

30 Days of History: Early American Transportation

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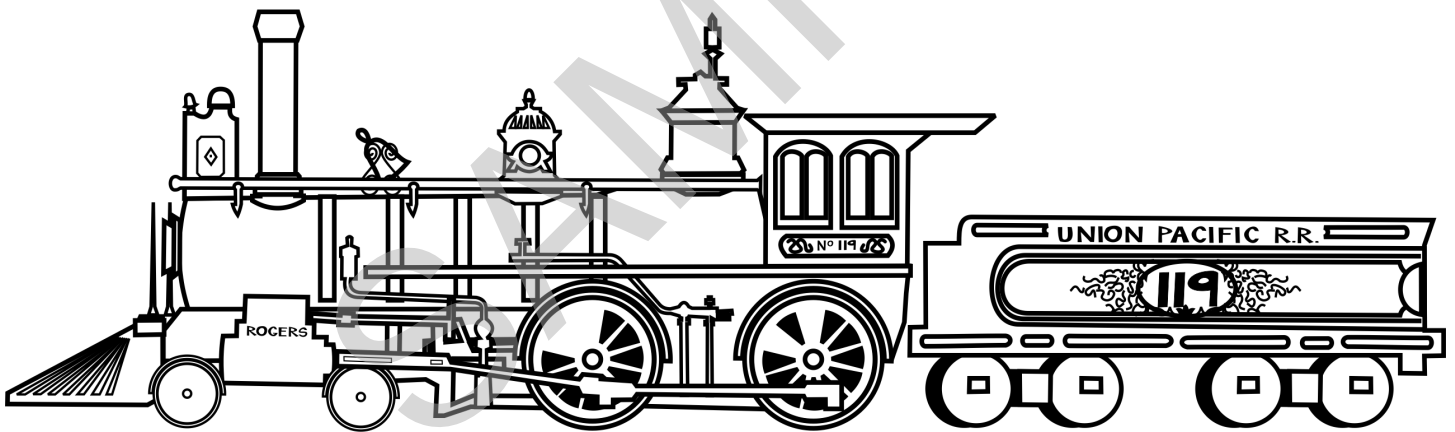
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Introduction

30 Days of History is designed to give your students 4-6 weeks of daily work focused on a specific topic or time period. Each looks at significant terms and events and asks 7 questions on each that will draw your students into researching and learning more. 30 Days of History: Early American Transportation looks at this important period in American history. This can be used as a supplement to your history class, a tool to help develop research skills, or fun work to fill in as needed. However you use it, you're sure to learn more about early American transportation and discover history along the way.



Early Transportation in America

From the time America was settled, there was a need to move around. Many of the original inhabitants were nomadic, moving with the animals they needed for food. Others, even if staying in one place, needed to hunt and trade. Transportation was needed. Of course, walking was used by many for years. Riding horseback was also popular, as was moving things in a cart or even pulling it on a sled-type apparatus. Canoes or other types of crafts were used for travel on the water. With the coming of the explorers and settlers from Europe, many changes in transportation also came.

When the explorers came, what form of transportation did they use to arrive? How was this method of transportation used to explore farther into the new lands that had been discovered?

As settlers came to the new land, what different means of transportation did they use in their settlements? _____

Were the transportation requirements different when women and children came to the new land, or did they manage with the same types of transportation the men used? Why was this the case? _____

As the colonies grew and people moved to new areas, what types of transportation were used? Did the infrastructure available make travel easy or hard? Why?_____

What does the fact that people spread out in so many areas tell you about the hardiness and resourcefulness of the settlers? _____

While some roads in towns were stone, many in towns and between towns were dirt roads. What were the disadvantages of these roads when it rained or when the snow melted in the winter? _____

What new systems of road building were introduced to Europe by Trésaguet of France and Telford and McAdam of Scotland? _____
