

Transportation

Resource List for Grades 5 through 8

The Resources in this document can be used with the Transportation Curriculum Packet for grades 5 through 8.

Books

Non-fiction and Biography

- Cars, Trains, Ships, and Planes: A Visual Encyclopedia of Every Vehicle, 2015 by DK (Author). With many pictures and timelines, it shows and very briefly discusses different methods of transportation across time.
- Conestoga Wagons, 2000 by Richard Ammon (Author), Bill Farnsworth (Illustrator). Gives the history of the Conestoga wagon, the 18-wheeler of its time. Used to long-distance hauling from 1750-1850 and produced in Pennsylvania.
- Construction Vehicles (How Machines Work), 2008 by Terry Jennings (Author). Describes in detail construction vehicles used in digging, paving, and general construction, and how they work.
- DK Eyewitness Books: Car: Discover the Story of Cars from the Earliest Horseless Carriages to the Modern Supercars, 2005 by Richard Sutton (Author), Elizabeth Baquedano (Author). Cars have come a long way in the century or so since they were invented. This book shows how cars have changed and developed, from the dangers of the early pioneering models to the complicated speedsters of today. See a horseless carriage and boneshaker, the elegant classics of the 1930s, and the family cars of the 1950s.
- DK Eyewitness Books: Train: Discover the Story of Railroads from the Age of Steam to the High-Speed Trains, 2009 by John Coiley (Author). Eyewitness Train is DK's classic look at railroads and the trains that move along them, now reissued with a CD and wall chart.
- Flight (The Science Behind), 2012 by Louise Spilsbury (Author). This book explores the science behind flight. It looks at topics such as how planes, helicopters, and balloons fly. It also looks at the concepts of gravity, streamlining, drag and thrust.
- Grand Central Terminal: Gateway to New York City, 2003 by Ed Stanley (Author). An overview of New York City's Grand Central Terminal gives readers the behind the building, the story of a rapidly growing city, and the golden age of long-distance train travel.
- Hear that Train Whistle Blow! How the Railroad Changed the World (Landmark Books), 2005 by Milton Meltzer (Author). From the very first passenger train to roll down the tracks in 1825 to the advent of today's high-speed trains, the railroad has been and is still one of the most vital forces in civilization. Focusing on American railroad history but touching on other countries.

- Infrastructure of America's Railway Systems (America's Infrastructure), 2018 by Marcia Lusted (Author).
This book explores eight railroads and subways that are lifelines for transportation in the U.S., but are overloaded and often falling apart. These pieces of infrastructure are very important to the entire country, but need emergency repairs and expansion right now.
- Infrastructure of America's Tunnels (America's Infrastructure), 2018 by Marcia Lusted (Author).
Infrastructure is something that we use every day, like roads, bridges, and tunnels, but probably never think too much about. Tunnels especially are vital to transportation, and extremely dangerous when they collapse. This book explores eight tunnels of different types that are lifelines for transportation in the US, but are now at risk.
- Life As a Mississippi Riverboat Captain, 2018 by MS Laura L Sullivan (Author).
With the acquisition of new land in the 1800s, there were many opportunities to travel along waterways, such as the Mississippi River. One profession was that of a riverboat captain. Readers learn what it was like to operate the boat, live on the ship, and transport goods and people along one of the United States' main corridors.
- Railroads and Steamships: Important Developments in American Transportation (America's Industrial Society in the Nineteenth Century), 2003 by Suzanne J Murdico (Author).
Looks at the history of transportation in the United States, discussing the need for railroads and steamships and how they impacted the nation.
- Ranger Rick Kids' Guide to Paddling: All you need to know about having fun while paddling (Ranger Rick Kids' Guides), 2018 by Tom Watson (Author).
By reading this book, you'll learn all about small watercraft and how to paddle them, what gear to take with you on the water, beautiful places to paddle, and what wildlife to look out for on the water. Once you reach the end of this book, you'll know all the parts of your boat, the differences between a beaver tail paddle and a Greenland paddle, how to make a float plan, and how to care for and store your boat once you come home.

Fiction

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul, 2014 by Jeff Kinney (Author).
Greg Heffley and his family hit the road in author-illustrator Jeff Kinney's latest installment of the phenomenal bestselling Diary of a Wimpy Kid series.
- I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912, 2010 by Lauren Tarshis (Author), Scott Dawson (Illustrator).
Ten-year-old George Calder can't believe his luck -- he and his little sister, Phoebe, are on the famous Titanic, crossing the ocean with their Aunt Daisy. The ship is full of exciting places to explore, but when George ventures into the first class storage cabin, a terrible boom shakes the entire boat. Suddenly, water is everywhere, and George's life changes forever.
- Imagine That!, 2000 by Janet Wilson (Author).
Auntie Violet reflects on the changes in the 20th century, decade by decade with her niece Elizabeth. Areas covered in the decade sidebars include sports, music, entertainment, technology, transportation, fashion, communication, food, toys, and more.
- Kingdom Keepers VI: Dark Passage, 2014 by Ridley Pearson (Author).
Aboard the Disney Cruise Line's inaugural passage through the new Panama Canal, the Keepers and their holograms uncover a puzzle hidden within the pages of a stolen journal. The point of that puzzle will reveal itself in the caves of Aruba, the zip lines of Costa Rica, and the jungles of Mexico. A destructive force, dormant for decades, is about to be unleashed.

- The No. 1 Car Spotter, 2010 by Atinuke (Author).
When the cart breaks down and the villagers can't get their goods to market, Oluwalase Babatunde Benson, otherwise known as the No. 1 car spotter in his village, comes up with a brilliant solution.

Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous

- Bicycles by Kids Discover
In this issue, you can get all the facts on this wheeled wonder, from its invention in 1817 by a German baron to the high-tech, speedy cruisers of today. After reviewing the basics, how a bike works, readers will delve into its history, starting with the birth of the wheel in 3500 B.C. and zooming up to the late 1800s, when the bike really took off.
<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/how-a-bike-works/>
- Boats & Ships by Kids Discover
First, take a look at how boats and ships differ, and then they'll learn about the materials that can be used to build them, including logs, fiberglass, and iron. Next, compare the ways boats and ships can be powered, by muscles, wind, or engines, and investigate the many forms they can take: from the basic, like the kayak, to the bizarre, like the New Guinea Lakatoi, which has sails shaped like crab claws.
<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/boats-for-kids/>
- Road and Track Online
<https://www.roadandtrack.com/>
- SimplePlanes: Minimalist flight simulator lets you build (and crash) your own plane. Download in your play store.
- The Oregon Trail: Guide a wagon trail of settlers west across the American frontier by tapping the screen to interact with buttons and menus. Kids respond to random events such as sick family members, manage supplies and money, and decide how fast to go and which routes to take. Download in your play store.

Online Links

- The National Museum of American History: Explore the collections containing photographs and historical facts about transportation.
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/subjects/transportation>
- National Transportation Museum: Virtual tour
<http://tours.aspiremedia360.com/44237>
- The Smithsonian: Trains at Smithsonian Station
<https://www.si.edu/spotlight/trains>

Background information for the Educator

- Nanosonic: Lessons using advanced transportation systems as a central theme.
<http://www.nanosonic.com/education/>
- Transportation Teaching Ideas
<https://educators.brainpop.com/bp-jr-topic/transportation/>