

Dear Teacher,

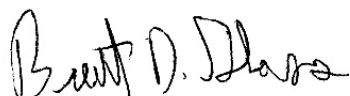
We are pleased to provide you with this classroom activity guide designed to accompany the National Museum of American History's newest permanent exhibition, *America on the Move*. The guide was created through a generous gift from the State Farm Companies Foundation and is the result of the dedicated efforts of classroom teachers, museum educators, historians, and curators.

America on the Move takes your students on a fascinating journey through the history of the United States from 1876 to 2000, using the lens of transportation. The exhibition explores historical moments, from the coming of the railroad to a California town in 1876 to the role of the streetcar and the automobile in creating suburban communities to the transformation of a U.S. port by containerized shipping in the 1970s.

In this curriculum, you will find a variety of creative and engaging strategies to help students think about and gain a deeper understanding of how transportation has shaped American lives and landscapes. Your class will find primary-sources activities, suggestions for student-centered research, and activities that can help you assess student learning and progress. We look forward to your visit, either in person or on the Web, where you will find additional resources (<http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/onthemove>).

Please keep in touch with us, either through the internet or by writing the Department of Education and Public Programs, Smithsonian Institution, P.O. Box 37012, National Museum of American History, MRC 603, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012, and let us know your thoughts.

Best regards,



Brent D. Glass
Director



Nancy McCoy
Assistant Director for Education
and Public Programs

National Museum of American History

Connections to National History Standards for Grades 5–11

Unit One	Industrial United States 1870–1900	Era 6: 1A/B/C, 2A/B/C, 3A/C
Unit Two	Modern America 1890–1930	Era 7: 1A, 3A/B/C
Unit Three	Modern America 1890–1930	Era 7: 3B
	Great Depression, World War II 1929–1945	Era 8: 1B, 2A
Unit Four	Postwar United States 1945–Early 1970s	Era 9: 1A/B
Unit Five	Contemporary United States 1968–Present	Era 10: 1A/B, 2A/B/E

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1880s Agricultural Nation: Foods and Families on the Move	
(subtheme: immigrant and migrant workers)	
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1920s Industrial Nation: Workers and Products on the Move	
(subtheme: struggle for racial equality)	
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1930s and 1940s Early Highways that Bind the Nation: Families on the Move	
(subtheme: depression, Dust Bowl, post–World War II)	
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1950s and 1960s Suburban Communities on the Move	
(subtheme: cities versus suburbs)	
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1970s–2000 The World’s People and Products on the Move	
(subtheme: global migrations of workforce)	
Additional Resources: Term Definitions, Suggested Books and Websites	62

Each Unit Contains	Historical Thinking Skills Used	Suggested Grade Level
<i>To the Teacher</i> Instructions for Use		
<i>Image Cards</i> Six primary sources, and questions for visual analysis	Visual, analytical, and interpretive skills	Elementary, Middle, Senior High
<i>Clues Sheet</i> Secondary-source information, historical background content connecting images to National History Standards	Interpreting and evaluating data, building chronological thinking, developing problem-solving skills	Elementary, Middle, Senior High
<i>Mapping the Big Idea</i> A map to further historic investigation	Map-reading skills: acquire, report, process information from a spatial perspective. Synthesis and deductive reasoning skills	Elementary, Middle
<i>Taking a Deeper Look</i> Additional primary-source documents for deeper investigation	Historical analysis, interpretation, evaluation, analyzing cause/effect relationships, understanding multiple points of view, performing original research, debating, persuasive writing	Middle, Senior High
<i>What about Your Neighborhood?</i> A worksheet to connect national history to local experience; additional research sources	Research skills: obtain historical data, analyze and make decisions, identify issues and problems in the past, connect the past to the present	Elementary, Middle

Be sure to visit our website, <http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/onthemove>, for special thematic tours, a collections database, and fun interactive games designed to teach change over time and build chronology, research, and synthesis skills. Activities are designed for all ages and grade levels.