

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATION: 5-6

TRANSPORTATION: A VIEW INTO THE FUTURE WITH A LOOK AT THE PAST

CONTENT AREA: SOCIAL STUDIES, READING, WRITING AND COMMUNICATING

LESSON TIME:

2-3 class periods

Materials:

1. Internet connection

OBJECTIVE:

A. Students will study historical modes of transportation and issues surrounding their use found in Colorado's newspapers using the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection (CHNC). Students will study contemporary ideas and issues on transportation using the electronic versions of the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News.

B. Students will analyze transportation issues through readings about bicycles, flying machines, and railroads in historical newspapers. Students will be able to relate benefits, problems, and other issues seen through history.

C. Students will analyze current modes of transportation and the issues surrounding their use. How have issues such as the environment, pollution, land use, quality of life, growth, etc. been addressed over the years? How will these issues impact the future of transportation?

D. Students will create a Plan for Colorado's Transportation Future 2025 based on current transportation articles and issues.

This lesson is adapted from: Transportation: A View into the Future with a look at the past from the Denver Post Educational Service.

5TH GRADE STANDARDS:

CONTENT AREA: SOCIAL STUDIES

1. History

1. Analyze historical sources from multiple points of view to develop an understanding of historical context

CONTENT AREA: READING, WRITING AND COMMUNICATING

2. Reading for All Purposes

2. Ideas found in a variety of informational texts need to be compared and understood

6TH GRADE STANDARDS:

CONTENT AREA: SOCIAL STUDIES

1. History

1. Analyze and interpret historical sources to ask and research historical questions

2. Geography

2. Human and physical systems vary and interact

CONTENT AREA: READING, WRITING AND COMMUNICATING

1. Oral Expression and Listening

1. Successful group discussions require planning and participation by all

4. Research and Reasoning

1. Individual and group research projects require obtaining information on

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a topic from a variety of sources and organizing it for presentation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION NEEDED FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS:

- Working knowledge of the electronic edition of the Denver Post (www.denverpost.com)
- Working knowledge of Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection (CHNC) www.ColoradoHistoricNewspapers.org

This unit is organized on different levels which can help you differentiate instruction:

Level I – Bicycles (historical articles provided are short, easily read)

Level II – Flying Machines (historical articles provided are longer in length, more difficult)

Level III - Railroads (one historical article provided, students research other historical articles themselves)

Level IV – Transportation Now (students search for contemporary articles on one particular issue to analyze and compare/contrast with historical articles)

Have students research and answer the following questions.

Level I - Bicycles

Type in <http://www.ColoradoHistoricNewspapers.org>. On the horizontal Tab Bar, click on Featured Topics, then General Interest Topics. Click on bicycles. Read at least four articles and write your observations.

1. What did you learn from your reading in the historic newspapers?
2. List the advantages/hopes/benefits of the bicycle.
3. List the difficulties/concerns/disadvantages of the bicycle.
4. How did this bicycle differ from today's models?

Level II – Flying Machines

Type in <http://www.ColoradoHistoricNewspapers.org>. On the horizontal Tab Bar, click on Featured Topics, then General Interest Topics. Click on flying machines. Of the thirteen articles listed, read at least four and write your observations.

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1. What did you learn from your reading on flying machines?
2. List the advantages/hopes/benefits of flying.
3. List the difficulties/concerns/disadvantages of flying.
4. How do these flying machines differ from today's methods of flying?

Level III - Railroads

Type in <http://www.ColoradoHistoricNewspapers.org>. Click on Browse. Scroll to Rocky Mountain News. Click on June 22, 1870. On the front page, find the article titled "The Denver Pacific Finished". Use this as your first article to study. In the Search For: box enter "Railroads" or "Railroads" <NEAR> Your City, then click on Search Region. Search the articles for items of interest, and choose at least three more for this assignment. Then respond to the following questions.

1. List the articles you read for this assignment:

E.g:

Newspaper	Date	Title of Article
Rocky Mountain News	6/22/1870	The Denver Pacific Finished

2. What did you learn from your reading on railroads?
3. List the advantages/hopes/promises of trains.
4. List the difficulties/discouragements/disadvantages of trains.
5. How do these trains differ from today's railroads?
6. What else do you wish to note that was important, interesting, or puzzling?

Level IV – Transportation Now

Type in <http://www.denverpost.com> for access to the electronic edition of The Denver Post. Click on search, type in "transportation", and search in articles for the whole month. Look for articles printed on the front page, state, national, or world, rather than ads listed on marketplace, autos, etc. You are looking for news rather than purchasing a car. After browsing through these articles, choose four articles that all address a similar issue such as paying for roads, light rail, DIA, gasoline prices, air quality, etc. Choose four articles (you may want to access both papers online) to read and respond to with the following form.

Circle the Paper: Denver Post Rocky Mountain News

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Title of Article _____

Date _____

Type of Transportation/
Issue _____

1. What is the transportation issue making news? What are the main ideas of this article?
2. What problems/concerns were covered? Are any of these similar to problems of the past?
3. What solutions/benefits are covered? Are any of these similar to solutions of the past?
4. What are the issues facing Colorado and the nation in the future?

ASSIGNMENT:

Write an essay

Create a Plan for Colorado's Transportation Future 2025.

How can Colorado address the environment, pollution, land use, growth, quality of life issues, etc. through transportation in the future? What would your plan favor?
(Can be done individually or in groups)