

All About Transportation

Grade 2

About this book:

Planes, trains, and automobiles are great vehicles for learning in Grade 2. Enliven your lessons with these fun activities while practicing a wide range of critical Grade 2 skills including:

- phonics
- word study
- creative writing
- research
- reading
- critical thinking
- classification and more.

The high interest worksheets in this resource are ready to use to get your students' minds in gear.

Written by Ruth Solski



About the author:

Ruth Solski was an educator for 30 years. She has written many educational resources and is the founder of S&S Learning Materials. As a writer, her main goal is to provide teachers with a useful tool that they can implement in their classrooms to bring the joy of learning to children.

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OTM305	Joy of Christmas	2
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Land Transportation

Engine-Powered Vehicles:

Land transportation is the most common method people use to move about. The main engine-powered land vehicles are automobiles, buses, motorcycles, trains, snowmobiles, and trucks. The only vehicle that doesn't travel on wheels is the snowmobile.

Automobiles help people to travel whenever they want and by what ever route they choose. Buses carry people along established routes within cities and between them. Trucks provide door to door freight service.

Trains ride on tracks and cannot provide the same services as trucks and buses but they can haul heavier loads than trucks can. They can also carry many more passengers than buses can.

Snowmobiles skim across the ice or snow on two skis at the front and a moving track at the rear. An engine powers the track which propels the engine. Snowmobiles are used mainly in northern areas that are covered with snow during much of the year.

Engineless Land Transportation:

Walking is the most basic type of engineless land transportation. In some countries people carry loads on their heads or backs or use animals to carry loads. These animals are called pack animals or beasts of burden. Other beasts of burden are camels, donkeys, elephants, horses, llamas, and oxen. Pack animals are used in areas where there are no modern roads such as jungles, mountains, and deserts.

Some vehicles are moved by people using their own muscle power such as carts, bicycles, and pedicabs. In some countries, people ride bicycles to and from work and pedicabs are used as taxicabs and even as school buses.

In some countries people use animal-drawn carts and wagons to transport goods. The carts may be drawn by dogs, donkeys, horses or oxen. Wagons which are large four-wheeled carts are pulled by oxen.

Water Transportation

Boats, ships, and rafts are the main means for Water Transportation. A small water vehicle is called a boat and it travels on rivers, canals, and lakes. A larger vessel that travels on the ocean is called a ship. A raft is a floating platform made of logs or barrels.

Engine-Powered Water Transportation:

Most ships and boats are powered by engines. Ships are used for hauling cargo on ocean waters and on bodies of water that are connected to the ocean. Some cargo ships work on large inland waterways such as the Great Lakes.





Very few ships transport passengers on the oceans but motorboats carry passengers on lakes and rivers. Tugboats are used for hauling freight, tow heavily loaded barges and large ships.

Barges are actually large rafts that are pushed or towed. Some barges have engines and can move under their own power. Barges are used mainly to haul freight along inland waterways.

Ships and boats are the slowest engine-powered vehicles except for two fast-moving vehicles called hydrofoils and hovercraft developed by engineers.

Hydrofoils skim across the water on skids or runners. Hovercraft or air cushion vehicles ride above the water on a cushion of air. Hydrofoils and hovercrafts ride out of the water and they can travel faster than other watercraft of equal horsepower. They are both used to carry passengers locally as they are too small to travel on oceans. Some hydrofoils and hovercraft are used to haul cargo along inland and coastal waters.

Engineless Water Transportation:

Dugouts, canoes, rowboats, sailboats, and rafts are engineless water vehicles. Dugouts, canoes, and rowboats are propelled by paddles or oars. Sailboats are moved by the wind. Rafts are propelled by paddles, poles, sails or water currents. Sailboats called junks and rowboats called sampans are used to haul freight in the Far East. In the tropical rainforests in Africa, Asia, and South America, many villages use dugouts or rafts for traveling on rivers. In the Pacific Islands the people use dugouts to travel between the islands. Some of the dugouts are equipped with outriggers and sails.

Air Transportation

Almost all aircraft depend on engine-power. Gliders and hot-air balloons are engineless and are used mainly for recreation.

Airplanes provide the world's fastest and practical way to transport passengers and freight. Large airliners fly 500 to 600 miles per hour (800 to 970 kilometers per hour.) Smaller planes are powered by gasoline engines and driven by propellers. New airliners are powered by jet engines. Supersonic jets fly faster than the speed of sound and travel at about 1,500 mph (2,410 kph.) Airliners carry mainly passengers and can only carry a fraction of the weight that a ship or train can haul.

Helicopters are smaller than most airplanes and cannot fly as fast or as far. They are powered by engines. Helicopters cannot carry as many passengers as airplanes. Helicopters are used in rescue work and in fighting forest fires because they are more maneuverable in certain situations.





History of Transportation

In prehistoric times people had no beasts of burden, wheeled vehicles or roads. People traveled on foot and carried their babies and large loads strapped to their backs or heads. Heavy loads were strapped to a pole and carried by people. Later people learned to drag loads along the ground on sledges. Sledges were made from logs, poles, rawhide or anything else that could carry a load. In the late prehistoric period people began to build sledges with runners. These vehicles were used to run on snow and ice and became the first sleds.

Around 8 000 B.C. people in the Middle east began to trade with different settlements and a better form of transportation was needed. The donkey and ox had been domesticated for farm work and people began to use them as pack animals.

Water travel began to develop during prehistoric times. Rafts were built from logs or reeds. Later dugouts and canoes were made and they were propelled by paddles or poles. These early craft were used on streams and lakes but were too fragile for ocean travel.

By 3 000 B.C. the early Egyptians had learned to build sailing vessels that were strong enough to be used on the sea. As time passed the vessels became bigger and sturdier and were used for trading along the shores of the Mediterranean.

Sea travel was still slow and difficult and sailors lacked navigational instruments. The ships stayed within sight of land. They were difficult to steer because they had no rudders. The ships were steered by the means of one or two oars at the stern.

Early ships had only a single sail and could not depend entirely on the wind for power. The single sail only worked well when the wind blew from behind. If there was no wind many ships had teams of oarsmen to row the vessels.

Around 3 500 B.C. the first known wheeled vehicles were built. The first wheeled vehicles were four-wheeled carts pulled by donkey-like animals called "onagers." Each wheel on the cart was a wooden disk made from three rectangular boards. The wheels were not perfectly round and bumped along slowly and had to be repaired frequently. The wheeled-carts were used to carry passengers and troops into battle, to haul grain, sand, and other goods.

Between 2 000 and 1 500 B.C. the first spoked wheels appeared. These wheels consisted of a rim, a hub, and spokes. The three parts were constructed separately. These wheels provided a smoother ride and were lighter and faster. Chariots were probably the first vehicles to use spoked wheels and they were pulled by horses. Horse-drawn chariots were the swiftest vehicles of ancient times.

The Ancient Greeks were responsible for the building of two masted vessels and increased the number of sails from one to four. These ships were used to transport goods and develop trade. The Ancient Romans began the development of road building. They used these roads to connect their major cities. Their roads were wide and paved with stone blocks. They were used to transport soldiers and military supplies.





All About Transportation



Pete Pilot's Tracking Sheet

Print the number of each activity that you do in the correct parachute



Bus Driver
Ben's
Thinking



Firefighter
Randy's
Words



Engineer
Charlie's
Sounds



Pilot Pete's
Research



Captain
Andy's
Mathematics



Astronaut
Amy's Tales



Garbage
Collector
Garth's
Reading





All About Transportation



Firefighter Randy's Words

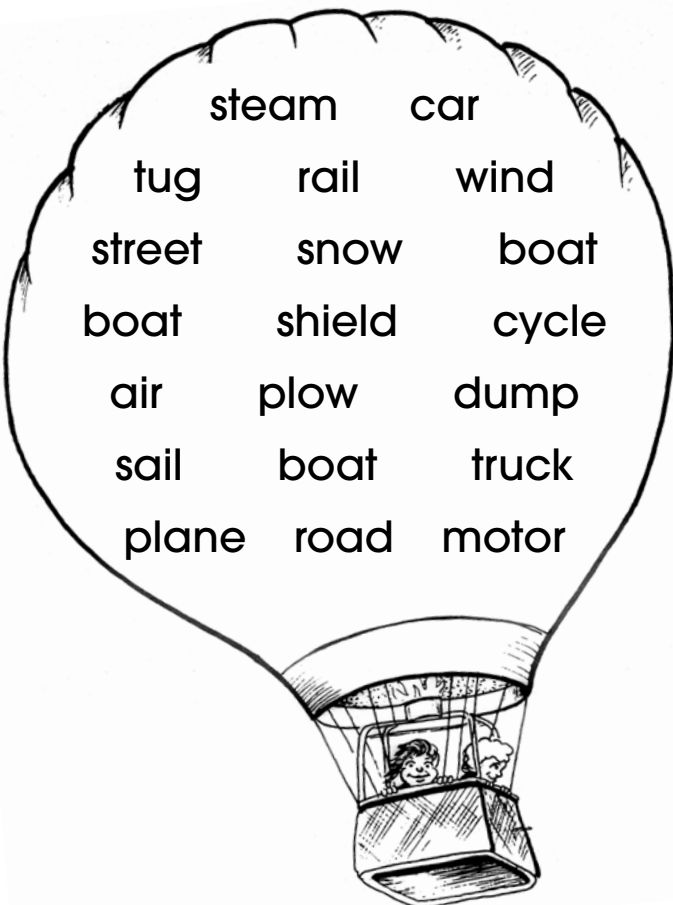
Activity One

Traveling Compounds



"Aircraft" is a compound word.

Use the words in the air balloon to make compound words.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____





Firefighter Randy's Words

Activity Two

How many syllables do you hear?



A hovercraft is a vehicle that skims across the water very fast.

The word hovercraft has three syllables.

Copy the words below neatly.

Beside each word print the number of syllables that you hear.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. train _____ | 7. submarine _____ |
| 2. raft _____ | 8. wagon _____ |
| 3. subway _____ | 9. airplane _____ |
| 4. skateboard _____ | 10. motorcycle _____ |
| 5. helicopter _____ | 11. streetcar _____ |
| 6. canoe _____ | 12. automobile _____ |

