

Henry Ford

Resource Guide

When Henry Ford was 16, he left the family farm where he was born and raised. It would be nearly a quarter of a century before he founded the Ford Motor Company in 1903 and another five years before he launched, with his Model T Ford, a transportation revolution that would sweep the world.

Obviously, his success was far from instant. He worked in a machine shop. He worked evenings repairing watches. He was a night shift foreman in an electric generating facility. Even when he decided to follow his entrepreneurial bent, he had difficulties, founding two companies that failed before the success of Ford Motor Company.

His Ford was not, by any stretch of the imagination, the first car. Neither was his vaunted assembly line the world's first.

The innovation that brought him enduring fame, though, was building a reliable, low-priced car that people wanted to buy. It was a radical and game-changing concept. By making a car that was within reach of the masses, he turned something that had been a toy for the rich into an innovation that provided practical transportation for millions of people.

The Model T changed the speed of life. Named the “Car of the Century” by the Global Automotive Elections Foundation, the Model T would remain in production until 1927. In time, more than 15 million of this remarkable automobile would be manufactured.

But Ford was not done innovating. He continued to develop new and evermore populist products. In time, Ford himself would begin exploring innovative forms of education which would lead to the founding of the Edison Institute, known today as The Henry Ford.

Explore the many resources on Henry Ford, the legendary innovator.



Online Resources

The Life of Henry Ford

A micro-site providing a brief overview of Henry Ford as a young boy, his work as an engineer, his innovations with Ford Motor Company, his other interests and activities, and his legacy.

www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/hf/default.asp

Curators' Choice: Henry Ford

A curated set of our 50 most important artifacts related to Henry Ford, accessible through our Online Collections.

<http://collections.thehenryford.org/Collection.aspx?collectionid=6458>

Curator Interview on Henry Ford

A video interview with Bob Casey, retired senior curator of transportation and author of *The Model T: A Centennial History*. He speaks about Ford as a tinkerer and hands-on problem solver while recognizing Ford's complexity.

<http://oninnovation.com/topics/detail.aspx?playlist=2152>

Henry Ford and Innovation— From the Curators

A detailed study of Henry Ford's life, the Model T, the assembly line and innovation; includes hyperlinks to artifacts in The Henry Ford's Online Collections.

<http://www.thehenryford.org/education/erb/HenryFordAndInnovation.pdf>

Educator Resources

Be an Innovator Like ... Henry Ford Activity Book

Literacy enhancement tool using historical facts in a fun and engaging manner. Supports ELA Common Core Standards and reinforces 21st-Century Skills.

<http://giftshop.thehenryford.org/a542/the-henry-ford-story-reading-inspiration.html>

Impact of the Model T—Then and Now DigiKit

High school teacher guide and unit plan examining how people create innovations and the causes and consequences through a case study of the automobile industry, using digitized primary sources. For ease of use, downloading recommended.

<http://www.thehenryford.org/education/erb/ImpactofModelTDigiKit.pdf>

Henry Ford and the Model T DigiKit

Elementary teacher guide and unit plan exploring the Model T, using digitized primary sources. For ease of use, downloading recommended.

<http://www.thehenryford.org/education/erb/YouCanBeanInnovatorDigiKit.pdf>

Education Resource Bank

Complete list of all Educator Resources related to Henry Ford.

<http://www.thehenryford.org/education/resourcebanksearchresults.aspx?&usetype=25,125,23,22,20,21,122,26,126,18,-1&theme=&topic=13>

Expert Sets

Curated sets of artifacts accessible through our online collections.

Henry Ford's Youth

<http://collections.thehenryford.org/Collection.aspx?collectionid=7154>

Model T

<http://collections.thehenryford.org/Collection.aspx?collectionid=7145>

Assembly Line

<http://collections.thehenryford.org/Collection.aspx?collectionID=7139>

Henry Ford's Failures

<http://collections.thehenryford.org/Collection.aspx?collectionid=7142>

Henry Ford's Heroes

<http://collections.thehenryford.org/Collection.aspx?collectionid=7144>

The "Vagabonds"

<http://collections.thehenryford.org/Collection.aspx?collectionID=7151>



Henry Ford Museum®

Driving America exhibit

This exhibit examines ideas ranging from the everyday transportation choices we make to automotive innovations that have changed our lives. Features a section on Henry Ford as an innovator.

www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/drivingamerica/DrivingAmerica.aspx

Made in America exhibit

This exhibit explores the legacy of American innovators from the 18th to 20th centuries who made America a manufacturing superpower. Includes Henry Ford's Model T, \$5 day, assembly line and Highland Park factory engine.

www.thehenryford.org/museum/america.aspx

Henry's Assembly Line program

Visitors assemble miniature wooden Model Ts using station and moving assembly line methods in this 20-minute facilitated activity. Activity included with museum admission.

www.thehenryford.org/events/henrysAssembly.aspx

Build a Model T program

Assist in the assembly of an authentic Model T. Spend as much or as little time as you want at this facilitated activity. Activity included with museum admission.

www.thehenryford.org/events/buildAModelT.aspx

Greenfield Village®

Henry Ford's Model T District in Greenfield Village

This area presents the life of Henry Ford, from birth to the founding of Ford Motor Company. Includes his childhood home, a replica of the workshop where he built the Quadricycle, the opportunity to ride in a Model T and more.

www.thehenryford.org/village/historicdistricts.aspx

Young Henry and His Machines

Experience young Henry's informal education, and tinker with watch parts, machines and principles that challenged young Henry.

<http://www.thehenryford.org/events/henryFordAnniversary.aspx>

Henry's T dramatic presentation

Meet Henry Ford in this interactive 15-minute play, and hear how he was inspired to build the world's universal car.

<http://www.thehenryford.org/events/henryFordAnniversary.aspx>

Model T Rides in Greenfield Village

Experience a ride in *the* car of the 20th century.

www.thehenryford.org/village/transportation.aspx

Old Car Festival

An antique car show held each September featuring vehicles from the 1890s through 1932, including many Model Ts. Wide range of programs and events.

www.thehenryford.org/events/oldCarFestival.aspx

Motor Muster

A classic car show held annually on Father's Day weekend. See hundreds of vehicles from 1933 to 1976, including Ford V-8s and more.

www.thehenryford.org/events/motorMuster.aspx

Ford Rouge Factory Tour

Ford Rouge Factory Tour Legacy Theater

A film recounting the history of Ford Motor Company and Henry Ford's innovations, including the culmination of vertical integration at the Rouge. The film includes rarely seen historic footage from our archives.

www.thehenryford.org/rouge/footage.aspx

Final Assembly Plant Walking Tour

See a modern version of Henry Ford's assembly line. Visitors will have the opportunity to view the final assembly of new Ford F-150s from an elevated walkway.

<http://www.thehenryford.org/rouge/walkingtour.aspx>

Benson Ford Research Center®

Henry's Attic exhibit

This exhibit in our lobby explains how Henry Ford started the Edison Institute, now known as The Henry Ford. Includes artifacts ranging from Henry Ford's early interests in clocks and agricultural implements to today's focus on social and technological change.

www.thehenryford.org/collections/current.aspx#bfrc

Books related to Henry Ford

A list of books by Henry Ford, about Henry Ford and about the Ford family. All are available in our Reading Room.

<http://www.thehenryford.org/research/fordFamilyBibliography.aspx>

Ford Motor Company records and other archival collections

A list of archival collections that are available in our Reading Room for public research. Many documents related to Henry Ford are available, including Ford Motor Company records from 1903 to 1956 and the Fair Lane papers, personal family documents.

<http://www.dalnet.lib.mi.us/henryford/guides.html>



Topics of Interest

Henry Ford's Aviation Ventures

This website explores Henry Ford's aviation business ventures, including airplanes, an airport and hotel, and radio and navigation technologies.
<http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/heroes/entrepreneurs/henryford.asp>

Ford Motor Company Sociological Department and English School

This website explains how the Ford Motor Company Sociological Department and English School taught workers the skills and behaviors necessary to qualify for the \$5-a-day wage. Bibliography included.
<http://www.thehenryford.org/research/englishSchool.aspx>

Light's Golden Jubilee

An article that examines the October 21, 1929, dedication ceremony of the Edison Institute (now known as The Henry Ford), using artifacts and images.
<http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/2004/october.asp>

Exploded Model T

An article that examines the Henry Ford Museum "exploded" Model T display, with the car's constituent parts suspended by wires, with related artifacts and images.
http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/2012/12_may.asp

Receipt for Bicycle Chain Purchased by Henry Ford

An article that analyzes the significance of a bicycle chain receipt and Henry Ford's first car, the Quadricycle, using artifacts and images.
<http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/1996/96.june.html>

McGuffey Readers

An article that explores Henry Ford's admiration for the fundamental philosophies of William Holmes McGuffey and his reading textbooks, using artifacts and images.
<http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/1996/96.sept.html>

Henry Ford, Movie Mogul

An article that investigates Henry Ford's film productions, using artifacts and images.
http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/2006/06_july.asp

Advertising the Ford Model T

An article that reviews several advertisements used to promote Ford Motor Company and the Model T, using artifacts and images.
http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/2008/08_jan.asp

Ford's Model T: A Car for the Great Multitude

An in-depth article delving into the reasons for the Model T's success, using artifacts and images.
http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/2008/08_sept.asp

Henry Ford on Film

A selection of film clips from the collections of The Henry Ford, showing Henry Ford at work and at play.
<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL15GihUisSLRyuz1v4eCv6rRjwVrX9RW>

External Resources

"Henry Ford," American Experience, PBS

Website for the 2013 Henry Ford episode of PBS's American Experience history series. Includes timeline, videos, transcript, related articles and online store.
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/henryford/>

"Heritage," Ford Motor Company

Ford Motor Company's website about its history, including information about Henry Ford and other individuals, Ford vehicles, historic sites and company milestones.
<http://corporate.ford.com/our-company/heritage>

"Henry Ford's Life and Legacy," Henry Ford 150 Celebration

Website created by organizations founded by or related to Henry Ford in honor of the 150th anniversary of his birth in 2013. Includes a timeline, history articles and information about the organizations and events.
<http://www.henryford150.com/>

"Ford Model T" America on the Move, National Museum of American History

Information about the Model T, its historical context, and supporting images and objects, from the Smithsonian's America on the Move transportation exhibit.
http://amhistory.si.edu/onthemove/collection/object_1235.html

Other Places to Visit

Fair Lane, Henry Ford's Estate

The estate where Henry and Clara Ford lived in Dearborn, Michigan.
<http://www.henryfordestate.org/>

Edsel and Eleanor Ford House

The estate where Henry Ford's son, Edsel, and his wife, Eleanor, lived in Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan.
<http://www.fordhouse.org/>

Piquette Plant, Model T Automotive Heritage Complex

The second home of Ford Motor Company, known as the birthplace of the Model T, in Detroit, Michigan.
<http://www.tplex.org/>