



#8927

# TRAINS

Grade Levels: 1-4

13 minutes

FILM IDEAS, INC. 1996

## DESCRIPTION

What are trains? Why do we need them? How do they work? Shows freight trains, passenger trains, and subways, noting how each works. Identifies each kind of train car and its purpose. Reminds us that trains continue to fill an important role in America's transportation system.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

### Subject Area: Technology

- ◆ 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)

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To explain what a train is.
2. To illustrate the need for trains.
3. To identify the types of different trains.

## VOCABULARY

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. boxcar        | 11. freight train   |
| 2. caboose       | 12. hopper car      |
| 3. coach         | 13. mass transit    |
| 4. diesel engine | 14. observation car |
| 5. dining car    | 15. passenger train |
| 6. engine        | 16. piggyback car   |
| 7. engineer      | 17. sleeping car    |
| 8. fireman       | 18. subway          |
| 9. flat car      | 19. steam engine    |
| 10. freight car  | 20. tank car        |



## BEFORE SHOWING

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1. Define the term transportation.
2. Create a list of different types of transportation and the purposes of the different types of transportation.
3. Discuss vocabulary words used in the video.

## AFTER SHOWING

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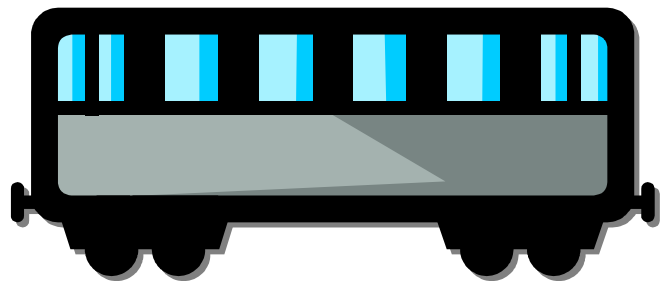
### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Discuss the following:
  - a. Why do we need trains?
  - b. What are the different types of trains?
  - c. Why are there different cars on a train?
  - d. How is a subway different from a regular train?
2. Have students share their personal experiences on different types of transportation.
3. Discuss safe use of public transportation, including not talking to strangers and knowing your destination.



### Applications and Activities

1. Create a bulletin board showing different types of transportation.
2. Construct a train for stuffed animals by punching holes in the sides of cardboard boxes and tying them together with string or old shoelaces. Have students decorate them.
3. Have students draw a picture of one of the trains in the video or based on their field trip to the train station. Hang the pictures up in the classroom.
4. May is National Transportation Month and a perfect time to provide students with practice in reading maps, schedules, timetables and more:
  - a. If all the world's train tracks were laid out end to end, they'd stretch more than 800,000 miles. How many trips to the moon or around the world does that equate to?
  - b. Many Americans still prefer the comfort and pace of train travel to travel on planes or busses. Visit Amtrak's Web site at [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com), looking at maps of Amtrak's routes and planning a trip by typing in departure and destination cities.
  - c. Twelve times a day in the U.S. a collision occurs between a train and a motorist or pedestrian. Discuss the Operation Lifesaver's motto, "Look, Listen, and Live!" (highway-rail crossings) and "Stay Off! Stay Away! Stay Alive!" (railroad tracks).



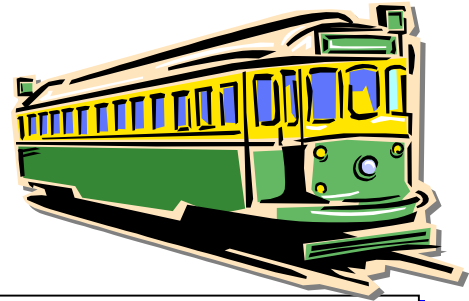
## RELATED RESOURCES

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### Captioned Media Program

- Goofy's Field Trip: Trains #2389



### 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.

- **U.S. RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD: KIDS CORNER**

<http://www.rrb.gov/teachers.html>

Includes a fun facts section, how to become an engineer, general information on the railroad and links to other sites with pages for kids.

- **MINETA TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE: KIDS AND TRANSPORTATION**

<http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu/kids.htm>

Has a kid's view of transportation. Includes writing, journalistic reporting, drawings, and other fun stuff by kids.

- **OPERATION LIFESAVER (OLI)**

<http://www.oli.org/>

Each of the 49 continental United States have their own OLI program. OLI strives to increase public awareness and teach about dangers of the rails. Includes lesson plans, teacher resources, activities for kids and safety links.

- **TRAINWEB**

<http://www.trainweb.com/>

Photos and sound files of Amtrak and freight trains. Links to model railroading and numerous railroad sites.

