

Transportation in Large Cities

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OVERVIEW

Students will analyze a historic photograph depicting transportation in a large city to develop an understanding of how science and technology has changed the modes of transportation.

STANDARDS

- History Standard 4.1: Students understand the impact of scientific and technological developments on individuals and societies.
- Reading and Writing Standard 2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.

OBJECTIVES

After completing this activity, students will be able to:

- Gather information from an historical photograph.
- Identify differences in the modes of transportation from the time the photograph was taken and present times.
- State the purposes of different modes of transportation and discuss the similarities and differences in the purposes from then to now.
- Brainstorm ideas about what scientific and technological developments had to happen to create the new modes of transportation, using cause and effect to organize their thinking.
- Orally present a cause and effect explanation of how transportation has changed stating some of the scientific advances that had to be in place.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- How many types of transportation can you find in the picture?
- How are the people using the transportation, what is the purpose of the different types of transportation?
- What type of transportation came first?
- What types of transportation do we have today that takes the place of these types?
- What kind of scientific inventions had to happen to allow the newer types of transportation?

- Do you think the new inventions caused the new transportation or do you think the need for new transportation caused the inventions?
- Think about the omnibus in the picture and the light rail train to help you with some of the cause and effect questions.

MATERIALS TO BE USED

- Photograph from the Doing History CD-ROM disk or website for the Cities topic: Denver: Photo #4

PROCEDURE

Students working with a partner will:

1. Use the CD-ROM disk or website to examine the photograph.
2. Discuss the variety of transportation types they see.
3. Compare them to the types of transportation we have today.
4. Begin a list of the kinds of scientific inventions necessary to make the current types of transportation.
5. Fill in a cause and effect chart with their ideas of the scientific advances and inventions.
6. Practice an oral presentation of their chart to be given to the class.

ASSESSMENT

The students in the class will assess the oral presentation using the following standards:

1. Was the presentation easy to understand?
2. Are you able to state at least two scientific advances that changed the transportation from the past into modern forms of transportation?