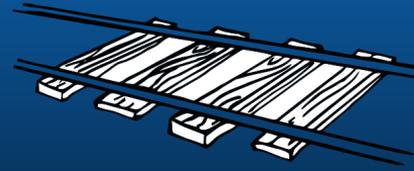


TRANSPORTATION

in the Blackstone River Valley
1800s - 1900s



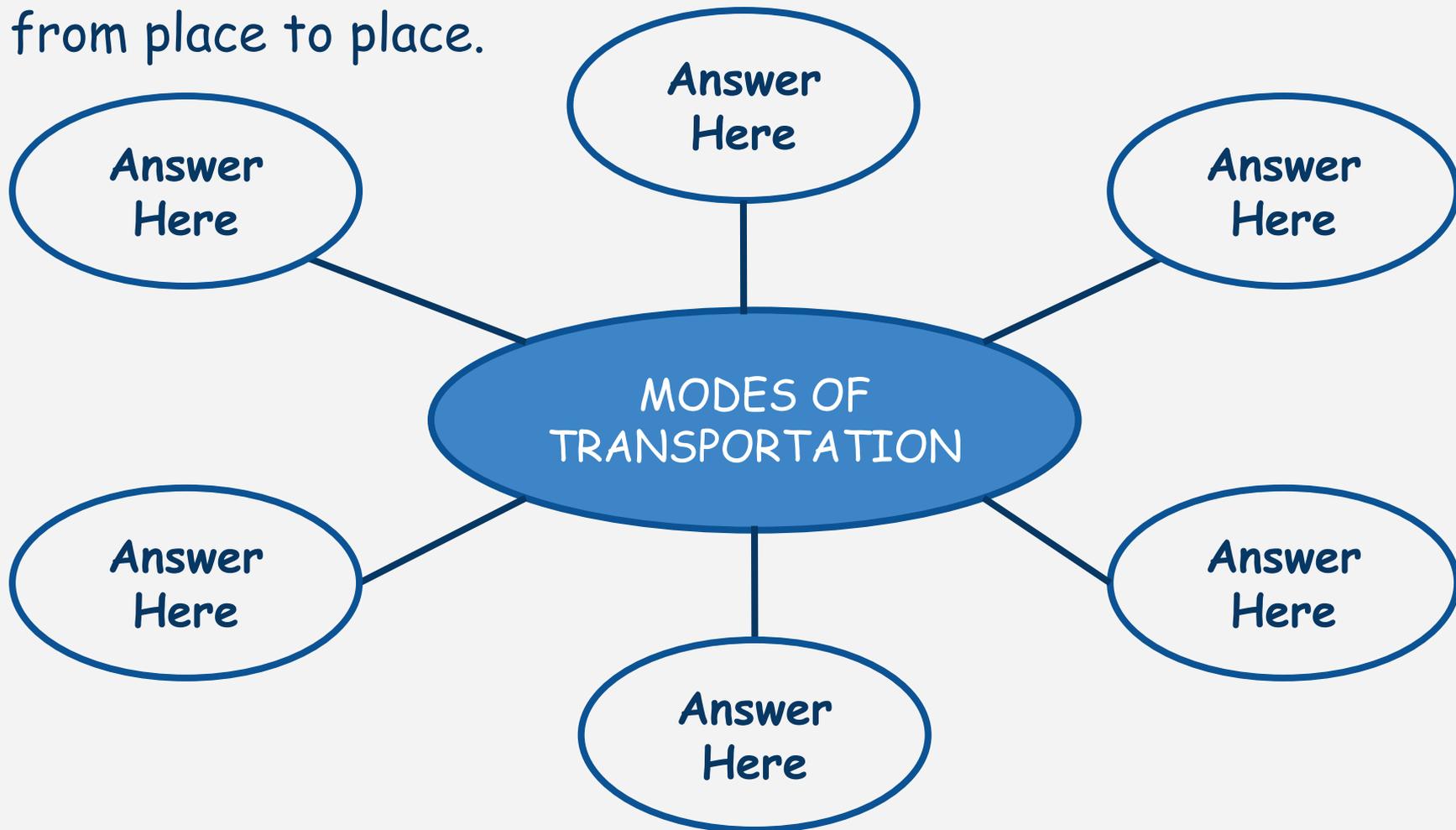


How did you get to school today?

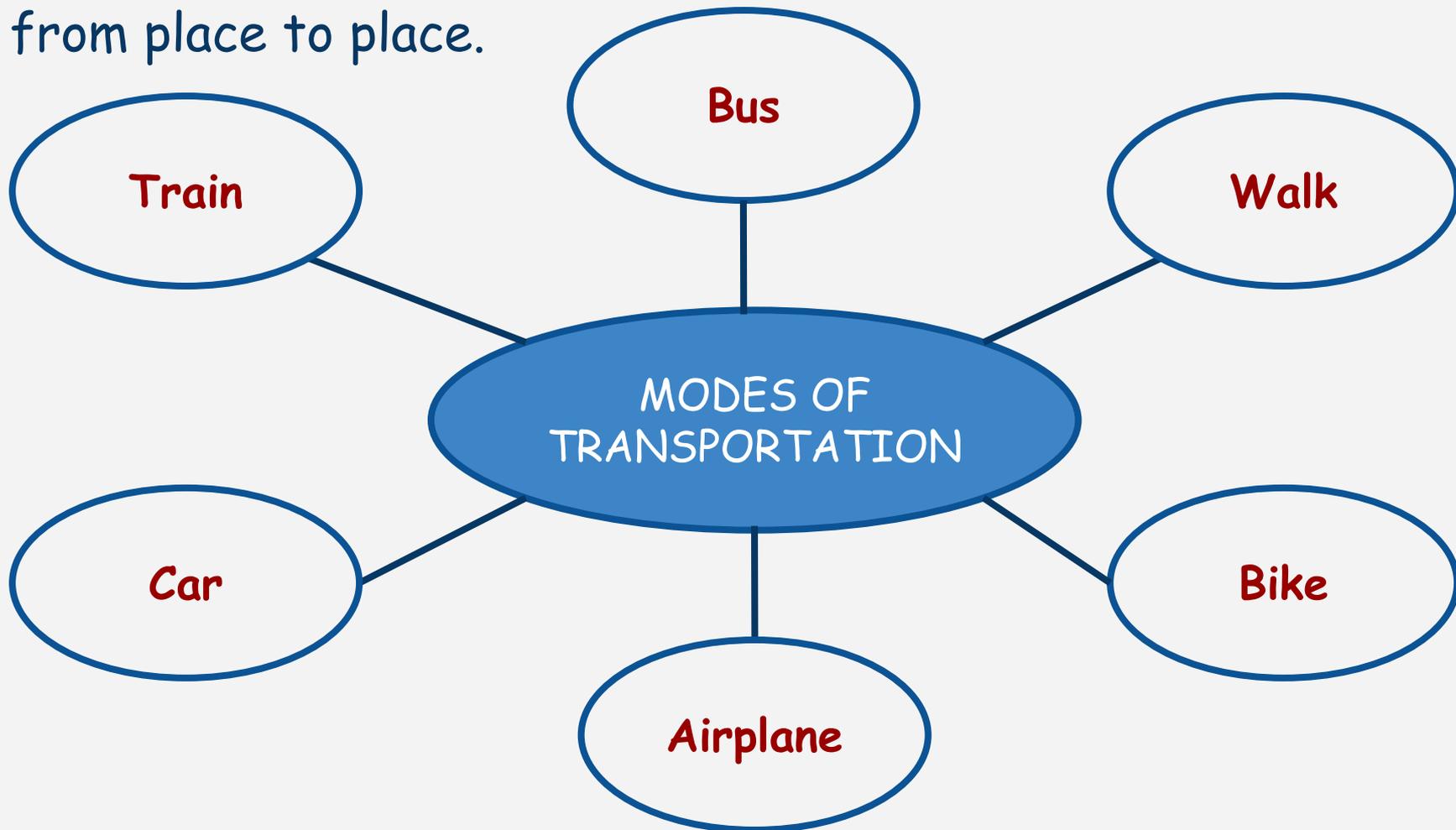


Answer here.

Use the Word Web to brainstorm different ways to travel from place to place.



Use the Word Web to brainstorm different ways to travel from place to place.





Alice Hadfield (Timperley) with her family c. 1918.



Alice Timperley in 2002.

Listen to Alice Hadfield (Timperley) tell about her life in the early 1900s. What methods of transportation did she use to travel from one place to another?
Answer here.



Alice Hadfield (Timperley) with her family c. 1918.



Alice Timperley in 2002.

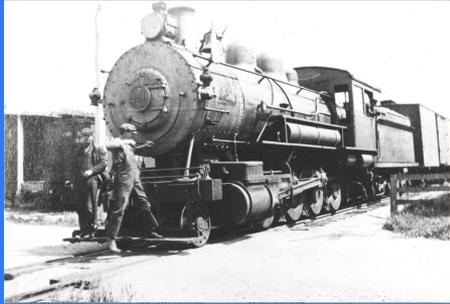
Listen to Alice Hadfield (Timperley) tell about her life in the early 1900s. What methods of transportation did she use to travel from one place to another?

Alice walked, rode the train, and went on the electric car to travel from place to place.

Objectives:

- Read and examine various ways that goods and people were transported from one place to another during the 1800s and 1900s.
- List the advantages and disadvantages of each method of travel.
- Create a transportation timeline to show how the different modes of transportation changed over time.

Click on the images below to learn more about the different modes of transportation.



TRAIN



CANAL BARGE



HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE



AUTOMOBILE



BICYCLE



The Providence and Worcester Railroad opened in 1847. It transported people and products quicker than the barges on the Blackstone River Canal. Trains traveled at speeds up to 60 miles per hour. This allowed the trip from Providence to Worcester to take just over an hour, which is as fast as traveling by car in modern times. The railroad ran in all kinds of weather throughout the year. To this day, the Providence and Worcester Railroad continues to be an important mode of transportation.

TRAIN

Year:

Advantages



Disadvantages





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TRAIN

Year: 1847

Advantages

- Quick (60 mph)
- Travel in all weather
- Faster than canal barges

Disadvantages

- Follow train schedule
- Follow train route
- Travel with others



BLACKSTONE CANAL BARGE

Year:

Advantages

Disadvantages



The Blackstone Canal was dug with shovels, pickaxes, and spades mainly by Irish immigrants. The 46 miles long canal opened in 1828, connecting the mill villages between Worcester, MA and Providence, RI. Canal barges were 72 feet long, 9 ½ feet wide, and could carry about 35 tons of cargo. Two horses pulled each canal barge at about four miles per hour. Canal barges traveled between Worcester and Providence in only two days and saved about \$3.80 per ton. However, floods, droughts, and ice caused the canal to shut down sometimes. These problems, combined with expensive construction costs and fighting with mills for water rights, made it difficult to run the canal.



BLACKSTONE CANAL BARGE

Year: **1828**

Advantages

- Carried 35 tons of cargo
- Saved \$3.80 per ton
- Connected cities

Disadvantages

- Canal shut down at times
- Slow travel
- Canal building costs



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Beginning in the early 1800s, horse-drawn carriages and wagons were used to transport goods and people on routes called turnpikes. Turnpikes were built to make it easier for wagons and carriages to travel long distances. These new roads connected town centers. Passengers were charged a fee to travel on these straighter roads. Turnpikes were good for moving people and mail, but they did not make shipping goods cheaper or faster.

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE & WAGON on TURNPIKES

Year:

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● |





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HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE & WAGON on TURNPIKES

Year: **early 1800s**

Advantages

- **Turnpikes connected town centers**
- **Carried passengers & mail**

Disadvantages

- **Shipping wasn't faster or cheaper**
- **Bumpy travel**



AUTOMOBILE

Year:

Advantages

Disadvantages



In 1895, automobiles grew in popularity as an important mode of transportation. Early on, cars were powered by electricity, steam engines, or gasoline. Eventually, automobiles powered by gasoline became the most preferred car. The invention of the self-starting engine made it easier and safer to start. The gasoline car could also travel longer distances and achieve greater speeds. However, automobiles also brought noise and air pollution, heavy traffic, and speeding drivers to American roadways.



AUTOMOBILE

Year: 1895

Advantages

- self-Starting made it easy & safe to start the car
- fast
- Far travel

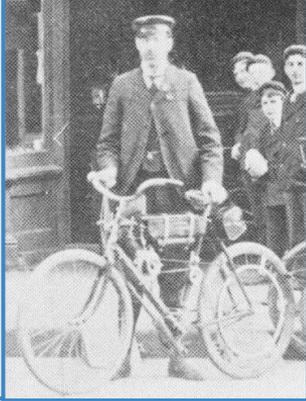
Disadvantages

- Air pollution
- Heavy traffic
- speeding drivers



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The great bicycle craze swept the United States after 1885 with the introduction of the modern low-wheeled safety bicycle. Thousands of bicycles were sold. This bicycle allowed riders to travel from place to place at good speed without a horse. Since bicycles required better, smoother roads than horse-drawn vehicles, public roads and highways were eventually improved. Smoother, paved roads in the 1900s helped bicycle travel, as well as transportation by automobile.

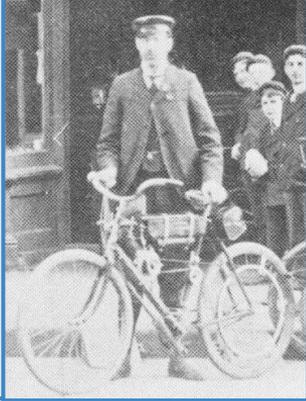
BICYCLE Year:

Advantages



Disadvantages





The great bicycle craze swept the United States after 1885 with the introduction of the modern low-wheeled safety bicycle. Thousands of bicycles were sold. This bicycle allowed riders to travel from place to place at good speed without a horse. Since bicycles required better, smoother roads than horse-drawn vehicles, public roads and highways were eventually improved. Smoother, paved roads in the 1900s helped bicycle travel, as well as transportation by automobile.

BICYCLE

Year: 1885

Advantages

- Good speed without a horse
- Roads were improved
- smoother travel

Disadvantages

- Rider can't carry heavy goods on the bicycle
- Accidents



You will now use the dates and transportation inventions to create a **timeline**. A timeline is an ordered list of events showing change over time. Your timeline will show how transportation has changed over time from the 1800s to the 1900s.

To prepare your timeline, list the years for each mode of transportation in order from the earliest to the latest below.

Answer here:

TIMELINE

A timeline is an ordered list of events showing change over time.

Transportation Timeline

Digital Version

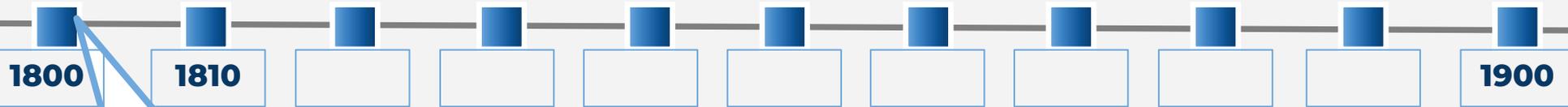
Directions: Follow the steps below to complete the transportation timeline on the next slide.

1. Label the tick marks along the timeline from 1800 and up until the year 1900, counting by tens.
2.  In each callout box, write the date that the transportation invention was first used in Rhode Island. Name the mode of transportation. Create a summary sentence describing how it operated. (The first one has been done for you as an example.)
3. Slide the completed callout box onto the timeline. Place the point of the callout box on the line according to the date of the mode of transportation. For example, if a vehicle was first used in 1865, place the point of the callout box directly in between 1860 and 1870.
4. Alternate the position of the entries. The first one starts **BELOW** the line. The next one should be placed **ABOVE** the line, and so on.

Transportation Timeline

Type date here.
Name of Transportation
Type your transportation sentence here.

Type date here.
Name of Transportation
Type your transportation sentence here.

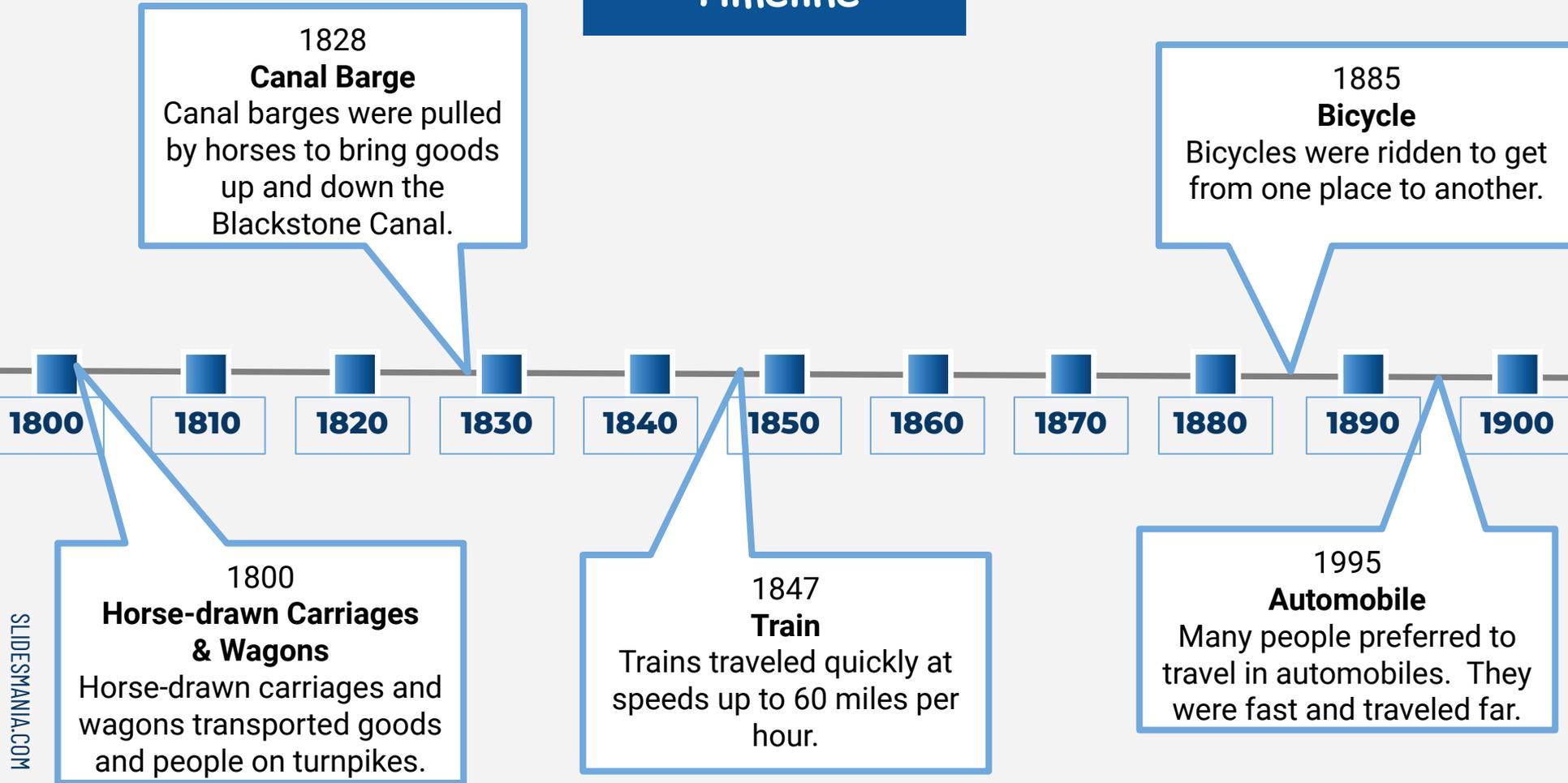


1800
Horse-drawn Carriages & Wagons
Horse-drawn carriages and wagons transported goods and people on turnpikes.

Type date here.
Name of Transportation
Type your transportation sentence here.

Type date here.
Name of Transportation
Type your transportation sentence here.

Transportation Timeline



1828

Canal Barge

Canal barges were pulled by horses to bring goods up and down the Blackstone Canal.

1885

Bicycle

Bicycles were ridden to get from one place to another.

1800

Horse-drawn Carriages & Wagons

Horse-drawn carriages and wagons transported goods and people on turnpikes.

1847

Train

Trains traveled quickly at speeds up to 60 miles per hour.

1995

Automobile

Many people preferred to travel in automobiles. They were fast and traveled far.

1800

1810

1820

1830

1840

1850

1860

1870

1880

1890

1900

Transportation Timeline - Paper Version

Directions: Follow the steps below to create your transportation timeline.

1. Distribute white 8 ½ x 11 inch construction paper to the students.
2. Holding the paper horizontally, use a ruler to draw a line across the center of the paper.
3. Mark off 1-inch segments using tick marks across the line. See below.



4. Label the tick marks along the timeline starting from 1800, increasing by tens up to 1900.
5. Alternate the position of the entries starting BELOW the line with the first entry and then ABOVE the line for the next entry.
6. Using 3 x 3 in. sticky notes, write the date that the transportation invention was first used in Rhode Island. Name the mode of transportation. Create a summary sentence describing how it operated. Illustrate a small example of the mode of transportation described.
7. Attach each sticky note to the timeline. Draw a line from the sticky note to the timeline according to the date of the mode of transportation.
8. Label the timeline as "Transportation Timeline."

ELECTRIC STREETCAR

Year:

If you were to add the electric streetcar (trolley) to the transportation timeline, where would you place it?



Rhode Islanders first used electric streetcars, or trolleys, in 1887. This mode of transportation rode along metal rails on the roads. It was powered by electricity through a wire connected from the trolley to electricity poles. These electric streetcars usually traveled at speeds between 10 and 15 miles per hour. Although they were sometimes crowded with many passengers, trolley transportation was a simple way for people to travel between cities and to and from work.

ELECTRIC STREETCAR

Year:

If you were to add the electric streetcar (trolley) to the transportation timeline, where would you place it?

The trolley would be placed to the right of 1885 and to the left of 1890.



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Lesson Resources

Articles

- Claflin, Albert W. "The Providence Cable Tramway." [Rhode Island History: A Rhode Island Historical Society Publication, Volume V, Number 2, April 1946.](#)
- Lemons, Stanley J. "The Automobile Comes to Rhode Island." [Rhode Island History: A Rhode Island Historical Society Publication, Volume 52, Number 3, August, 1994.](#)
- U.S. National Park Service. "The Blackstone Canal."
<https://www.nps.gov/blrv/learn/historyculture/blackstonecanal.htm>
- U. S. National Park Service. "The Transportation Revolution."
<https://www.nps.gov/blrv/learn/historyculture/transportation-revolution.htm>

Images

- [Canal Barge image](#) and Blackstone Canal Painting obtained from the Blackstone Canal online resource created by the National Park Service.
- [Electric Streetcar image](#) obtained from the Providence Public Library Digital Collections.
- [Blackstone Canal Painting image](#) obtained from the Blackstone Canal online resource created by the National Park Service.



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