

## Lesson 5 Impacts of Henry Ford’s Solution Today – And Tomorrow

### Big Ideas

- The Model T was a successful innovation that has changed people’s lives in many ways, intentionally and unintentionally.
- Automobiles present us with many further opportunities for innovation.

### Key Concepts

- Car culture
- Unintended consequences
- Opportunity to innovate

### Materials

- Computers with access to the Internet, digital projector and screen (preferred) OR printed handouts of digitized artifacts’ images and descriptions Sign: How do people solve problems?
- Magazines – 1 for every 2 students
- Student Activity Sheet 5: The Automobile in My Life

**Duration** One class period (45 minutes)

### Instructional Sequence

#### 1. Engagement

Discuss the question, “How have automobiles changed our culture, making it into a ‘car culture?’” with your students.

Distribute a magazine to each pair of students. Tell them that to understand what you mean by “car culture,” you want them to go through the magazine, page by page, and select items that they think are related to cars.

Give the students no more than five minutes. Have a few students share an item they found and describe its connection to car culture. Then, ask students to imagine how what they see in magazines would be different if we did not have cars and how our culture would be different without cars.

#### 2. Unintended Consequences

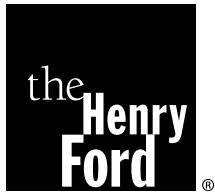
Ask the students to consider the question, “What if Henry Ford was alive today – would he be surprised at some of the effects cars have had on our culture?” Brainstorm consequences of the automobile that Henry Ford probably did not intend. Examples might be related to mass production, changed wage-skill relationships, mass automobility, suburbanization, pollution, traffic accidents, oil dependence, etc.

#### 3. Opportunity to Innovate

Remind students that these unintended consequences should not be considered just as negative problems. These problems or challenges can provide us with opportunities for innovation and problem solving. Have students complete Student Activity Sheet 5 The Automobile in My Life in class or as homework in order to think more about our car culture and the kind of innovating and problem solving they could do to improve automobiles.

### Assessment

Assess students’ participation in the magazine activity and the thoughtfulness they express on the Student Activity Sheet 5: The Automobile in My Life.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# the automobile in my life

Even if your family does not own or drive a car, there are many ways the automobile influences your life. In this activity, consider all the ways the automobile affects your everyday experiences. Think about some of the questions on your own, and then talk to your family members about them.

## Riding in an Automobile

- 1. Think about times throughout a day, week or month when you ride in some kind of automobile to go somewhere. List some of these places below.

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## Evidence of the Automobile

- 2. We see reminders of automobiles all around us, whether we are walking or riding in a car. In the box below, draw a picture of some of things you see when you're outside that are evidence of automobiles in our lives.

## Changing the Automobile

3. The automobile was an innovation. It was also a reason for many other innovations, like windshield wipers and drive-thru windows. What is one problem or issue in our **car culture** that you would like to improve? Draw or describe it in the box below.



A large grid area for drawing or describing a problem in car culture. The grid is composed of light green lines forming small squares. A dotted green border surrounds the grid area.

### extra credit

This is your opportunity to be an innovator!

What's your vision for solving this problem?

Draw or describe it on a separate piece of paper.