

Lesson 2 Transportation for People and American Attitudes

Main Idea

- Americans’ car culture is the result of long-established American attitudes and years of innovations in transportation.

Key Concepts

- Democracy of land ownership
- Population distribution, spatial patterns and density
- Suburbanization
- De-urbanization
- Haste
- Democracy of consumption
- Individual freedom
- Public transportation
- Mass transportation
- Urban public transportation
- Personal transportation
- Risk
- Inexhaustible natural resources
- Energy issues
- Environment

Digitized Artifacts

from the Collections of **The Henry Ford**

Lesson 2

Transportation for People, and American Attitudes

- Harbor Freeway in Los Angeles, California, 1956 ID# THF68307

- Detroit Electric Coupe, 1922 (front view ID# THF69240) (side view ID# THF69247) (dashboard view ID# THF69250)
- Riker Electric Automobile, circa 1896 (front view ID# THF69226) (back view ID# THF69229) (dashboard view ID# THF69236)
- Horse-Drawn Streetcar, circa 1890 ID# THF77234
- Tesla Car at SpaceX Facility, El Segundo, California, 2008 ID# THF55832
- Stanford Ovshinsky’s Hydrogen-Powered Hybrid Car, 2009 ID# THF66140
- Stanford Ovshinsky at United Solar Ovonic Facility, Auburn Hills, Michigan, 2009 ID# THF66232
- Advertising Postcard for Pan American Airlines, circa 1970, “The Plane with All the Room in the World” ID# THF68314
- Mack Model CL Buses Loading Passengers at a Downtown Intersection, Toledo, Ohio, 1935 ID# THF68324
- Man Seated in a Buggy, circa 1890 ID# THF68330
- Solar-Powered Car “Phoenix,” 1984 ID# THF69279
- Concord Coach Made by Abbot, Downing & Company in 1891 ID# THF70567
- Van Cleve Bicycle, Made by the Wright Brothers, circa 1896 ID# THF70569
- Ford Model T Touring Car, 1914, Given to John Burroughs by Henry Ford ID# THF70573
- Bangor & Aroostook Railroad Passenger Coach Replica ID# THF67889
- Wreckage of a Chrysler Airflow Car at the Accident Scene, 1934 ID# THF72060

Continued...

Lesson 2 Transportation for People and American Attitudes Continued

Materials

- Student Activity Sheet 2A:
American Attitudes Survey
- Answer Key 2A:
American Attitudes Survey
- Student Activity Sheet 2B:
Project – Transportation of the Future
- Computer with access to the Internet, digital projector and screen (preferred) OR printed handouts of digitized artifacts’ images and descriptions

Duration 1-2 periods (45 minutes each) to 6 full periods

- Parts 1 and 2: 1 or 2 periods (45 minutes each)
- Part 3 (optional):
 - if assigned as homework: introduction, 20 minutes; presentations, 45 minutes.
 - if in-class assignment: work time, 45 minutes to 2.25 hours; presentations, 45 minutes.

Instructional Sequence

1 Engagement/Relevance

Tell students that today you will be discussing how American attitudes have influenced our society’s evolution into a car-dependent society.

Distribute Student Activity Sheet 2A:

American Attitudes Survey to students, and ask them to complete it. Tell them to leave the spaces for “American Attitude” blank for now; you will complete it together later.

2 American Attitudes and Transportation Artifacts

As a class, review student responses to each of the questions in the American Attitudes Survey. To assist in facilitating the review and discussion about the American Attitudes Survey, use

- annotated Answer Key 2A: American Attitudes Survey
- the digitized artifacts indicated on Answer Key 2A
- [From the Curators – Transportation: Past, Present and Future](#) chapters:
 - What is American about American Transportation?
 - Modes of Transportation: Personal & Public
 - Auto Issues Today: Energy, Environment & Vehicle Choice; Pollution Regulation & Technology Advances; Powering the 21st Century Vehicle; What’s Old is New Again: Electric Cars; Networked Thinking: Personal Mobility, Mass Transit & Energy Grids

Continued...

Lesson 2 Transportation for People and American Attitudes Continued

Instructional Sequence Continued

Ask students to:

- share their personal answers to their survey
- share their “most Americans” answers and compare their answers with those of **The Henry Ford’s** curators

Take notes on your discussion on Student Activity Sheet 2A; explain more about this “American attitude” and related concepts.

Show artifacts that are evidence of this – access the digitized artifacts from the collections of **The Henry Ford** or click on the hyperlinks in the Answer Key.

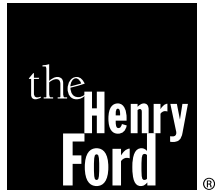
3 Optional Project: American Attitudes and the Transportation of the Future

Ask students if they think American attitudes regarding personal and mass transportation are changing. Ask students to predict what they think will be the answers to the American Attitudes Survey in twenty years.

Distribute Student Activity Sheet 2B: Project – Transportation of the Future, and have students embark on a project to imagine the transportation of the future. You may have students work alone, in pairs, or in groups. Their final product will be a written paper or a presentation with visuals, addressing each of the questions on the Activity Sheet.

Assessment

Assess students’ effort on 2B:
Project – Transportation of the Future.



Name _____

For each question, circle both your choice and your prediction of what most Americans would choose.

1. I prefer to live in...

my answer

- a an apartment in a city – I like being around many other people.
- b a farmhouse on 100 acres of land – I like open spaces.
- c a house with a front and back yard – I want my own little piece of land, but I also want convenient shopping and services.

most Americans' answer

- a an apartment in a city – I like being around many other people.
- b a farmhouse on 100 acres of land – I like open spaces.
- c a house with a front and back yard – I want my own little piece of land, but I also want convenient shopping and services.

American attitude:



2. Most other people around me have a vehicle. Having my own vehicle, too, is _____ important to me.

my answer

- a** very – I think it's impossible to live without one.
- b** somewhat – I would like to have my own car.
- c** not at all – I am perfectly happy without a car.

most Americans' answer

- a** very – I think it's impossible to live without one.
- b** somewhat – I would like to have my own car.
- c** not at all – I am perfectly happy without a car.

American attitude:

3. How important is it to you to go where you want, when you want?

my answer

- a** not at all – I am willing to go out of my way or wait thirty minutes if necessary.
- b** somewhat – But I would walk a couple extra blocks or wait ten minutes if necessary.
- c** very – I will only go by my own schedule.

most Americans' answer

- a** not at all – I am willing to go out of my way or wait thirty minutes if necessary.
- b** somewhat – But I would walk a couple extra blocks or wait ten minutes if necessary.
- c** very – I will only go by my own schedule.

American attitude:



4. How concerned are you about your safety when in a vehicle?

my answer

- a** hardly – I trust government regulations, automakers and other drivers.
- b** somewhat – I wear my seat belt in cars.
- c** very – I would be willing to pay more for new safety devices and to be physically uncomfortable while using them.

most Americans' answer

- a** hardly – I trust government regulations, automakers and other drivers.
- b** somewhat – I wear my seat belt in cars.
- c** very – I would be willing to pay more for new safety devices and to be physically uncomfortable while using them.

American attitude:

5. How concerned are you about how vehicles are fueled?

my answer

- a** hardly – Don't know how the fuel type, or where or how it's obtained, affects me.
- b** somewhat – I would be willing to have oil drilling near my community.
- c** very – I would pay twice as much for an alternative-energy vehicle.

most Americans' answer

- a** hardly – Don't know how the fuel type, or where or how it's obtained, affects me.
- b** somewhat – I would be willing to have oil drilling near my community.
- c** very – I would pay twice as much for an alternative-energy vehicle.

American attitude:



6. How concerned are you about pollution coming from vehicles?

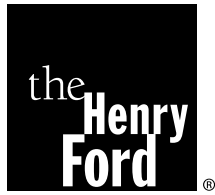
my answer

- a hardly – I have not changed my transportation habits.
- b somewhat – I carpool or take public transportation if it is convenient.
- c very – I bike or walk, no matter the weather.

most Americans' answer

- a hardly – I have not changed my transportation habits.
- b somewhat – I carpool or take public transportation if it is convenient.
- c very – I bike or walk, no matter the weather.

American attitude:



American Attitudes Survey

Introduction

Suggest to students that the tangible things we use daily represent these ideas. Show students the digitized artifact [Ford Model T Touring Car, 1914, Given to John Burroughs by Henry Ford](#) ID# THF70573 and share the background information that accompanies the artifact.

Then, ask students to help you define the following words. They might also give an example of an American attitude, a trade-off, etc. in regard to cars.

- American attitudes
- trade-offs
- risks
- benefits
- unintended consequences

Continue by asking students to

- share their personal answers to the survey
- share their “most Americans” answers and compare their answers with those of **The Henry Ford’s** curators as you discuss American attitudes and other important concepts
- look at artifacts from the collections of **The Henry Ford** that represent those ideas
- take notes on the discussion using Student Activity Sheet 2A

1. Most Americans prefer to live in...

- a a house with a front and back yard – they want their own little piece of land but convenient shopping and services.

American attitude

Democracy of land ownership

Introduce other concepts

Population distribution, spatial patterns and density, suburbanization, de-urbanization

Introduce American attitude

Haste

Show artifacts representing these attitudes and concepts

[Harbor Freeway in Los Angeles, California, 1956](#) ID# THF68307

[Horse-Drawn Streetcar, circa 1890](#)
ID# THF77234

2. Most people in America seem to have a vehicle. Having their own vehicle, too, is _____ important to most Americans.

a very – they think it’s impossible to live without one.

American attitude

Democracy of consumption

Show artifacts representing these attitudes and concepts

Man Seated in a Buggy, circa 1890

ID# THF68330

Van Cleve Bicycle, Made by the Wright Brothers, circa 1896 ID# THF70569

Ford Model T Touring Car, 1914, Given to John Burroughs by Henry Ford ID# THF70573

3. How important is it to most Americans to go where they want, when they want?

a not at all – They are willing to go out of the way or wait thirty minutes if necessary.

b somewhat – But they would walk a couple extra blocks or wait ten minutes if necessary.

c very – They only go by their own schedule.

Answer would depend on person’s geographic location, access to personal and mass transportation and socioeconomic status.

American attitude

Individual freedom

Introduce other concepts

Public transportation

Show artifacts representing these attitudes and concepts

Concord Coach Made by Abbot, Downing & Company in 1891 ID# THF70567

Introduce other concepts

Mass transportation

Show artifacts representing these attitudes and concepts

Advertising Postcard for Pan American Airlines, circa 1970, “The Plane with All the Room in the World” ID# THF68314

Bangor & Aroostook Railroad Passenger Coach Replica ID# THF67889

Introduce other concepts

Urban public transportation

Show artifacts representing these attitudes and concepts

Horse-Drawn Streetcar, circa 1890

ID# THF77234

Model CL Buses Loading Passengers at a Downtown Intersection, Toledo, Ohio, 1935

ID# THF68324

Introduce other concepts

Personal transportation

Show artifacts representing these attitudes and concepts

Man Seated in a Buggy, circa 1890

ID# THF68330

Van Cleve Bicycle, Made by the Wright Brothers, circa 1896 ID# THF70569

Ford Model T Touring Car, 1914, Given to John Burroughs by Henry Ford ID# THF70573

4. How concerned are most Americans about their safety when in a vehicle?

a hardly – They trust government regulations, automakers and other drivers.

b somewhat – They wear seat belts in cars.

Either answer is appropriate; it depends on the person's personal preferences.

American attitude

Risk

Show artifacts representing these attitudes and concepts

Wreckage of a Chrysler Airflow Car at the Accident Scene, 1934 ID# THF72060

5. How concerned are most Americans about how vehicles are fueled?

a hardly – Don't know how the fuel type or where or how it's obtained affects them.

American attitude

Inexhaustible natural resources

Introduce other concepts

Energy issues

Show artifacts representing these attitudes and concepts

Solar-Powered Car "Phoenix," 1984

ID# THF69279

Stanford Ovshinsky's Hydrogen-Powered Hybrid Car, 2009 ID# THF66140

Stanford Ovshinsky at United Solar Ovonic Facility, Auburn Hills, Michigan, 2009 ID# THF66232

Tesla Car at SpaceX Facility, El Segundo, California, 2008 ID# THF55832

Detroit Electric Coupe, 1922

(front view ID# THF69240)

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(dashboard view ID# THF69250)

Riker Electric Automobile, circa 1896

(front view ID# THF69226)

(back view ID# THF69229)

(dashboard view ID# THF69236)

6. How concerned are you about pollution coming from vehicles?

a hardly – They have not changed transportation habits.

b somewhat – They carpool or take public transportation if it is convenient.

American attitude

Inexhaustible natural resources

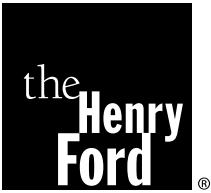
Introduce other concepts

Environment

Show artifacts representing these attitudes and concepts

Harbor Freeway in Los Angeles, California, 1956

ID# THF68307



Name _____

project: Transportation of the Future

Develop a new transportation system to move people around. You will present your idea in either a paper or a presentation with visuals. As you develop your transportation system, make sure you have considered the following:

1. Is your new system for personal or mass transit? Why did you make this choice?
2. From where to where does your transportation system travel? For your presentation, show this on a map. Why did you make this choice?
3. How is your transportation system fueled?
4. How does your transportation system affect the environment?
5. How does your transportation system affect those without access to personal transportation?
6. What American attitudes might pose challenges for implementing this type of transportation system?