Whether in the form of horse, wagon, train, automobile, airplane, or space shuttle, transportation technology has helped develop the geographic, economic, and cultural landscapes of America. The transportation industry has created a large part of American identity, from river shipping corridors that fed the growth of major cities to the iconic Route 66 that epitomizes American road culture. Tennessee’s economic and cultural growth has paralleled the nation’s transportation evolution. Today, you can enjoy a scenic drive where Native Americans and early white settlers once passed, along the historic Avery Trace and Natchez Trace. Follow Civil War soldiers along the railroad lines that crisscross the state. Note the economic expansion and opportunities afforded by the Nissan plants in Decherd and Smyrna and the new Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga. History, geography, technology, economics, math, and language arts can all involve transportation-themed primary sources from the Library of Congress.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **July 26** (Smithville) - DeKalb County Schools in-service; 12—1:30 p.m. (K-6) & 1:30—2:30 p.m. (7-12)
- **July 27-28** (Cordova) - Memphis City Schools in-service; 27th: 9:15—11:20 a.m. (geography) & 11:30 a.m.—1:40 p.m. (history); 28th: 8:30—10:30 a.m. (science)
- **August 5** (Chattanooga) - Hamilton County Schools Social Studies in-service; 31 1/2-hour sessions
- **August 5** (Bartlett) - Shelby County Schools in-service; 9 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. workshops
- **August 10** (Nashville) - Metro Nashville Public Schools Social Studies in-service

“AWESOME” SOURCE OF THE MONTH:

[**Voyage a la lune**](http://example.com) [Voyage to the Moon; between 1865 and 1870]

What kind of bicycle is this? Is this a realistic way to travel to the moon? Why would someone design such a contraption?

NEWS: INSTITUTE A SUCCESS!

TPS-TN hosted its inaugural summer institute on July 13 & 14 on the MTSU campus. Educators from across the state learned about the impact of the Civil War on the Tennessee homefront in order to engage students in using primary sources to research, discuss, and analyze the period. Presenters included Dr. Carroll Van West, Lisa Oakley (East Tennessee Historical Society), Lucinda Cockrell (MTSU Center for Popular Music), and Rebecca Byrd (New Center Elementary, Sevier County Schools). Participants completed lesson kits on this theme utilizing Library of Congress primary sources and took new ideas to use in their classroom.

TPS-TN Civil War Summer Institute — Lisa Oakley discusses how to use the inquiry method with primary sources during the first day of the institute. More pictures are posted at our Facebook page.
**Lesson Idea—Graphing the Automobile Boom**

During the “Roaring 20s,” America’s economy expanded, largely because of the growing automobile industry. This growth was documented in *Facts and Figures of the Automobile Industry*, published yearly. The collection *Prosperity and Thrift: The Coolidge Era and the Consumer Economy, 1921–1929* contains the 1927 edition of this fact book, as well as numerous photos and images of cars from that period (search “automobile” here).

Turn the pages of *Facts and Figures* for dozens of charts and graphs, full of information that can be used to teach percentage, median, mode, and average. For example, in the chart at left, what is the average rate of growth of motor demand between 1913 and 1926? Or, look at image #41. Who owned more cars in 1927: families in small towns or in the city? Why would that be? Read more about this time period here to put this growth into perspective.

How do these figures from 1927 compare to data from today? What companies are building cars in Tennessee today, and how many cars are they producing? How does the presence of different companies in our state reflect the changes in the automobile industry and in Tennessee’s population?

These ideas can be adapted to meet curriculum standards for grades 4–7 Math (Standard 5: Data, Probability and Statistics) and grade 5 Social Studies (History Era 7: The Emergence of Modern America, 1890–1930).

**Lesson Idea—Railroads in Tennessee**

Before the birth of the automobile, railroads dominated American transportation. New railroad lines brought new immigrants to the farthest reaches of the continental U.S. to live and work. The growth of railroads also brought unprecedented wealth to bankers and steel company owners during the Gilded Age, while contributing to the devastation to the native landscape and dangerous working conditions for the thousands that labored on the rail lines.

In Tennessee during the Civil War, the railroads transported and supplied Federal troops occupying Tennessee towns, and played a major part in determining where skirmishes and battles would take place. The railroad systems, mostly destroyed or disrupted during the war, began to expand again in the 1880s, when many Tennessee minerals were extracted to fuel the industrial expansion of the nation. Read more about Tennessee railroads in the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. Also see the Library of Congress’ article on the “History of Railroads and Maps.”

Detailed maps of Tennessee’s railroads from the 1830s to the 1890s can be found in the Library’s extensive collection of *Railroad Maps*. Look at the 1889 map at right. Discuss with your students what determines the location of railroad lines and branches. What does the building of the railroad mean for the cities in its path? Compare this map to similar ones from 1839, 1934, and 2010 (front & back). What has changed? Where is your closest railroad line? Are railroads still an important means of transportation in modern America? For more ideas and teacher resources, see the Railroad Maps Collection Connections.

These ideas can be adapted to meet curriculum standards for high school Technology Engineering (Technology Issues 3 & 4), World Geography (standards 1-3, 5), Economics (standards 1-3, 5), and U.S. History (Eras 6 & 7).

**Important Links:**
- Around the World in the 1890s (plus collection connection, lesson idea)
- The Dream of Flight (Wright Brothers exhibition)
- Flight and Early Aviators (themed resource)
- Transportation and Communication Maps
- Hog Heaven: Celebrating 100 years of the Harley Davidson
- Tissandier Collection [early aviation history, including balloons]
- America on the Move (Smithsonian Online Exhibition)
- First American automobile race (Today in History)

**Side view of a 1928 Chrysler automobile with two women passengers [c. 1928]**

**Map of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Ry.; and connections [1889; detail]**
Lesson Idea– Get Your Kicks on Route 66

The marked growth of automobile traffic transformed the United States highway system. Route 66, also known as the Mother Road, is arguably the most famous highway. Prior to the advent of the interstate system, travelers made their way from Chicago, Illinois, to Los Angeles, California along Route 66. Towns and communities grew to accommodate the number of travelers in need of gas, food, and lodging. New businesses and architectural roadside wonders soon appeared beckoning travelers to stop. From songs and literature to architecture, Route 66 greatly influenced American culture in the twentieth century. The rise of the interstate highway system however spelled the end for Route 66. Despite its stature as an American icon, Route 66 was decommissioned as a highway in 1985. Today adventurous travelers can still see some of what made this road America’s highway.

Begin by showing your students a map of Route 66 and then have them explore images of Route 66 in the Built in America collection and in the Prints and Photographs Online Catalog (see Featured Feature below for more information on Route 66 collections). Have students identify the location of the images and pinpoint the location on the Route 66 map. If you want to make this a larger class activity, have students create a large map to go on your classroom wall and adhere the images to their respective locations on the larger map.

Then have students select one of the towns along Route 66 and associated Route 66 landmarks/attractions. Have students write a short story about a family road trip to visit these sites back in the early 1950s when travel along this route was at its peak. Before they begin writing have students brainstorm what other things they might have seen near their chosen landmark. When they are finished, have them share the stories with the class.

This idea can be adapted to meet curriculum standards for grades 5-8 Geography and English/Language Arts, and high school World Geography and Creative Writing.

Featured Feature– Carol Highsmith Photographs

The Library of Congress Web site is a great source of images for Route 66 and many other amazing American landmarks. A great place to start exploring some of the more recent images added to the LOC is the Carol Highsmith Archive. Many of the images in this collection have been taken in the last two decades and new images are being added. This collection provides some of the most current images available on the LOC Web site and all are in the public domain.

The Carol Highsmith Archive in the Prints and Photographs Online Catalog contains ninety-nine images of the historic Route 66. You will find images of classic automobiles, signs, and businesses from Illinois to California. Explore these images to see the lasting legacy of the Mother Road.

As you peruse the Carol Highsmith collection you may notice that we have used quite a few of these recently, such as images of the Ryman Auditorium, Stax Museum, and the Lorraine Motel just to name a few. The collection contains about twenty images from Tennessee and neighboring states. Be sure to check out the ones listed below!

- Skyline, Nashville, Tennessee
- Gates, Graceland, Memphis, Tennessee
- Natchez Trace Parkway, Mississippi
- Reenactment of Civil War siege of April 1862, Bridgeport, Alabama
**THE BALLOON PARACHUTE**

Le premier parachute de Jacques Garnerin, essayé par lui-même au parc de Mousseaux, le 22 octobre 1797 [Jacques Garnerin’s first parachute, which he tried out at Monceau Park (Paris) on Oct. 22, 1797]

What kinds of travel are effective in a hot air balloon? A parachute? Would you go up in one of these? To find out if Garnerin’s parachute was successful, read this. For more colorful illustrations of balloons, click here.

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**THE DOUBLE ARCH BRIDGE**

Natchez Trace Parkway, Located between Natchez, MS & Nashville, TN, Tupelo, Lee, MS [n.d.]

Bridges are a key part of our transportation system. Ask students to discuss the structural components of this bridge. What elements help support the weight of automobiles traveling across the bridge? How is this bridge different from some of the bridges in your area? How would travelers have gotten across this stretch of land prior to the construction of this bridge?

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**RIVER TRAVEL**

Old river boat docked at Memphis, Tennessee [Oct. 1935]

Rivers provided an early mode of transportation that shaped how our state was settled. Rivers have also been important to the development of local economies, often connecting farms to markets. What type of riverboat is pictured above? What powered this boat? Why would river transportation have been important in Memphis? What other Tennessee cities are built along major rivers?

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**ARM CHAIR TRAVEL**

Chefoo - Mrs. Reese being carried in sedan chair [China, 1895]

Who is being carried, and who is doing the carrying? Who would be mostly likely to use this form of transportation, and why? What are the benefits of sedan chair travel? Why do you think there are no wheels involved?