

Context-Setting **Activities**

These activities are excellent ways to prepare and excite your students for the *You Can Be an Innovator ... like Henry Ford*. Unit Plan or for a visit to **The Henry Ford**.

Classroom Museum

Assemble a “museum collection” for your classroom. Find old tools, appliances, clothing, photographs, advertisements, etc., at home, or purchase them at garage sales to build your classroom collection. 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.

What Is a Model T?

Because a Model T looks so different from our automobiles today, students may not initially identify it as a car. Show students an image of a Model T, like our [Ford Model T Touring Car, 1914, Given to John Burroughs by Henry Ford](#) ID# THF70573, and ask if they know what it is. Compare the Model T with an image of a car of today, like our [Toyota Prius Automobile, 2002](#) ID# THF68248. Have students develop their observation skills by identifying similar and different features on each car.

Model T Road Trip Interactive Module

Use **The Henry Ford’s Model T Road Trip interactive module** to help students learn more about the Model T. In this module, students follow a fictional family’s adventures as they shop for, buy, drive and plan a vacation in a brand-new Model T. The module explores how early 20th-century cars offered a new level of freedom and personal mobility. Spend time in the computer lab so students can work on the module in pairs. The module also includes five online [lesson plans](#) with selected primary sources, which you can use in your classroom to build historical content and thinking skills. Lesson plan titles are: *Remembering the Model T*, *The Road Trip: Then and Now*, *The \$5 Day: Mixed Blessing?*, *A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words* and *The Ad Game*.