

Another Way to Go

LEVEL: K-1-2-3-4-5-6

SUBJECT AREA(S): Health, Social Studies, Language Arts, Art, Science

OBJECTIVE: Students will recognize that cars are not the primary method of transportation in all countries.

TIME: 20 to 30 minutes

MATERIALS

Map(s) of the world
Yarn or string
Tacks or tape
Marking pens or chalk

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

1. Discuss various types of transportation, in addition to walking, used in the United States. Which type do students think is used the most? (*automobile*)
2. Discuss what other kinds of transportation might be used instead of automobiles. (*walking, trains, airplanes, bicycles, animals, boats, buses, etc.*)
3. Discuss the fact that in many other countries the automobile is not the kind of transportation most used. What do students think other countries use for transportation, and what are the advantages and disadvantages of each kind of transportation?

For Your Information

Younger students won't have this prior knowledge. Slides or films of other countries can be used to help them visualize or identify the range of transportation used in other countries. For example, pedestrians, horse carts, camels, trains, cars, and jets are all found in China.

Beware of stereotyping.

The following table provides some examples of popular modes of transportation in places throughout the world but does not include all modes for a given place.

WALKING	TRAINS	BUSES	BICYCLES	BOATS	ANIMALS
Italy Sweden France Jamaica Peru	Great Britain Germany Japan New York City Tokyo Barcelona	Great Britain Germany	Nigeria Australia The Netherlands China India	Peru Australia Venice, Italy Hong Kong, China	India (oxen) Egypt (camels)

Note: This transportation information was taken in large part from On the Go by Ann Morris (New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1990). It is a good resource book for transportation issues.

ASSESSMENT

Conduct an oral review of the countries mentioned in the lesson and the kinds of transportation used there.

EXTENSIONS

Show geography movies on transportation in other countries. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each. Have students decide which other modes would work well in their town.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Please refer to the Iowa Safe Routes to School Encouragement and Education Program Web site for additional resources (www.iowasaferoutes.org).