Travel and Transportation

Introduction

A lot of old maps have pictures of things used for transportation. Transportation is a word that means how people get from place to place. Can anyone think of an example of transportation?

Here are four pictures of the ways people got around over 100 years ago.

These are four old ways of transportation. Stagecoaches were carriages that travelled between cities. They were used a long time ago, and they were pretty slow and uncomfortable. It might take you more than a week to get where you were going. Trains and Trolleys look a lot alike, but you would take a train to go on a long trip and a trolley to go on a short trip. When trains were first invented, people had only been able to land travel on horses or stagecoaches, and trains let them travel much faster and much farther than before. Trolleys came a bit later, but when they were invented, it became very easy to get between nearby cities. Automobiles were what cars were called when they were first invented. They were not as fast as they are today, and people had to crank them to get them started, but with them, you could travel anywhere with roads.

Interaction: Who can tell me which transportation ran on gasoline? (*automobile*). Which transportation used horses? (*stagecoach*). Which transportation used ran on coal? (*train*). Which transportation used electricity? (*trolley*).

This postcard was made over 115 years ago and shows different kinds of ships.

Longships or Dragonships were used by people called "Vikings" over 800 years ago. A lot of them had carvings of dragons on the front. Cogs were a larger ship used for a long time. They could carry a lot of goods for trading between cities. Steamships were invented around the same time as trains. They could make it across the ocean in only a week! This led to a lot more people crossing the ocean.

Interaction: Steamships would burn coal to move, but how would dragonships and cogs move? (*wind*). What are some problems that could happen with cogs and dragonships? (*no wind and too much wind--storms*).

This is a map of Europe made over 150 years ago.

Tourism means travelling somewhere for fun. We might call tourism "vacationing" today. 150 years ago, Americans who could afford to travel liked to go to Europe. Some of their favorite places to visit were: Switzerland, where they could seee beautiful mountains; Italy, where they could walk through cities that were over 2000 years old; and England, where they could see old buildings and place and still understand the language that was being spoken.

Interaction: Who has a favorite place to go on vacation?

This map of England is over 100 years old. It shows were trains travelled.

Hotels are places that people can pay to spend the night at. They didn't used to be as big as they are now, but when railroads were invented, more people started to travel. A lot of large hotels were built near train stations.

Interaction: Raise your hand if you've ever stayed at a hotel? Does anyone remember what city you were in?

Activity Transition

I have a coloring activity for everybody. We're going to be coloring some old maps that tell the story of a vacation.