car. Why was this done?

_________________________________________________________________________

5. How many people could be served in the dining car at one time?

_________________________________

What technologies have been used in the design of the furniture in the dining car? What materials were used for the tables, chairs, flooring, lighting, curtains etc.? 

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
6. Who would have been likely to travel in these carriages? Where would they have been travelling to? How many people would share this compartment?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

7. What changes are evident between this compartment and that of question seven? Why do you think these changes took place?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

8. What was this room used for? Why do you think that there are two basins side by side?

_________________________________________________________________________
9. What materials have been used in this compartment?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What would this compartment have been used for and who would have used it?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

10. By examining the materials and technologies used to build this carriage, can you work out when it was built?
________________________________________________________________________

Why do you think so much wood panelling was used in the construction of this carriage? Do you think that wood is a good material for the interior of a passenger carriage? Why/why not?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
11. What is the significance of this emblem? Why is it attached to the wall of this carriage?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

12. Note the differences between the materials used in this compartment and those of the carriage at question nine. What do you see that is different?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Why do you think that the chairs are not fixed to the floor or walls as they are in other carriages? Who would have used this compartment?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

13. Why does a royal crown appear on the outside of this carriage?
___________________________________________________________________________

Would this carriage always have the crown attached to it's side? How do you know?
Name one person who used this carriage and when they used it.

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

14. When you look at the ceiling of this carriage, what do you notice?
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Why did the craftsmen who built this carriage use this material and ceiling style?
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

18. AG 14 shows what Western Australia’s first bogie type passenger carriages looked like. It was built in England and arrived in Fremantle in 1885. What does this carriage tell you about the people of England and WA at this time?
In 1905 three of these cars were converted to brake cars and were used on suburban trains in Kalgoorlie. What would a brake car do? Why did passenger trains at that time need to use them?

In the 1930s these cars were converted into brakevans for Perth suburban goods trains. In 1947, with a different classification number, this car was used as a breakdown van at accidents and derailments in Geraldton. What was the new number? ________________

19. What do you think this car was used for? ________________________________

In what ways is it different to AV425 (Question 5)? What new technologies and materials have been used to create this car? ____________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

In what decade do you think that it may have been created? _________________________