

Context-Setting **Activities**

These activities are excellent ways to prepare and excite your students for the *Impact of the Model T – Then and Now* unit or for a visit to **The Henry Ford**.

Classroom Museum

Prepare your class to work with **The Henry Ford's** digitized artifacts by developing your own classroom museum.

Build a “museum collection” of things you can purchase at garage sales or find at home, such as old tools, appliances, clothing, photographs, advertisements, etc. Ask your students to carefully examine the artifacts, perhaps even wearing gloves as museum staff do when handling or examining some types of artifacts. Have your students research how these artifacts were used in the past, how they were made and how they have changed over time. Use their research and observations to create a museum exhibit or produce a creative writing piece focused on the artifacts.

Model T Visit

Model T enthusiast clubs exist all over the country and the world. Contact a local club to see if a member can bring a Model T to your school. Have your class get up close and personal with this artifact by studying its similarities to and differences from cars they know, learning how to start the Model T, discovering what it is like to drive or perhaps going for a ride.

Automobile Journal

Have students keep a daylong or weeklong journal, listing the many ways automobiles affect their daily activities. For instance, by the time they get to school, students may have eaten cereal that was shipped on a truck, left home by walking past or through their garage and ridden to school in a bus or car. Tracking their car-related activities will help students realize the many and various ways that automobiles affect their lives.