

Moving From Place to Place

Transportation is the way we travel within and between communities. There are several ways to move around a community such as by train, car, bicycle – or by foot. Transportation takes people where they want to go.

Transportation corridors significantly influence the development and organization of cities and towns. For example, a community that offered public transportation on trains would need to set aside land for train tracks and would encourage more development around the train stations. A city that offered few public transportation choices might need more land for roads and parking areas and have development that is more spread out. By examining the effects of different forms of transportation, students will be able to understand the influence of these modes of transportation on the environment and their lives.

Materials

Large pieces of paper (optional)

Photocopies of worksheets

Brainstorm

Ask students to list the different forms of transportation available in their community. Use the chart, *Transportation Choices: Pros and Cons*, as a guide to prompt discussion.

Action

Using the coloring sheet, have each student color all the different modes of transportation. Then, have students circle the ways by which they travel around their community. After students have completed their coloring sheet, as a class identify the different forms of transportation represented on the sheet.

Create a diagram that lists all of the types of transportation found on the chart, *Transportation Choices: Pros and Cons*. Have students share the ways by which they travel each day. Record the information on the chart. Use the results to compare and contrast how the class moves around their community, and discuss the impact of the class's transportation choices. If half of the class changed the type of transportation they use, how would this affect their community and the environment?

Discussion and Analysis

Discuss the impact of each form of transportation on the community. How do students' transportation choices influence the environment? Traffic? Their health? Does the local community provide enough transportation choices for students?

Taking it Further

-Have the class, or individual students, use magazines, newspapers, and the Internet to create a collage depicting the forms of transportation found in communities

-To illustrate the need for choices that encourage mass transit, create a "highway" in the classroom by laying mural paper on the floor. Discuss which forms of transportation are found and not found on highways. Have each child represent a car on the highway. What is it like when only one car is on the highway? Could there be more? Then, have students get on the highway, one by one. What happens when everyone is on the highway? Is it crowded? How could we reduce the traffic? Have students brainstorm about possible solutions. Discuss what might happen if half the cars stopped using the highway. Maybe some people could take a subway, if one is available, or a train. People could ride a bus or carpool. How would reduced traffic help a community and the local environment?

-Review the images that show transportation corridors from the past and today. How has transportation corridors affected the natural and built environment in the rural Midwest over time?