

# #10547

## ALEX IN NEW YORK

LANDMARK MEDIA, 2002  
GRADE LEVEL: 1-5  
13 MINUTES  
1 INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC INCLUDED



### DESCRIPTION

Eight-year-old Alex lives in New York City and daily takes a one-hour bus ride to school. During the weekend, he and his family both use and see a variety of modes of transportation available in the area. Scooters, buses, taxis, planes, subways, and more move people around. What kind of transportation is available to people depends on where they live.

### STANDARDS

#### Subject Area: Geography

- Standard: Understands the nature and uses of different forms of technology.
  - ◆ Benchmark: Knows that a transportation system is tailored to a society's needs and consists of rules (e.g., which side of the road to drive on) and components (e.g., vehicles and the surface upon which they move). (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)
- Standard: Understands the patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth's surface.
  - ◆ Benchmark: Knows the modes of transportation used to move people, products, and ideas from place to place, their importance and their advantages and disadvantages. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)

### INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To introduce New York City living.
2. To demonstrate the different types of transportation used in New York City.
3. To depict the day-to-day life of an eight-year-old boy living in New York City.

## BACKGROUND

New York City (officially named the City of New York) is the largest city, by population, in the United States. It was originally founded by the Dutch (who purchased it from the Indians for the equivalent of \$24). New York City was under English rule until the American Revolution and was briefly the capital of the United States from about 1789 until 1798.



It is at the center of international finance, politics, communications, music, art, theater, fashion, and culture. Located in the state of New York, New York City has a population of over eight million people contained within 309 square miles (800 km<sup>2</sup>), including immigrants from over 180 countries who help make it one of the most cosmopolitan cities on earth.

Unlike most of America's car-oriented urban areas, public transportation is the common mode of travel for the majority of New York City residents. High parking fees, alternate side-of-the-street parking rules and traffic jams discourage driving, and the New York subway provides the best alternative. There are also numerous bus routes in all five boroughs, and walking is often favored by locals as a practical and pleasant transportation method for trips of two miles or less. In addition, people living in the suburbs in eastern Long Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and upstate New York often use the city's far-reaching commuter railroad system to travel to the city. Finally, taxicabs are operated by private companies and licensed by the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission. Four primary interstate highways enter the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area: I-78, I-80, I-87 and I-95. Interstate 287 serves as a partial beltway around the city.



## SYNOPSIS



Among the eight million people of New York City, the "city that never sleeps," is eight-year-old Alex. It is an hour's trip by school bus to his school.

Wearing his helmet, Alex travels on his scooter, looking for his friend Max. Because his mother works late, he joins his father at work on Friday night in a rock-and-roll club. On a free day, Alex and his family rent a car and travel through

## C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m



the Holland Tunnel through the tolls of the New Jersey Turnpike. They see planes landing and taking off from Newark Airport, and go to Princeton, New Jersey. Eventually they arrive at a farm where they go apple picking.

Overviews the transportation choices in the city, including: scheduled buses, trains and subways, thousands of taxicabs, and subway stations. (There are 468 subway stations in Manhattan alone.)

### VOCABULARY

- |                 |                |                 |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. bus          | 6. island      | 11. toll booth  |
| 2. bus schedule | 7. orchard     | 12. traffic     |
| 3. chauffeur    | 8. pedestrians | 13. traffic cop |
| 4. cyclists     | 9. subway      | 14. turnpike    |
| 5. delivery man | 10. taxi       |                 |

### DURING SHOWING

1. View the media more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause the media after each transportation system is discussed. Ask students what they think of that system. What are the advantages and disadvantages?

### AFTER SHOWING

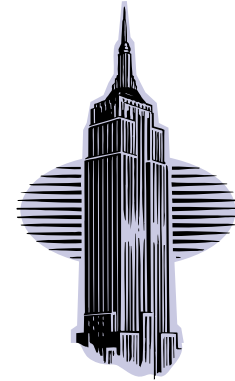
#### Discussion Items and Questions

1. List six means of transportation shown in the program. Which would you most enjoy, and why? Draw a picture of the forms of transportation shown.
2. What activity do Alex and his family enjoy at the end of the film?
3. What are two nicknames that New York City has, and why do you think it is called those?
4. What did the family drive through to get off the island?
5. Where does Alex's father work on Friday nights? What is Alex's job when he goes with his father?
6. How do you let the bus driver know you want to stop the bus?



## Applications and Activities

1. Write an essay in which you imagine you live in New York City. Describe some of the activities you might enjoy there, and some of the modes of transportation you would employ.
2. Find New York City on a map. What bodies of water are nearby? What states are near it? Do a report on the history of New York City.
3. Label the different types of transportation seen in the program. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC.)



## INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC

- NEW YORK TRANSPORTATION

## RELATED RESOURCES

### Captioned Media Program

- [Bill Nye the Science Guy: Human Transportation #3574](#)
- [Jason in Los Angeles #10548](#)

### World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- CITY OF NEW YORK

<http://home.nyc.gov>

Official site for New York City. Includes information about services, officials, community resources, and tourist attractions.

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- **NEW YORK CITY TOURIST**

<http://www.NYctourist.com>

Complete visitor's guide to New York City.



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- **ROOSEVELT TRAM**

[http://www.ny.com/transportation/ri\\_tramway.html](http://www.ny.com/transportation/ri_tramway.html)

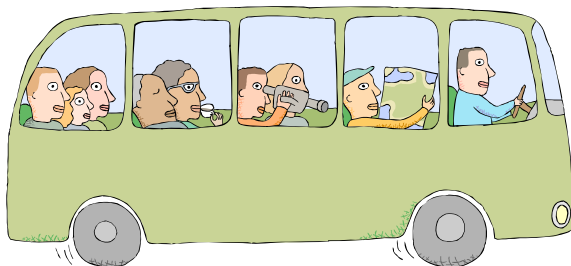
History and general information about the Roosevelt Tram.

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- **NEW YORK CITY MASS TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

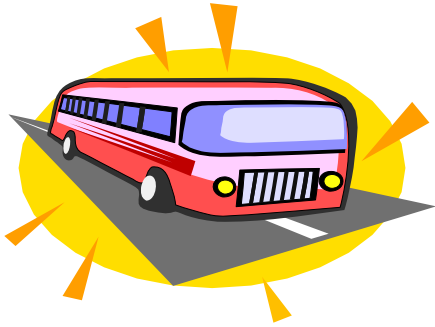
<http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/>

Maps and information about New York City transportation.



# NEW YORK TRANSPORTATION

Directions: Label the different modes of transportation.



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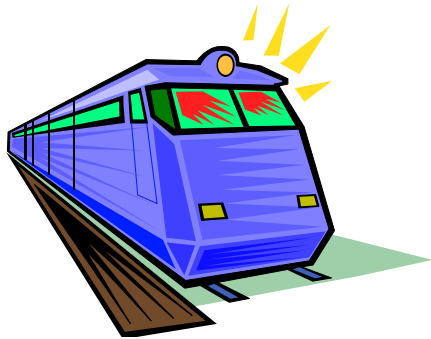
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