

# Steam

STEAM IS PRODUCED WHEN WATER IS HEATED TO ITS BOILING POINT, 100° CELSIUS.

Steam is a source of water power, too! Remember that water can exist in three forms: liquid (water), solid (ice), or gas (steam). When water changes from a liquid to a gas, it increases in volume by 1,600 times. This change creates a powerful force, or pressure, which can then become a source of power for machines.

In the 19th century the invention of the steam engine and steam turbine helped power the Industrial Revolution. This brought a great increase in all sorts of industrial activity and in the quantity of products for people to buy and sell. Without the power of water and steam, this would not have been possible.



A steam locomotive

Steam power also contributed to the settlement<sup>12</sup> of the American West by Europeans, which happened at about the same time as the Industrial Revolution. Thanks to the steam locomotive, large quantities of products and people could be transported long distances by train.

To power the locomotives, coal or wood was used to boil water. The resulting steam turned the wheels of the locomotive.

<sup>12</sup>settlement: when people start a town in a new place