

The History of Getting Around

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

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.

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

Throughout history, humans have always searched for faster, easier, and safer ways to travel. Getting from one place to another has always been an important part of human life. Travel helps people discover new places, exchange goods, build relationships, and learn about different cultures.

Thousands of years ago, most people traveled on foot. Some people also used animals such as horses, camels, and donkeys to carry passengers and goods. Although these methods were slow and sometimes difficult, they allowed people to explore new lands and create trade routes between different regions.

One of the biggest changes in transportation happened during the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries. The invention of the steam engine changed the way people moved around. Steam-powered trains and ships could travel much faster than traditional transportation methods. People could travel longer distances in less time, and businesses could transport products more easily.

In the early 20th century, cars became one of the most important inventions in transportation history. At first, only a few people could afford cars, but over time they became more common. Better roads and highways allowed people to commute between their homes and workplaces more easily. Cars gave people more freedom because they could travel whenever and wherever they wanted.

At the same time, aircraft changed the world of travel forever. Before airplanes became popular, traveling across oceans could take many days or even weeks. Airplanes made international journeys much faster and connected countries around the world.

However, modern transportation also creates challenges. Cars and airplanes use large amounts of fuel, which can cause pollution and environmental problems. Because of this, scientists are developing cleaner transportation solutions. Hybrid vehicles and electric cars help reduce fuel consumption and protect the environment.

Another exciting development is the creation of self-driving vehicles. These vehicles use advanced computers, cameras, and sensors to move without a human driver. Although this technology is still developing, many experts believe self-driving vehicles may make roads safer in the future.

The future of transportation may bring even more amazing changes. Scientists are exploring new ideas such as faster trains, smarter cities, and improved space travel. Future spacecraft launches may allow humans to explore places beyond Earth more easily.

From walking and riding animals to flying across the world and exploring space, transportation has changed dramatically over time. The history of getting around shows how human creativity and technology continue to change the way we live, work, and discover the world.

Reading Comprehension

A. Answer the Questions

1. How did people travel thousands of years ago?
2. What invention changed transportation during the Industrial Revolution?
3. Why did steam-powered trains and ships become important?
4. How did cars change people's daily lives?
5. Why were aircraft a major change in transportation history?
6. What are hybrid vehicles designed to do?
7. How do self-driving vehicles work?
8. What transportation changes might we see in the future?

B. True or False

Write T (True) or F (False).

1. People only traveled by cars and airplanes in the past. _____
 2. Horses, camels, and donkeys helped people travel and carry goods. _____
 3. Steam-powered transportation made journeys faster and more efficient. _____
 4. Cars became popular immediately because everyone could afford them. _____
 5. Aircraft made it easier and faster to travel between countries. _____
 6. Modern transportation has no negative effects on the environment. _____
 7. Hybrid vehicles use both a traditional engine and an electric motor. _____
 8. Self-driving vehicles use technology such as cameras and sensors. _____
 9. Scientists are no longer interested in improving transportation. _____
 10. The future of transportation may include smarter and cleaner technologies. _____
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C. Discussion Questions

Discuss the questions with your partner.

1. Which transportation invention has changed human life the most? Why?
 2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of cars?
 3. Would you trust a self-driving car? Why or why not?
 4. How can transportation become more environmentally friendly?
 5. What kind of transportation do you think people will use 50 years from now?
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