

Transportation in Rural and Urban Spaces

How is life the same and different in rural and urban areas?

Transportation is about how to get from here to there. What is the route and what is the mode of travel? Walking from one place to another with whatever one could carry was the earliest form of transportation, and the first routes were paths through fields or woods. Where there were rivers, small rafts, canoes and boats provided easier and faster travel than by foot, and they were capable of carrying larger loads than a single person. People by the sea learned how to catch the wind in a boat's sails and travel to distant ports for trade and exploration.

Early Modes of Transportation

In early Iowa, rivers were the first highways. Indians, French and British fur traders loaded canoes to trading posts that sent furs to the East Coast and on to Europe. The Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries provided an extensive system of water routes. Early Iowa settlers often arrived by sailing down the Ohio to St. Louis or up from New Orleans and then landing in one of the Mississippi River towns. Western Iowa pioneers established Council Bluffs and Sioux City along the Missouri where they could get supplies.

Stage coaches and wagons drawn by horses or oxen could take early settlers across land where there were no navigable rivers. In the 1850s, railroads extended their first lines west of the Mississippi and soon were bringing waves of pioneers seeking homes on the fertile Iowa prairies. Trains could travel in all weather, haul tons of freight on each trip and make travelers much more comfortable. Being on a rail line was so important to a town's survival that local citizens invested in them and voted public bonds to support them. In western Iowa, the railroad companies platted towns along their routes. Soon, nowhere in Iowa was more than 10 miles from a rail line.

Transportation and Iowa Families

Farm families used horses to pull wagons and buggies for travel. Livery stables in town kept horses for town families. The coming of the automobile made a huge impact on Iowa, especially farm families. Trains went from town to town on established schedules, but cars could connect farm homes to towns or other local destinations and the riders could travel when they wanted. With autos came the need for more and better roads. The responsibility for road building and maintenance shifted from the neighborhood to the county and state. Who should pay for better roads became a major political issue.

The automobiles greatly helped to end the isolation many farm families felt. While there were still many rural one room schools by 1920, more farm children started enrolling in town high school, and their families no longer made only Saturday night shopping trips into town. Trucks and busses added new forms of travel and hauling. Airplanes made their appearance in the Iowa skies in the early 20th century. The U.S. Post Office added air mail service. Airports in the larger cities connected Iowans with distant destinations, both in the U.S. and abroad. The interstate highway system made automobile travel much faster and safer.

Today, when automobiles are almost universal among Iowa families, there is not that much difference between rural and urban transportation. Urban residents often have more access to public or commercial resources, like taxis or buses, and rural residents usually have longer trips to airline terminals. However, rural trips rarely experience the heavy traffic of urban rush hour. Access to affordable, reliable and convenient transportation is a critical factor in modern life. Iowans have good roads but it is costly to maintain such an extensive system.

Just like technology changes and modes of transportation change, definitions change over time as well. For the purposes of this source set, "long ago" means anything pre-1960, and, with a couple of exceptions, the "today" sources are all in the 21st century. The U.S. Census Bureau revised the population requirement for an urban area since the U.S. population has more than tripled from 1900 to 2000. For the purposes of this source set, the "long ago" definition of urban is a population of 2,500 or more people, which was set in 1910 and remained until 1950. In the "today" category, we use the 2000 definition from the U.S. Census Bureau of 50,000 or more people.

Supporting Questions

What was transportation like in rural areas long ago?

- [Bird's-Eye View Map of Marengo, Iowa, 1868 \(Map\)](#)
- [Bird's-Eye View Map of Marshalltown, Iowa, 1868 \(Map\)](#)
- [Main Street in Elliott, Iowa, 1900 \(Image\)](#)
- [Horse-Drawn School Bus in Webster, Iowa, 1928 \(Image\)](#)
- [Wooden Bus of the Renwick Independent School in Iowa, October 1937 \(Image\)](#)
- [Logs Hauled on a Sleigh by a Team of Horses in Seward, Alaska, between 1900 and 1930 \(Image\)](#)
- [Farmer Harvesting Corn with a John Deere Tractor, 1945 \(Image\)](#)
- [People Loading Potatoes onto a Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railcar, 1903 \(Image\)](#)
- ["Sirloin Special" Hauling Cattle from Hampton, Iowa, to Chicago during Iowa Beef Month, October 1950 \(Image\)](#)
- [Drivers and Delivery Trucks of the Farmers Mutual Co-Op Creamery in Sioux Center, Iowa, May 1940 \(Image\)](#)
- ["Main Street Life" Essay from *The Goldfinch*, 1997 \(Document\)](#)
- [Train Carrying Logs, between 1900 and 1920 \(Image\)](#)
- [Train with a Blade Traveling through a Snow Drift, 1905 \(Image\)](#)
- [Excerpts from *The Goldfinch's* "The Automobile Age," November 1982 \(Document\)](#)
- [Excerpts from *The Goldfinch's* "Railroads...," November 1983 \(Document\)](#)
- [Tipton Consolidated School Buses, 1940 \(Image\)](#)
- [Eclipse Lumber Company Truck in Clinton, Iowa, 1913 \(Image\)](#)
- [Fire Truck in Shenandoah, Iowa, October 1950 \(Image\)](#)
- [Main Street Construction in Shenandoah, Iowa, October 1950 \(Image\)](#)

What is transportation like in rural areas today?

- [Main Street in Columbus Junction, Iowa, 2003 \(Image\)](#)
- [Logging Truck in California, June 2013 \(Image\)](#)
- [Iowa's Rural Public Transit Systems, 2014 \(Map\)](#)
- [Grain Elevator in El Campo, Texas, March 11, 2014 \(Image\)](#)
- [Diesel Locomotive in Lamar, Colorado, May 20, 2015 \(Image\)](#)
- [Train Snow Plow in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, August 4, 2015 \(Image\)](#)
- [Intermodal Transportation Infographic, 2016 \(Document\)](#)
- [Dusty Scene of a Farm Truck and Equipment near Taylor, Mississippi, November 11, 2017 \(Image\)](#)
- [Forklift Loads Bales of Cotton onto a Trunk near Marks, Mississippi, November 11, 2017 \(Image\)](#)
- [Bus 12 Leaving a School in Pella, Iowa, 2018 \(Image\)](#)
- [Person Next to a Row of Young Corn Crops, June 28, 2018 \(Image\)](#)
- ["Compare... Cargo Capacity" Infographic, February 25, 2019 \(Document\)](#)
- [Barge Carrying Containers near Bellevue, Iowa, Date Unknown \(Image\)](#)
- [Snow Plow in Rural Iowa, Date Unknown \(Image\)](#)

What was transportation like in urban areas long ago?

- [Panoramic Map of Chicago, 1857 \(Map\)](#)
- [Panoramic Map of Davenport, Iowa, 1888 \(Map\)](#)
- [Elevated Railroad in New York City, 1896 \(Image\)](#)
- [South Water Street in Chicago, Illinois, 1899 \(Image\)](#)
- [Marine Terminals in New York, between 1900 and 1910 \(Image\)](#)
- ["Excavating for a New York Foundation," 1903 \(Video\)](#)
- [Express Trains in Subway at Spring Street, New York, 1905 \(Image\)](#)
- [Lumber Steamer Being Loaded in Gulfport, Mississippi, 1906 \(Image\)](#)
- [Fire Station No. 1 in Waterloo, 1908 \(Image\)](#)
- [Wagons Removing Snow in New York City, January 1908 \(Image\)](#)

Supporting Questions continued

What was transportation like in urban areas long ago? continued

- [Madison Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, between 1910 and 1920 \(Image\)](#)
- [Automobiles Parked on a Street in Des Moines, Iowa, 1913 \(Image\)](#)
- [Horse-Drawn Wagon Filled with Flynn Farm Dairy Milk Cans in Des Moines, Iowa, 1915 \(Image\)](#)
- [Western Union Messengers in Des Moines, Iowa, August 1918 \(Image\)](#)
- [Ford Commercial Airplane, 1925 \(Image\)](#)
- [Roadway in Des Moines, Iowa, 1928 \(Image\)](#)
- [Fire Truck in Waterloo, Iowa, May 1938 \(Image\)](#)
- [Workers Repairing a Streetcar in Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1945 \(Image\)](#)
- [Construction of Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, July 1957 \(Image\)](#)

What is transportation like in urban areas today?

- [Aerial View of Downtown Chicago, Illinois, between 1980 and 2006 \(Image\)](#)
- [Red Line Metro in Washington, D.C., between 1980 and 2006 \(Image\)](#)
- [Bus in Georgia, September 14, 2001 \(Image\)](#)
- [Busy Street in New York City, May 8, 2010 \(Image\)](#)
- [Dallas Area Rapid Transit \(DART\) Train in Texas, May 24, 2014 \(Image\)](#)
- ["Iowa's Urban Public Transit System," 2014 \(Map\)](#)
- [Aerial View of Boeing Passenger Aircraft in South Carolina, May 1, 2017 \(Image\)](#)
- [Massive Container Ship in Savannah, Georgia, May 20, 2017 \(Image\)](#)
- [Fire Trucks and Firefighters in New York, Date Unknown \(Image\)](#)
- [Fleet of Snow Plows in Iowa, Date Unknown \(Image\)](#)

[*Printable Image and Document Guide](#)

Additional Resources

United States Census Bureau

Explore the U.S. Census data through this official website for the U.S. Census Bureau.

GIS Story Map on Rural America

This interactive website provides resources to explore U.S. Census population data in regard to rural America.

The Urban-Suburban-Exurban-Rural Continuum

This online document from The Ohio State University looks into the definitions, trends and interdependencies related to the urban-suburban-exurban-rural continuum. Contains helpful photos to show the differences.

John Deere Two-Row Corn Picker

The two-minute video shows a John Deere two-row corn picker in action from 2015.

Galbraith's Railway Mail Service Maps of Iowa

This Library of Congress resources includes historical map of Iowa shows the complex network of railroad lines in Iowa in 1897.

Locks and Dams

These two videos show a barge moving through Keokuk, Iowa, and how a "lock works."

John Deere Cotton Picker

This one-minute video shows a John Deere cotton picker in action in Seminole County, Georgia.

Grain Elevator 3D Animation

This one-minute animation outlines how a grain elevator operates.

Bird's-Eye View of Des Moines, Iowa

This map from 1868 is a panoramic view of the city of Des Moines, Iowa.

1929 Ford Commercial Airplane

This silent, three-minute video is footage from a 1929 Ford Commercial Airplane reliability tour.

Bird's-Eye View Map of Marengo, Iowa, 1868



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Ruger, A., "Bird's eye view of the city of Marengo, Iowa Co., Iowa," 1868

Description

This is a bird's-eye view map of Marengo, Iowa, which was created in 1868 by the Merchant's Lithographing Company of Chicago. The bottom of the map in the middle reads, "Bird's Eye View of the City of Marengo Iowa Co. Iowa 1868." The references to the left read: 1. Court House, 2. County Jail, 3. Public School, 4. C.R.I. & P.R.R. Depot, 5. Fair Ground. The churches box on the right read: 6. Presbyterian, 7. Christian, 8. Methodist, 9. Catholic. This map is part of a collection of more than 1,700 such maps at the Library of Congress. The panoramic map was a popular cartographic form used to depict U.S. and Canadian cities and towns during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1870, 1,693 people lived in Marengo.

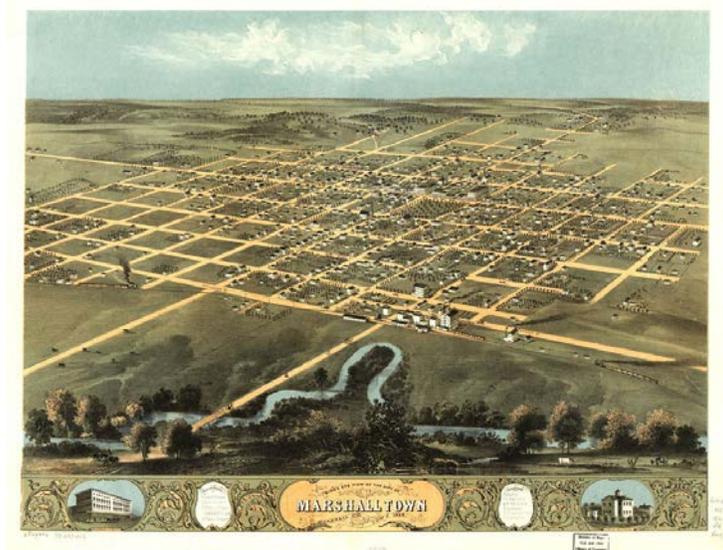
Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Marengo, Iowa, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the map to support your answer.
- Look at how the land is used in Marengo. What patterns do you see in the number of streets and roads, spacing of the houses, location of businesses, etc., that can help you decide if this is an urban area or a rural area?

Citation Information

Ruger, A., "Bird's eye view of the city of Marengo, Iowa Co., Iowa," 1868. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Bird's-Eye View Map of Marshalltown, Iowa, 1868



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Ruger, A., "Bird's eye view of the city of Marshalltown, Marshall Co., Iowa," 1868

Description

This bird's eye view map of Marshalltown, Iowa, was created in 1868 by the Merchant's Lithographing Company of Chicago. The words in the bottom center of the map read, "Bird's Eye View of the City of Marshalltown Marshall Co. Iowa 1868. The references box to the left read: 1. Court House, 2. County Jail, 3. School House, 4. C&N.W. Railroad Depot, 5. Public Square. The churches box to the right reads: 6. Baptist, 7. E. Methodist, 8. Pr. Methodist, 9. Lutheran, 10. Presbyterian, 11. Catholic. This map is part of a collection of more than 1,700 such maps at the Library of Congress. The panoramic map was a popular cartographic form used to depict U.S. and Canadian cities and towns during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The population of Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1870 was 3,218.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Marshalltown, Iowa, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the map to support your answer.
- Look at how the land is used in Marshalltown. What patterns do you see in the number of streets and roads, spacing of the houses, location of businesses, etc., that can help you decide if this is an urban area or a rural area?

Citation Information

Ruger, A., "Bird's eye view of the city of Marshalltown, Marshall Co., Iowa," 1868. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Main Street in Elliott, Iowa, 1900



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, 1900

Description

This is the panoramic view of Main Street, showing businesses, wagons, and buggies, in Elliott, Iowa, around 1900. According to the 1900 census, Elliott had 516 residents at that time, and in the 2010 census, there were 350 people living there.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Elliott, Iowa, urban or rural? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- There are a variety of wagons and buggies in this image. What kinds of goods are being transported in them? Use this information to make an inference about daily life in this area.
- In what ways is this “main street” image similar to and different from: [“South Water Street in Chicago,” main street in Columbus Junction, West 7th Street in Des Moines, “Madison Avenue in Chicago, Illinois”](#) and [the aerial view of downtown Chicago?](#)

Horse-Drawn School Bus in Webster, Iowa, 1928



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, 1928

Description

This photograph shows children standing beside a horse-drawn bus for the Webster Consolidated School in Keokuk County, Iowa. In 1930, 178 people lived in Webster, Iowa, and in the 2010 census, the population had declined to 88 people living there. Today, students from Webster attend school in Sigourney.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Webster, Iowa, urban or rural? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How did kids get into and out of this bus? Is that the same or different than today's school buses?
- Compare this photo with the [bus in Georgia](#), the [buses in Tipton, Iowa](#), and the [bus in Pella, Iowa](#). How is this image the same, and how is it different?

Wooden Bus of the Renwick Independent School in Iowa, October 1937



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines Register & Tribune, October 1937

Description

The photograph features a wooden bus of the Renwick Independent School in Renwick, Iowa. The photo was taken in October 1937. In 1940, there were 470 people living in Renwick, Iowa, and in 2010, there were 242 people living there.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Renwick, Iowa, urban or rural? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Compare and contrast this image with [horse-drawn bus in Keokuk County](#), the [bus in Georgia](#) and the [bus in Pella, Iowa](#). How is this image the same, and how is it different?

Logs Hauled on a Sleigh by a Team of Horses in Seward, Alaska, between 1900 and 1930



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Logs being hauled on a sleigh by a team of horses along the government railway, 35 miles from Seward," between 1900 and 1930

Description

This photograph shows logs being hauled on a sleigh by a team of horses near Seward, Alaska, in about 1900. The population of Seward, Alaska, was 534 people in 1910 and 2,693 in 2010. In 1900, the major industries in Seward were logging and fishing. Today, tourism is the major industry.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Seward, Alaska, urban or rural? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How did this kind of transportation help these workers to do their job?

Citation Information

"Logs being hauled on a sleigh by a team of horses along the government railway, 35 miles from Seward," between 1900 and 1930. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Farmer Harvesting Corn with a John Deere Tractor, 1945



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, 1945

Description

This farmer is operating a corn harvester with a John Deere tractor. The corn harvester was an attachment that farmers could put on their tractor when it was time to harvest and then take off again.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is this photo taken in a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How does this kind of transportation help this farmer do his job?

People Loading Potatoes onto a Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railcar, 1903



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, 1903

Description

Residents are shown standing beside wagons in the process of loading potatoes onto a Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railcar. These men were likely farmers who grew the potatoes and are sending the potatoes to buyers in other places across Iowa or perhaps other states. This image was taken in Lacona, Iowa, in the fall of 1903. The population of Lacona was 496 in 1900 and 361 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Was this image taken in a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Why would the railroad be a good thing for a potato farmer in Lacona, Iowa?
- Compare these service vehicles to other service and delivery vehicles such as the ones for [Flynn Farm](#), [Farmers Mutual Co-Op Creamery](#) or [Western Union](#). How does this urban area impact these service vehicle workers?

“Sirloin Special” Hauling Cattle from Hampton, Iowa, to Chicago during Iowa Beef Month, October 1950



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Associated Press, October 1950

Description

This photograph shows a convoy of trucks known as the “Sirloin Special.” They are hauling cattle from Hampton, Iowa, to Chicago during Iowa Beef Month. Chicago was a major meat-packing hub for cattle producers. The population of Hampton, Iowa, was 4,432 in 1950.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Was this image taken in a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How did the trucks and roads help the cattle farmer?
- How did these trucks help the workers do their job?

Drivers and Delivery Trucks of the Farmers Mutual Co-Op Creamery in Sioux Center, Iowa, May 1940



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines Register & Tribune, May 1940

Description

These drivers and delivery trucks were part of the Farmers Mutual Co-Op Creamery in Sioux Center, Iowa. Creameries collected milk from nearby dairy farms and then processed the milk and cream into butter, yogurt, cheese and milk. These delivery trucks were likely refrigerated. The population of Sioux Center was only 1,680 in 1940 and grew to 7,048 by 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Sioux Center, Iowa, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the map to support your answer.
- How would refrigerated trucks help these workers do their jobs?

“Main Street Life” Essay from *The Goldfinch*, 1997



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Siedler, Julie, “Main Street Life,” *The Goldfinch*, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 11-12, 1997

Description

In a writing contest in 1976, Iowans remember main street life in the early 1900s when main street was the economic and social center of most Iowa towns. The quotes and descriptions describe how main street looked, sounded and smelled in times long ago.

[Transcript of “Main Street Life” Essay from *The Goldfinch*](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- What people did do to deal with challenging weather conditions on main street long ago? Use evidence from the text in your answer.
- How might the sights, smells and sounds of main street different today than long ago as described by the Iowans in this article?

Train Carrying Logs, between 1900 and 1920



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "[Log train]," Detroit Publishing Co., between 1900 and 1920

Description

This image shows a train with multiple logging cars traveling through a wooded area in an unknown location sometime between 1900 and 1920. This image is part of the Detroit Publishing Company collection at the Library of Congress. The Detroit Publishing Company was well known for photographs of city and town views, industry and recreation.

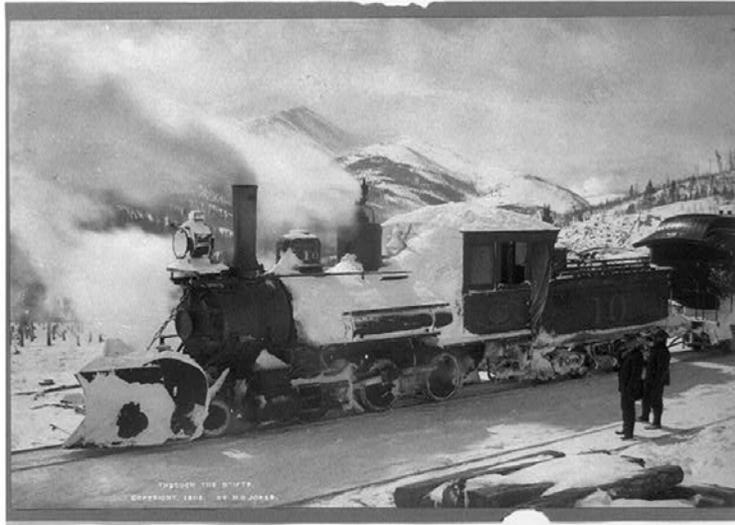
Source-Dependent Questions

- Was this image taken in a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How did this kind of transportation help these workers to do their jobs?

Citation Information

"[Log train]," Detroit Publishing Co., between 1900 and 1920. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Train with a Blade Traveling through a Snow Drift, 1905



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Through the Drifts," 1905

Description

This photograph shows a locomotive, with a snow blade, covered with snow with mountains in the background. Snow had to be removed from the tracks so that trains could go through.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Was this image taken in a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How did this kind of transportation help these workers to do their jobs?

Citation Information

"Through the Drifts," 1905. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Excerpts from *The Goldfinch's* "The Automobile Age," November 1982



Courtesy of University of Iowa Library and Archives, "The Way To Go," *The Automobile Age -The Goldfinch*, Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 2-6, November 1982

Description

In this edition of *The Goldfinch*, an Iowa history magazine for children, staff writers take a look at the evolution of automobiles in Iowa and the impact it had on the daily lives of people.

[Transcribed Excerpts from "The Automobile Age" from *The Goldfinch*](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- How did new forms of transportation make people's lives easier and allow them to make more money?
- How did improved roads make people's lives easier and allow them to make more money?

Citation Information

"The Way To Go," *The Automobile Age -The Goldfinch*, Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 2-6, November 1982. Courtesy of University of Iowa Library and Archives

Excerpts from *The Goldfinch's* "Railroads...," November 1983



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Bonney, Margaret A., "Railroads...," *The Goldfinch*, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 5, 10, November 1983

Description

This issue of *The Goldfinch* focuses on the history of railroads in Iowa.

[Transcribed Excerpts from *The Goldfinch's* "Railroads..."](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- What good decision did the leaders of Cherokee, Iowa, make? Use evidence from the text.
- What impact did the railroad have on the people of Cherokee, Iowa?

Tipton Consolidated School Buses, 1940



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines Register & Tribune, 1940

Description

This photo is a bird's eye view of Tipton Consolidated school buses. Some school buses are made of wood, and some are made of metal. The population of Tipton was 2,518 in 1940.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Tipton, Iowa, urban or rural? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Why are the buses parked in this way instead of in a line like most school buses park today?
- Compare and contrast this image with the [horse-drawn bus in Keokuk County](#), the [wooden bus in Renwick](#) and the [bus in Pella, Iowa](#). How is this image the same, and how is it different?

Eclipse Lumber Company Truck in Clinton, Iowa, 1913



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, 1913

Description

This photograph shows a dump truck of the Eclipse Lumber Company in Clinton, Iowa, in 1913. Eclipse Lumber Company also was a distributor of coal and cement. In 1910, 25,557 people lived in Clinton, Iowa. In 2010, 26,885 people lived there.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Clinton, Iowa, a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How did this truck help the workers do their job?
- Compare and contrast this construction image to [construction in Mercy Hospital, Main Street construction in Shenandoah](#) and the ["Excavating for a New York Foundation" video](#). How is this construction site the same and how is it different?

Fire Truck in Shenandoah, Iowa, October 1950



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines Register & Tribune, October 1950

Description

This firetruck was relocated across street from the fire station during construction in Shenandoah, Iowa, in 1950. Also shown in image is the Page Theater with marquee and poster promoting the film "Panic in the Streets." In 1950, 6,938 people lived in Shenandoah, but by 2010, the population dropped to 5,150.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Shenandoah a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Look closely at the street that the firetruck is parked on. What is it made out of?
- Compare and contrast this image with the [Waterloo fire truck](#), the [fire station in Waterloo](#) and [firefighters in New York](#). What is the same? What is different?

Main Street Construction in Shenandoah, Iowa, October 1950



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines Register & Tribune, October 1950

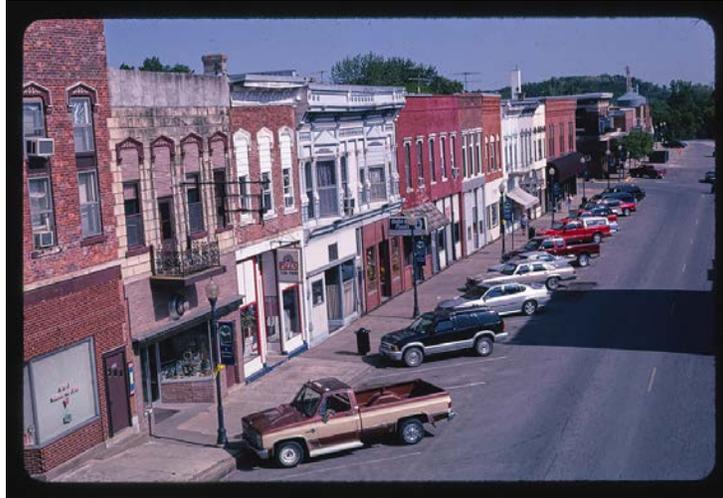
Description

This photograph shows a bird's eye view of construction that was underway on Main Street for installation of storm sewers and new paving in Shenandoah, Iowa in 1950. This road was paid for by the government using tax dollars. In 1950, 6,938 people lived in Shenandoah, but by 2010, the population dropped to 5,150.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Shenandoah a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- This construction crew is laying cement on the road. How would a cement road be better than a dirt road?
- How did the buildings, sidewalks and roads help people transport goods from one place to another?

Main Street in Columbus Junction, Iowa, 2003



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Margolies, John, "Main Street, Columbus Junction, Iowa," 2003

Description

This map is a bird's eye view of Main Street in Columbus Junction, Iowa, in 2003. This image is part of the John Margolies Roadside America Photograph collection at the Library of Congress. This documentary study featured commercial buildings along main streets and highways throughout the United States over a span of about forty years. Columbus Junction's population in 2000 was 1,900.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Columbus Junction, Iowa, a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Compare and contrast this image to main streets in [Elliott, Iowa](#), in [Des Moines](#), on [Madison Avenue in Chicago](#) and in [downtown Chicago](#)?

Citation Information

Margolies, John, "Main Street, Columbus Junction, Iowa," 2003. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Logging Truck in California, June 2013



Courtesy of Pixabay, Date Unknown

Description

This truck was loaded with trees on a California highway in 2013. The logging industry in California has existed since the 1849 gold rush. Today, the industry produces 350 million board feet of wood products each year with \$100 million.

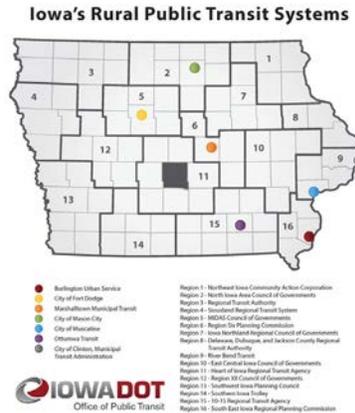
Source-Dependent Questions

- Was this image taken in a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How does this kind of transportation help these workers to do their job?

Citation Information

Highsmith, Carol M., "[Logging truck] California," June 2013. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Iowa's Rural Public Transit Systems, 2014



Courtesy of Iowa DOT, "Iowa's Rural Public Transit System," Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), 2014

Description

This 2014 map showing the rural public transit systems in Iowa. Sixteen different regional transit systems exist in different regions of Iowa, along with seven city transit systems.

[Transcript of Iowa's Public Transit Systems Map](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- How many regional transit systems exist in Iowa? How many rural city transit systems exist?
- What service is the State of Iowa providing for citizens?

Citation Information

"Iowa's Rural Public Transit System," Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), 2014. Courtesy of Iowa DOT

Grain Elevator in El Campo, Texas, March 11, 2014



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M., "Grain elevator in El Campo, a small city in Wharton County in southeast Texas," 11 March 2014

Description

This is a grain elevator in El Campo, Texas. The population of El Campo was 11,602 in 2010. Grain elevators store grain delivered by trucks and then load them into railcars. Use the ["Compare... Cargo Capacity" infographic](#) to see how many trucks of grain fit into one railcar.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is El Campo, Texas, a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- What kinds of places would be a good idea to build a grain elevator? Where would a grain elevator not be needed?

Citation Information

Highsmith, Carol M., "Grain elevator in El Campo, a small city in Wharton County in southeast Texas," 11 March 2014. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Diesel Locomotive in Lamar, Colorado, May 20, 2015



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M., "Diesel locomotive and what seems like an endless line of hopper cars on tracks in Lamar, Colorado," 20 May 2015

Description

This photograph shows a diesel locomotive and a line of hopper cars on tracks in Lamar, Colorado. In 2010, 7,804 people lived in Lamar, Colorado. Railcars are used to transport grain from elevators like the one seen in the background to factories or ports to be shipped to other countries. Use the ["Compare... Cargo Capacity" infographic](#) to see how many trucks of grain fit into one railcar..

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Lamar, Colorado, a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How does this kind of transportation help farmers?

Citation Information

Highsmith, Carol M., "Diesel locomotive and what seems like an endless line of hopper cars on tracks in Lamar, Colorado," 20 May 2015. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Train Snow Plow in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, August 4, 2015



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M., "A train snow plow, which might as easily be called a train snow PROW, sits idle on a summer day in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. But it gets plenty of action..." 4 August 2015

Description

A train snow plow sits idle on a summer day in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. But it gets plenty of action in Colorado's snowy Rocky Mountains that surround the town. Glenwood Springs had a population of 9,614 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Glenwood Springs, Colorado, a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- What job does this machine do?
- Compare and contrast this image to the [fleet of snow plows in Iowa](#), the [train with the snow blade](#), the [snow plow in rural Iowa](#) and the [wagons removing snow in New York](#). How is this snow removal the same and how is it different?

Citation Information

Highsmith, Carol M., "A train snow plow, which might as easily be called a train snow PROW, sits idle on a summer day in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. But it gets plenty of action in Colorado's snowy Rocky Mountains that surround the town," 4 August 2015. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Intermodal Transportation Infographic, 2016



Courtesy of Association of American Railroads, 2016

Description

The infographic from the Association of American Railroads shows the process of intermodal transportation. In the transportation industry, there are many ways to move commodities across the world but railroads are part of the backbone of the industry. Intermodal transportation utilizes special standardized containers to transport cargo on trucks, freight trains and ships. These standardized containers are large rectangular boxes, capable of being secured to special trailers. The containers are durable, constructed of steel and built so that they can be transferred between the different modes of transportation.

[Transcript of Intermodal Transportation Infographic](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- What are the three kinds of transportation that containers travel on?
- Why is intermodal transportation a good idea?

Citation Information

Courtesy of Association of American Railroads, 2016.

Dusty Scene of a Farm Truck and Equipment near Taylor, Mississippi, November 11, 2017



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M., "Dusty scene as a farm truck and equipment gather the remains of the year's crop after a harvest for use as fodder, or silage, used to feed farm animals," 11 November 2017

Description

This dusty scene includes a farm truck and equipment that gather the remains of the year's crop after a harvest for use as fodder, or silage, which is used to feed farm animals near Taylor, Mississippi in 2017. Taylor had a population of 322 in 2010. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, trucking accounts for 71 percent of the total freight tonnage in the United States and employs seven million people.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Taylor, Mississippi, a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How does this kind of transportation help these workers to do their job?

Citation Information

Highsmith, Carol M., "Dusty scene as a farm truck and equipment gather the remains of the year's crop after a harvest for use as fodder, or silage, used to feed farm animals," 11 November 2017. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Forklift Loads Bales of Cotton onto a Trunk near Marks, Mississippi, November 11, 2017



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M., "A forklift loads huge bales of cotton, wrapped in plastic, onto a long flatbed truck near Marks, Mississippi," 11 November 2017

Description

The photograph shows a forklift loading huge bales of cotton, wrapped in plastic, onto a long flatbed truck near Marks, Mississippi, in 2017. Cotton is the fourth leading crop in Mississippi. After cotton is harvested, it is put into bales and transported to the factory to be turned into products such as fabric and cotton balls. Marks, Mississippi, had a population of 1,735 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Marks, Mississippi, a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How does this kind of transportation help these workers to do their job?

Citation Information

Highsmith, Carol M., "A forklift loads huge bales of cotton, wrapped in plastic, onto a long flatbed truck near Marks, Mississippi," 11 November 2017. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Bus 12 Leaving a School in Pella, Iowa, 2018



Courtesy of Rebecca Helland, 2018

Description

The image captures Bus 12 leaving a school in Pella, Iowa, in 2018. There were 10,352 people living in Pella, Iowa, in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Pella, Iowa, urban or rural? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Compare and contrast this image with the [horse-drawn bus in Keokuk County](#), the [bus in Georgia](#) and the [wooden bus in Renwick](#). How is this image the same, and how is it different?

Citation Information

2018. Courtesy of Rebecca Helland

Person Next to a Row of Young Corn Crops, June 28, 2018



Courtesy of Rebecca Helland, 2018

Description

Farmers often use ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) like this four-wheeler to check on crops or livestock that are too far from the building site to walk but not far enough to need a truck. ATVs also can get into narrow spaces that a car or truck would be too big to enter.

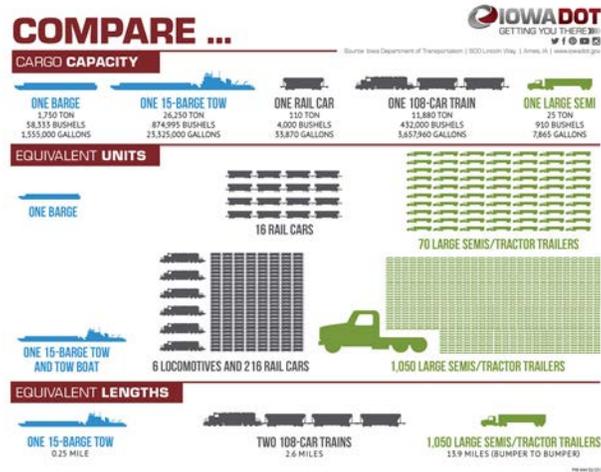
Source-Dependent Questions

- Was this image taken in a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How does this kind of transportation help this farmer to do his job?

Citation Information

Plett, Ronald, 28 June 2018. Courtesy of Pixabay

“Compare... Cargo Capacity” Infographic, February 25, 2019



Courtesy of Iowa DOT, “Compare... Cargo Capacity,” Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), 25 February 2019

Description

This infographic was produced by the Iowa Department of Transportation in 2016 to show the volume of cargo capacity and the equivalent units of semi-trucks, rail cars and barges. For example, one 15-barge tow can haul the same amount of grain as 1,050 semi-truck trailers or 216 rail cars.

[Transcript of “Compare... Cargo Capacity” Infographic](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- How many semi-truck trailer loads of corn fit into one railcar?
- In order to unload a 15-barge tow, how many semi-trucks would be needed?

Citation Information

“Compare... Cargo Capacity,” Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), 25 February 2019. Courtesy of Iowa DOT

Barge Carrying Containers near Bellevue, Iowa, Date Unknown



Courtesy of Pixabay, Date Unknown

Description

This photograph shows a barge pushing 15 containers likely filled with grain on the Mississippi River at Bellevue, Iowa, in 2013. Lock and Dam Number 12 is pictured just behind the barge. The mighty Mississippi River connects Minneapolis, Minnesota, with New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Gulf of Mexico. It is a major shipping route for agricultural products. Locks and Dams allow for elevation changes in the river so that large barges like this one can make it all the way up and down the river. Bellevue had a population of 2,191 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Bellevue, Iowa, a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How does the Mississippi River impact farmers and the crops they sell?

Citation Information

Date Unknown. Courtesy of Pixabay

Snow Plow in Rural Iowa, Date Unknown



Courtesy of the Iowa Department of Transportation, Date Unknown

Description

According to the Iowa Department of Transportation, there are 114,486 miles of roads in Iowa, and when it snows, they all have to be plowed. This large, orange snow plow is removing snow on a paved road somewhere in rural Iowa. The only person in the photo is the driver of the plow.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Was this image taken in a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How does this kind of transportation help these workers to do their job?
- Compare and contrast this image to the [fleet of snow plows in Iowa](#), the [train with the snow blade](#) and the [wagons removing snow in New York](#). How is this snow removal the same and how is it different?

Citation Information

Date Unknown. Courtesy of the Iowa Department of Transportation

Panoramic Map of Chicago, 1857



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Palmatary, J.T., Christian Inger, Herline & Hensel and Braunhold & Sonne, "Chicago," 1857

Description

A bird's eye view, this is a panoramic map of Chicago, Illinois. Even though this perspective map is not drawn to scale, it shows the buildings, streets and general layout of downtown Chicago as of 1857. The population of Chicago was 112,172 in 1860 and was 2,695,598 in 2010.

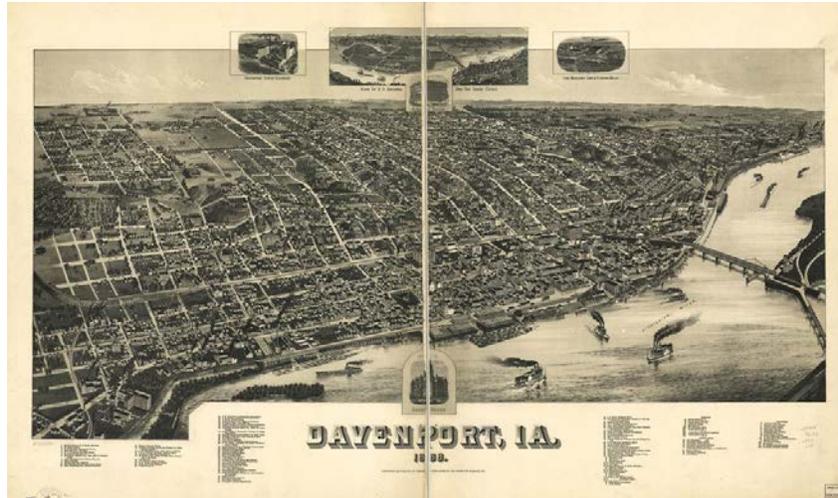
Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Chicago, Illinois, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the map to support your answer.
- Compare and contrast this [map to that of Davenport, Iowa, in 1888](#). How are the roads and buildings the same, and how are they different?

Citation Information

Palmatary, J.T., Christian Inger, Herline & Hensel and Braunhold & Sonne, "Chicago," 1857. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Panoramic Map of Davenport, Iowa, 1888



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Wellge, H., "Davenport, Ia.," 1888

Description

This map is a bird's-eye view map of Davenport, Iowa. While this map primarily shows the major buildings and streets of Davenport, Iowa, it also shows major landforms and how the streets layout had to be adjusted around them. The population of Davenport was 26,872 in 1890 and had grown to 99,685 in 2010.

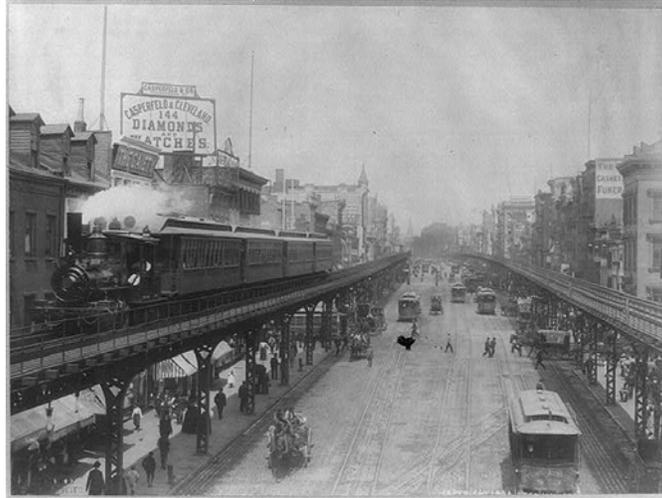
Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Davenport, Iowa, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the map to support your answer.
- Compare and contrast this map to the [map of Chicago, Illinois, in 1857](#). How are the roads and buildings the same, and how are they different?
- How do the landforms affect the layout of the streets in Davenport? For example, look for the tallest tree-covered hills and see how the street layout pattern changes.

Citation Information

Wellge, H., "Davenport, Ia.," 1888. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Elevated Railroad in New York City, 1896



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Elevated railroads in New York City: in the Bowery," 1896

Description

This photograph shows elevated railroads in the Bowery, a neighborhood in the southern part of Manhattan, New York City. On the ground level, street cars, automobiles, horse-drawn wagons and pedestrians are all moving people and goods from one place to another. The population of New York City was 3,437,202 in 1900 and had grown to 8,175,133 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is New York, New York, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How many different forms of transportation can you find in this image?
- How were passenger train cars used to transport people in New York City? What opportunities does that provide for people in New York City?

Citation Information

"Elevated railroads in New York City: in the Bowery," 1896. Courtesy of Library of Congress

South Water Street in Chicago, Illinois, 1899



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "So. Water St., Chicago, Ill., the busiest street in the world," 1899

Description

The street market is crowded with horse-drawn wagons and carriages in Chicago, Illinois. The population of Chicago in 1910 was 2,185,283, and in 2010, the population was 2,695,598.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Chicago, Illinois, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How do horses and wagons impact a street market like this?

Citation Information

"So. Water St., Chicago, Ill., the busiest street in the world," 1899. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Marine Terminals in New York, between 1900 and 1910



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "[Marine terminals, New York, N.Y.]," Detroit Publishing Co., between 1900 and 1910

Description

This image is a view down Cortlandt Street in New York with the Hudson River seen in the background. Many companies set up on terminals as a changing station for modes of transportation from truck/rail to ship and from ship to truck/rail. From this location, ships could go all over the world and trucks and trains could go all over the continent of North America. New York had a population of 3,437,202 in 1900 and 8,008,278 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Was this image taken in a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Why would a railroad company have a large building at a marine terminal?

Citation Information

"[Marine terminals, New York, N.Y.]," Detroit Publishing Co., between 1900 and 1910. Courtesy of Library of Congress

“Excavating for a New York Foundation,” 1903



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Weed, A. E., “Excavating for a New York Foundation,” 1903

Description

The scene is an excavation pit at an unidentified New York City construction site. A crew of six men can be seen shoveling dirt into a four-wheeled wooden cart. Then a full cart is slowly lifted out of the pit to street level by a steam-powered crane. These carts are similar in design to those shown dumping trash at the end of the film *New York City Dumping Wharf*. Advertisements and campaign posters can be seen on the exposed wall of the building in the background. The population of New York City was 3,437,202 in 1900 and had grown to 8,175,133 in 2010.

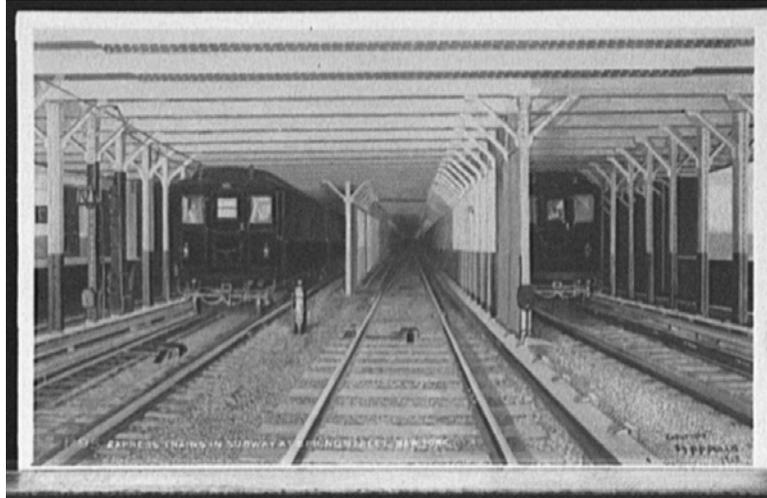
Source-Dependent Questions

- Is New York, New York, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the video to support your answer.
- Compare and contrast this construction image to the [Eclipse Lumber Company, Main Street construction in Shenandoah](#) and [construction at Mercy Hospital](#) images. How is this construction site the same and how is it different?

Citation Information

Weed, A. E., “Excavating for a New York Foundation,” 1903. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Express Trains in Subway at Spring Street, New York, 1905



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Express trains in subway at Spring Street, New York," Detroit Publishing Co., 1905

Description

The New York City subway system - a railway network in tunnels under New York City - opened in 1904. It cost five cents to ride the subway in 1904, and 150,000 people rode the subway on opening day. The population of New York City was 3,437,202 in 1900 and had grown to 8,175,133 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is New York, New York, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- What opportunities does an underground transportation system provide citizens?
- How does a subway change daily life for people living in New York City?

Citation Information

"Express trains in subway at Spring Street, New York," Detroit Publishing Co., 1905. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Lumber Steamer Being Loaded in Gulfport, Mississippi, 1906



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Loading lumber steamer, Gulfport, Miss.," Detroit Publishing Co., 1906

Description

This photograph shows dimensional lumber ready to load onto cargo ship in Gulfport, Mississippi, in 1906. Lumber products were a major export for Mississippi around 1900, especially yellow pine. A few years later when the yellow pine trees had been mostly cut down, bananas from Central America became the major import to the port with companies like Dole and Chiquita. Gulfport's population was 6,386 in 1910, but grew to 67,793 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Was this image taken in a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Describe the kinds of transportation that lumber would take from the forests of Mississippi, through the Port of Gulfport, Mississippi, and to the Port of London, England.

Citation Information

"Loading lumber steamer, Gulfport, Miss.," Detroit Publishing Co., 1906. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Fire Station No. 1 in Waterloo, 1908



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, 1908

Description

Fire Station No. 1 and its response teams are shown in Waterloo, Iowa, in 1908. In 1910, 26,693 people lived in Waterloo, Iowa, and by 2010, the population had grown to 68,406.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Waterloo, Iowa, a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- If this fire station is named "Fire Station Number 1," make a prediction about the number of fire stations in Waterloo, Iowa.
- Compare and contrast this image with the [Waterloo fire truck](#), the [firefighters in New York](#) and the [fire truck in Shenandoah, Iowa](#). What is the same? What is different?

Wagons Removing Snow in New York City, January 1908



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "[Wagons removing snow]," January 1908

Description

A line of horse-drawn wagons are shown hauling snow in New York City, 1908. The job of snow removal in a place like New York City is a big task. In the mid-1800s, individual citizens in New York City would clear the streets after a snowfall. There was simply no one else to do it. The only other option was to wait until the snow melted and travel on foot using snowshoes in the meantime. The police department took on that job until 1881 when the Department of Street Clearing was started. The population of New York City was 3,437,202 in 1900 and had grown to 8,175,133 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is New York, New York an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Compare and contrast this image to the [fleet of snow plows in Iowa](#), the [train with the snow blade](#), the [snow plow in rural Iowa](#) and the [train snow plow](#). How is this snow removal the same and how is it different?

Citation Information

"[Wagons removing snow]," January 1908. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Madison Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, between 1910 and 1920



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Madison Ave. [i.e. Street], west from Wabash [Avenue], Chicago, Ill," Detroit Publishing Co., between 1910 and 1920

Description

Madison Avenue is a "main street" of Chicago, Illinois. Most buildings had stores and other businesses on the main floor and apartments in the stories above them. The population of Chicago in 1910 was 2,185,283, and in 2010, the population was 2,695,598. This image is part of the Detroit Publishing Company collection at the Library of Congress. The Detroit Publishing Company was well known for photos of city and town views, industry and recreation.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Chicago, Illinois, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Compare and contrast this image to main streets in [Elliott, Iowa](#), [Columbus Junction, Iowa](#), in [Des Moines](#), in [New York City](#) and in [downtown Chicago](#)?

Citation Information

"Madison Ave. [i.e. Street], west from Wabash [Avenue], Chicago, Ill," Detroit Publishing Co., between 1910 and 1920. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Automobiles Parked on a Street in Des Moines, Iowa, 1913



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, 1913

Description

Service vehicles (four Model T roadsters and one Peerless truck) of the Des Moines Gas Company are parked on the street near the Thresher Company. At that time, gas powered many streetlights, businesses lights and home lights. The population of Des Moines in 1910 was 86,368, and the population in 2010 was 203,433.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Des Moines, Iowa an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the map to support your answer.
- Compare these service vehicles to other service and delivery vehicles such as the ones for [Flynn Farm](#), [Farmers Mutual Co-Op Creamery](#) or [people loading potatoes onto a train](#). How does this urban area impact these service vehicle workers?

Horse-Drawn Wagon Filled with Flynn Farm Dairy Milk Cans in Des Moines, Iowa, 1915



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, 1915

Description

The image shows a delivery wagon of Flynn Farm Dairy on a residential street in Des Moines, Iowa. A driver handles a team of four horses pulling a wagon full of milk cans. Milk was delivered from the farm to the creamery in milk cans like these. At the creamery, some of the milk would be made into yogurt, cheese or butter. Some dairy farmers likely delivered milk directly to residents of Des Moines as well. The population of Des Moines in 1920 was 126,468, and the population in 2010 was 203,433.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Des Moines, Iowa, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the map to support your answer.
- Compare these service vehicles to other service and delivery vehicles such as the ones for [automobiles at the Des Moines Gas Company](#), [Farmers Mutual Co-Op Creamery](#) or [people loading potatoes on the train](#). How does this urban area impact these service vehicle workers?

Western Union Messengers in Des Moines, Iowa, August 1918



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Shearer & Johnson, August 1918

Description

This photograph shows the Western Union messenger team with bicycles and motorcycles in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1918. Western Union started out as a telegraph communications company with operations across the United States by 1861, and it added money transfers in the late 1800s. The “boy on his bicycle” became a household phrase, and was especially dreaded during World War II when the U.S. War Department sent casualty notifications via Western Union messenger. The population of Des Moines in 1920 was 126,468, and the population in 2010 was 203,433.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Des Moines, Iowa, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the map to support your answer.
- What mode of transportation did these messengers use? Why was that a good fit in a place like Des Moines but not used in places like [Elliott, Iowa](#)?

Ford Commercial Airplane, 1925



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Ford Commercial Airplane," 1925

Description

In 1925, airplane travel was still very young. Airplanes were not very big and still working on efficient and safe designs. Yet, this was one way to move people and a small amount of goods from one place to another. Location likely near Detroit, Michigan, with a population of 993,678 in 1940 and 713,777 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Detroit, Michigan, a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Henry Ford is best known for his automobile and assembly line designs. Later in life, however, he took an interest in airplanes and flying. Why might new industries that build transportation like airplanes and automobiles start in urban areas?

Citation Information

"Ford Commercial Airplane," 1925. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Roadway in Des Moines, Iowa, 1928



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, 1928

Description

This photograph has a view of West 7th Street, which shows automobile traffic and commercial buildings (signs such as Sherman Brothers, International Farm Machinery, etc.) in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1928. Notice the buildings, sidewalk and street in this nearly “main street” image of Des Moines. The population of Des Moines in 1930 was 142,559, and the population in 2010 was 203,433.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Des Moines, Iowa, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the map to support your answer.
- In what ways is this “main street” image similar to and different from: [Elliot, Iowa, “South Water Street in Chicago,” main street in Columbus Junction, “Madison Avenue in Chicago, Illinois”](#) and the [aerial view of downtown Chicago](#).

Fire Truck in Waterloo, Iowa, May 1938



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines Register & Tribune, May 1938

Description

Fire Chief Ray Tiller with new city fire truck that was one of the first completely enclosed factory-built models of its type in the country. In 1910, 51,743 people lived in Waterloo, Iowa, and by 2010, the population had grown to 68,406. In 2016, the Waterloo Fire Department handled 10,551 calls for service.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Waterloo, Iowa a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Compare and contrast this image with the [Waterloo fire station](#), the [firefighters in New York](#) and the [fire truck in Shenandoah, Iowa](#). What is the same? What is different?

Workers Repairing a Streetcar in Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1945



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines Register & Tribune, 1945

Description

Workers are shown repairing streetcar tracks on a downtown street in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1945. A rail system connected Council Bluffs with nearby Omaha, Nebraska. Council Bluffs, Iowa had 45,429 people in 1950 and 62,230 people in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Council Bluffs, Iowa, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- What opportunities would a streetcar system provide for residents of Council Bluffs, Iowa?
- What unique challenges would a construction site like this one have?

Construction of Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, July 1957



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines Register & Tribune, July 1957

Description

Construction is underway in the photograph on new South wing for Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, during July of 1957. Mercy Hospital was started in 1893 by the Sisters of Mercy, a Catholic charity. The population of Des Moines in 1960 was 208,982, and the population in 2010 was 203,433.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Des Moines, Iowa, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Compare and contrast this construction image to the [Eclipse Lumber Company, Main Street construction in Shenandoah](#) and ["Excavating for a New York Foundation" video](#). How is this construction site the same and how is it different?

Aerial View of Downtown Chicago, Illinois, between 1980 and 2006



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M., "Aerial view of downtown Chicago, Illinois, from Lake Michigan," between 1980 and 2006

Description

This image was taken from an airplane flying along the downtown skyline of Chicago, Illinois, in 1980. Chicago's business district is the second largest business district in the United States, second only to Midtown Manhattan in New York City. Navy Pier, a popular tourist destination with large ferris wheel, is seen in the left corner. In 1980, the population of Chicago, Illinois, was 3,005,072 and in 2010, the population was 2,695,598.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Chicago, Illinois, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Compare this image to "[Chicago, 1857](#)" map and "[Madison Avenue in Chicago.](#)" How have the streets and buildings of Chicago changed over time?
- Compare and contrast this image to main streets in [Elliott, Iowa](#), [Columbus Junction, Iowa](#), [Des Moines](#) and on [Madison Avenue in Chicago](#)?

Citation Information

Highsmith, Carol M., "Aerial view of downtown Chicago, Illinois, from Lake Michigan," between 1980 and 2006. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Red Line Metro in Washington, D.C., between 1980 and 2006



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M., "Red Line Metro subway train going one way arrives to join a train about to head the other direction at Metro Center Station..." between 1980 and 2006

Description

This image shows the Red Line Metro subway train going one-way as it arrives to join a train about to head to another direction at Metro Center Station, a transfer station to other lines beneath downtown Washington, D.C. The population of Washington, D.C., in 2010 was 601,723.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Washington, D.C., an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- In what ways is this image similar to and different from the [express trains](#)?

Citation Information

Highsmith, Carol M., "Red Line Metro subway train going one way arrives to join a train about to head the other direction at Metro Center Station, a transfer station to other lines beneath downtown Washington, D.C.," between 1980 and 2006. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Bus in Georgia, September 14, 2001



Courtesy of Library of Congress, deNeergaard, Margaret M., "Bus with Flag On It," 14 September 2001

Description

School buses are specially designed transportation for getting students safely to and from school each day. This image shows a Cobb County school bus traveling on a city street. Cobb County is in the Atlanta, Georgia, metro area and had a population of 607,751 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Was this image taken in a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How does this kind of transportation help these workers to do their job?
- Compare this photo with the [horse-drawn bus](#), the [buses in Tipton, Iowa](#), the [wooden bus in Renwick](#) and the [bus in Pella, Iowa](#). How is this image the same, and how is it different?

Citation Information

deNeergaard, Margaret M., "Bus with Flag On It," 14 September 2001. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Busy Street in New York City, May 8, 2010



Courtesy of Pixabay, 8 May 2010

Description

New York City has some of the busiest streets in the world. Even with a large public transit system, the 12,000 yellow taxicabs can be seen transporting people throughout the city. This image shows the intersection of 6th Ave. & Central Park South in New York City and fits in the category of a “main street-like” image of the city. The population of New York City was 3,437,202 in 1900 and had grown to 8,175,133 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is New York, New York, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- How many yellow taxicabs are visible in this image?
- In what ways is this “main street” image similar to and different from: [Elliott, Iowa, “South Water Street in Chicago,”](#) [main street in Columbus Junction,](#) [West 7th Street in Des Moines,](#) [“Madison Avenue in Chicago, Illinois”](#) and the [aerial view of downtown Chicago](#)?

Citation Information

8 May 2010. Courtesy of Pixabay

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Train in Texas, May 24, 2014



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M., "A DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) train arrives at the Deep Ellum station in the artistically rich neighborhood of eastern Dallas, Texas," 24 May 2014

Description

A DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) train arrives at the Deep Ellum station in the artistically-rich neighborhood of eastern Dallas, Texas. As one of Dallas' first commercial districts for African Americans and European immigrants, Deep Ellum is one of the most historically-significant neighborhoods in the city. DART services 700 square miles with more than 65 million passenger trips in 2017. Dallas had a population of 1,197,816 in 2010.

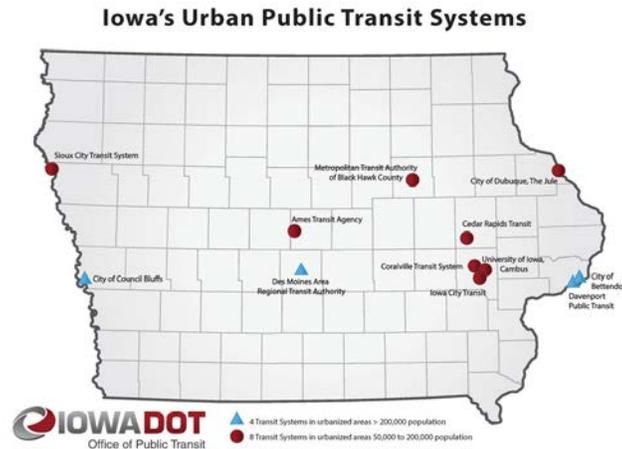
Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Dallas, Texas, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Notice the lines above the passenger train. That is what powers the train. What form of energy do you think powers that passenger train?

Citation Information

Highsmith, Carol M., "A DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) train arrives at the Deep Ellum station in the artistically rich neighborhood of eastern Dallas, Texas," 24 May 2014. Courtesy of Library of Congress

“Iowa’s Urban Public Transit Systems,” 2014



Courtesy of Iowa DOT, “Iowa’s Urban Public Transit System,” Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), 2014

Description

A 2014 map showing the urban public transit systems in Iowa. Two categories are represented: areas of 0-200,000 people and areas of more than 200,000. Interstate-80 connects the three urban transit systems in areas of more than 200,000.

[Transcript of “Iowa’s Urban Public Transit Systems”](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- How many urban public transit systems exist in Iowa? How many transit systems are in areas with more than 200,000 people?
- What service is the State of Iowa providing for citizens?

Citation Information

“Iowa’s Urban Public Transit System,” Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), 2014. Courtesy of Iowa DOT

Aerial View of Boeing Passenger Aircraft in South Carolina, May 1, 2017



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M., "Aerial view of Boeing South Carolina. That's not a location but the name of the Boeing Corporation's Commercial Airplanes division, located in North Charleston, South Carolina," 1 May 2017

Description

This photograph is the aerial view of Boeing Corporation's Commercial Airplanes division, located in North Charleston, South Carolina. The site is the major manufacturing, assembly and delivery site for Boeing commercial aircraft in the eastern United States and is one of the largest employment centers in the state. The site opened on November 12, 2011. It delivers South Carolina-built 787s to customers from around the world. In 2010, the population of North Charleston, South Carolina, was 97,471.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Charleston, South Carolina, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Compare this image to the [Ford Commercial Airplane](#). What is the same and what is different about the capacity of the two airplanes?

Citation Information

Highsmith, Carol M., "Aerial view of Boeing South Carolina. That's not a location but the name of the Boeing Corporation's Commercial Airplanes division, located in North Charleston, South Carolina," 1 May 2017. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Massive Container Ship in Savannah, Georgia, May 20, 2017



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M., "A massive container ship plies the Savannah River in Savannah, Georgia," 20 May 2017

Description

A massive container cargo ship travels on the Savannah River in Savannah, Georgia. Savannah is the third-largest seaport on the American East Coast. These containers can travel on cargo ships like this one, railcars or truck. The Port of Savannah is the fourth largest container port in the United States. Most of the containers that travel through the Port of Savannah travel to India, the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Panama and Southeast Asia. It takes 22 days for a container to travel from Hong Kong to Savannah. Savannah, Georgia, had a population of 136,286 in 2010.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is Savannah, Georgia, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Also look at the ["What is Intermodal?" infographic](#). How does this cargo ship fit into the intermodal transportation system?

Citation Information

Highsmith, Carol M., "A massive container ship plies the Savannah River in Savannah, Georgia," 20 May 2017.
Courtesy of Library of Congress

Fire Trucks and Firefighters in New York, Date Unknown



Courtesy of Pixabay, Date Unknown

Description

The Fire Department of the city of New York (FDNY) is the largest fire department in the United States even though it started as a volunteer fire department in 1737. The FDNY has more than 15,000 workers serving a population of more than eight million people. The department had 587,270 calls in 2017.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Is New York, New York, an urban area or a rural area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Compare and contrast this image with the [Waterloo fire station](#), the [Waterloo fire truck](#) and the [fire truck in Shenandoah, Iowa](#). What is the same? What is different?

Citation Information

Date Unknown. Courtesy of Pixabay

Fleet of Snow Plows in Iowa, Date Unknown



Courtesy of Iowa DOT, Date Unknown

Description

According to the Iowa Department of Transportation, there are 114,486 miles of roads in Iowa, and when it snows, they all have to be plowed. But in the summer, these trucks undergo maintenance and then sit and wait for the snow to fly.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Was this image taken in a rural area or an urban area? Use evidence from the image to support your answer.
- Compare and contrast this image to the [snow plow in rural Iowa](#), the [train with the snow blade](#) and the [wagons removing snow in New York](#). How is this snow removal the same and how is it different?
- What does the box on the back of the truck carry that drivers spread on roads during icy weather?

Citation Information

Iowa Department of Transportation, Date Unknown. Courtesy of Iowa DOT