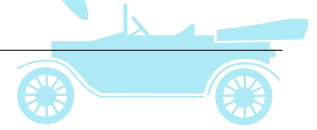


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# Transportation Systems review/assessment questions

1. What transportation systems were used by Americans in 1800? In 1898?

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2. How did transportation systems affect the Civil War?

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3. How might a public good, such as a transportation project, be funded? Explain the various arguments about and perspectives on the options.

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4. How has government's role in transportation changed since 1800, and what has been the impact on people's daily lives?

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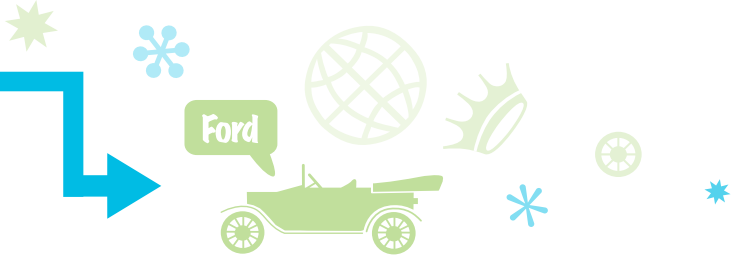
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5. What transportation systems connect societies all over the globe?

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7. How have automobiles affected the environment?

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6. How have transportation systems changed urban and rural areas?

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8. How did America's infrastructure change after WWII? Why?

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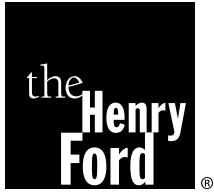
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# Transportation Systems review/assessment questions

**1. What transportation systems were used by Americans in 1800?**

Natural waterways (rivers, oceans and lakes) were most important for moving goods and people long-distances; roads were also used.

**In 1898?**

By 1898, railroads had changed long distance freight and travel. Streetcars were used in cities. Roads were still important, and city streets had undergone some improvements due to the popularity of the bicycle.

Note: In the 1810s to 1840s, man-made canals were also an important way to move goods and people.

(8 – U6.1.1, USHG F2.1)

**2. How did transportation systems affect the Civil War?**

The North's more advanced railroad system was an economic and military advantage that contributed to its victory. (8 – U4.2.1, 8 – U5.2.2)

**3. How might a public good, such as a transportation project, be funded? Explain the various arguments about and perspectives on the options.**

Options: tolls (users actually pay to use the road, bridge, etc.); gasoline taxes (those using the roads and bridges are doing so with cars fueled by gasoline – although this may change if fuel options change); abutment taxes (although abutters may not want roads improved because traffic would increase or speed up); fares/tickets (appropriate for mass transit); franchise creation and running of the project (but if the company does not make money, the project will be abandoned and people will be without transportation). Many possible answers exist.

(8 – P3.1.1, 8 – P4.2.2, E 1.4.3, E 1.4.4)

Continued...

**4. How has government's role in transportation changed since 1800, and what has been the impact on people's daily lives?**

Government's role in transportation has grown much bigger in the last 200 years. In the early 1800s, people were responsible for maintaining the road near their house or were assessed abutment taxes. The federal government debated whether it even had the authority to build and fund transportation infrastructure. At this time, transporting goods and people was difficult, due mostly to a lack of technology but also in part to the lack of government oversight. Today, we benefit from the Interstate Highway System which facilitates travel of goods and people quickly and more safely.

(WHG 7.1.1, USHG 6.1.5, C 2.2.3, C 2.2.5, E 1.4.4)

**5. What transportation systems connect societies all over the globe?**

Airplanes, ships, roads and railroads allow movement of people and goods worldwide. Container shipping is important for global trade between societies.

(WHG 6.1.3, WHG 7.1.4)

**6. How have transportation systems changed urban and rural areas?**

Streetcars were the first mode of transportation to encourage suburbanization. Suburbanization was accelerated with the increase in the number of roads, highways and interstates that were improved or built. Suburban areas grew, and rural areas shrank to absorb people who left the cities.

(USHG 6.1.3, USHG 6.1.5)

**7. How have automobiles affected the environment?**

Automobile manufacturing involves the extraction of natural resources and the use of nonrenewable resources. The use of automobiles requires extracting and refining natural resources (primarily oil) into fuel (gasoline), releases pollutants as the fuel is used and produces byproducts (used motor oil, etc.).

Old automobiles must be disposed of, often in a dump. (USHG 8.2.2)

**8. How did America's infrastructure change after WWII? Why?**

The 1956 Federal-Aid Highway Act facilitated building the Interstate Highway System, which was considered necessary for national defense but also helped commerce.

(USHG 6.1.5, USHG 8.2.2)