

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Transportation

## How People and Things Move

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. How did you get to school today? Did you walk? Did you take a bus? Did you ride your bicycle or take a train? Transportation is the movement of people and things from one place to another. The type of transportation you take to school depends on many things. For example, different types of transportation are more common in certain areas. In a city, where many people live close together, buses and subways are very useful. These vehicles can transport many people all together between different neighborhoods and areas of the city. In rural and suburban areas, people are more spread out. They often drive cars to get to where they need to go.

Notes

2. The type of transportation you use may depend on where you live. It may also depend on the distance you need to go. Walking can be a great way to travel a mile or two. But you wouldn't want to walk from Boston to San Francisco. Why not? Because the distance between those cities is about 3,000 miles, and walking that many miles could take you a year!

Notes

When choosing a type of transportation, you should think about the distance you will be traveling. You should also think about how quickly you need to get there. Cars aren't the quickest way to travel very long distances. You could drive from Boston to San Francisco, but it would take close to 50 hours! The fastest way to get from Boston to San Francisco is to fly in a plane. A flight between the cities usually takes between 5-6 hours. Flying is always the quickest way to travel very long distances.

3. A route is a path between two places. When choosing how you're going to get somewhere, you need to think about the route you'll be taking. Air, water and land require different modes of transportation, and certain vehicles only cover certain routes. For example, trains travel on railroad tracks. You can only take a train between two places if there is a railroad route with a train or trains that go between them. Similarly, ships travel on the water. You couldn't take a ship from Denver to Boulder, Colorado, because there's no water on that route. Instead, you could drive, take a bus or take a plane.

Notes

4. Subways and buses can transport a lot of people at one time, and riding them is usually quite cheap. They have set routes that don't change. People use subways and buses to travel across cities. Subways and buses move along their routes many times a day. Because of this, you can only take a bus or subway to and from certain places. To take these forms of transportation, you need to look at a map and a schedule. You might not be able to leave when you want to leave or go where you need to go.

Notes

5. Transportation is the movement of people and the movement of goods. Goods are objects that serve people's wants and needs. They are things that are made or grown. Examples of goods include fruits, vegetables, clothing and books.

Notes

The goods you use every day don't only come from your town or city. They come from many different places, and many different vehicles and modes of transportation brought them to you. For example, bananas are very popular fruits in the US. But bananas need very humid, tropical climates to grow. For that reason, the bananas that we eat in the US are often grown in Central America. They are transported on ships and then on trucks to get to a grocery store near you.

6. Like people, goods can move across towns and around the world. The type of transportation used depends on many things. Some goods need to move quickly. Fresh fruit, for example, could go bad if transportation takes too long. The distance to be traveled, the route and the weight of the goods also help people pick which vehicle to use. The cost of transportation matters, too. Some forms of transportation, like airplanes, are quick but expensive, and they can't carry as much as a train or ship. Others, like trucks, are slow but cost less. Trains and trucks are useful for transporting heavy, bulky goods across long distances. Trucks can travel on any route with a highway or road. Trains need railroad tracks on the routes they travel, but they can usually transport more items at once than trucks. Special ships called cargo ships can carry a lot goods across oceans.

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