

The History of Getting Around

Warm-up Questions

Discuss the questions with your partner.

1. How do you usually get around your city?
 2. What is your favorite way to travel? Why?
 3. How did people travel before cars and airplanes?
 4. Do you think self-driving vehicles are the future? Why or why not?
 5. What is the longest journey you have ever taken?
 6. Which invention has changed transportation the most?
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Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning
Fuel	A substance such as gasoline, diesel, or electricity that provides energy for a vehicle.
Steam-powered	Operated by steam produced from heated water.
Self-driving vehicles	Vehicles that can travel without a human driver by using computers and sensors.
Hybrid vehicles	Vehicles that use both a gasoline engine and an electric motor.
Explore	To travel around a place to discover or learn about it.
Passenger	A person who travels in a vehicle but is not driving it.
Commute	To travel regularly between home and work or school.
Aircraft	Any vehicle that can fly, such as an airplane or helicopter.
Destination	The place where a journey ends.
Distance	The amount of space between two places.

Word	English Meaning
Journey	The act of traveling from one place to another.
Launch	To send something into the air or begin using something new.

Reading

The History of Getting Around

People have always looked for better ways to travel. Thousands of years ago, people walked long distances or rode animals such as horses and camels. Although these methods were slow, they allowed people to explore new places and trade with others.

The first major change came during the Industrial Revolution. Steam-powered trains and ships made travel much faster and more reliable. For the first time, people could travel long distances in a shorter time, and goods could be transported more efficiently.

In the early twentieth century, cars became more common. As roads improved, people could commute more easily between home and work. Around the same time, aircraft changed international travel forever. Journeys that once took weeks by ship could now be completed in just a few hours.

Today, transportation continues to develop. Hybrid vehicles help reduce fuel consumption and pollution, while electric cars are becoming increasingly popular around the world. Scientists and engineers are also testing self-driving vehicles, which may make roads safer and reduce traffic accidents in the future.

Looking ahead, transportation is likely to become faster, cleaner, and smarter. New technologies may even allow people to travel to space more easily after the successful launch of future spacecraft. One thing is certain: the history of getting around is still being written.

Reading Comprehension

A. Answer the questions.

1. How did people travel before modern transportation?
2. What was one important result of the Industrial Revolution?
3. Why did cars become popular?

4. How did aircraft change travel?
 5. What are the advantages of hybrid vehicles?
 6. Why are self-driving vehicles important?
 7. According to the text, what might transportation be like in the future?
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B. True (T) or False (F)

1. People only traveled by horse in the past. _____
 2. Steam-powered trains made travel faster. _____
 3. Aircraft made international travel slower. _____
 4. Hybrid vehicles use two different sources of power. _____
 5. Self-driving vehicles always need a human driver. _____
 6. Transportation is continuing to change. _____
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C. Discussion

1. Which invention has had the greatest impact on transportation? Why?
2. Would you trust a self-driving car? Explain.
3. What transportation technology would you like to see in the future?
4. How can modern transportation become more environmentally friendly?