

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

Presents

“Are We There Yet “

Transportation in Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Presented in partnership with Cuyahoga Valley National Park



The Cuyahoga Valley has been used as a transportation corridor from prehistoric to modern times. The topography of the valley has presented challenges that have been overcome by individual efforts and changing technologies. The result of these factors has left its impression on the land and the people who live here.

In 1825, Ohio saw a surge of workers digging, cutting stone, and plying timber to create a new age for a youthful state. By 1832, the canal reached the Ohio River in Portsmouth. This first national inland waterway connected Ohio with markets from New York City to New Orleans fueling the growth of a national economy. The canal attracted businesses and industries to its banks, spawning the growth of villages and cities making Ohio the third richest state in the union.

The popularity of the Ohio & Erie Canal waned in the mid 1800s as development of railroads increased throughout the state. Soon it was the iron horse that carried goods and people throughout the valley, leaving the slower moving canal boats behind. Railroad steam was first seen in the Cuyahoga Valley in 1880. Fueling the industrial revolution, the Valley Railway transported coal from central Ohio to factories in Cleveland and Akron. Valley residents used the line for transportation, and depots became a hub of small town life.

Eventually railroads would give way to automobiles, and bridges would scale the valley as the pace of transportation increased once again.

Departing / Arriving Times

Schools should arrive at the boarding station by 10 a.m. Your group will be greeted by park rangers and national park volunteers who will provide an introduction to the day's program. After a brief outside activity your group will board Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad at 10:30 a.m. for a 1.5 hour journey through the national park.

Self-Guided Trail Activities

The National Park Service encourages school groups to explore the trails of the national park. Park Rangers will have trail activities available for teachers who wish to take their students out on the trail at the conclusion of the program. Please contact Park Ranger Pamela Machuga if you would like a copy of the activities prior to your arrival at pam_machuga@nps.gov or (330) 657-1914.

Grade Appropriate

Fourth – sixth grades

Goals

Students will be able to:

- Students will be able to experience the different modes of valley transportation and relate their experience to historical trends in transportation.
- Students will have the opportunity to see examples of the impact of transportation on the valley and its people over time.
- Students will have the opportunity to see how topography and changing technologies have influenced transportation through the valley.
- Using examples from the valley transportation continuum, students will have the opportunity to assess the impact of various transportation systems on the environment and quality of life.

By the end of the third-fifth grade program, the students will have accomplished the following Benchmarks for the Ohio Content Standards:

Science & Technology

- Describe how technology affects human life.

History

- Construct time lines to demonstrate an understanding of units of time and chronological order.
- Explain how new developments led to the growth of the United States.

Geography

- Identify and explain ways people have affected the physical environment of North America and analyze the positive and negative consequences.
- Analyze ways that transportation and communication relate to patterns of settlement and economic activity.

Communications: Oral and Visual Standard:

- Demonstrate active listening strategies by asking clarifying questions and responding to questions with appropriate elaboration.
- Use clear and specific vocabulary to communicate ideas and to establish tone appropriate to the topic, audience and purpose.

By the end of the sixth-eighth grade program, the students will have accomplished the following Benchmarks for the Ohio Content Standards:

Science & Technology

- Give examples of how technological advances, influenced by scientific knowledge, affect the quality of life.

Geography

- Explain reasons that people, products and ideas move from place to place and the effects of that movement on geographic patterns.

Communications: Oral and Visual Standard

- Use effective listening strategies, summarize major ideas and draw logical inferences from presentations and visual media.

Pre- and Post-Site Activities

Pre-Site

1. Have students go to www.nps.gov to learn about Cuyahoga Valley National Park and its resources.
2. Read newspaper or magazine articles about different modes of transportation.

3. Have the students brainstorm different modes of transportation and how these forms affect their lives.
4. Have the students draw different modes of transportation. Then have the students arrange them in descending order of when each was first used.

Post-Site

1. Divide the students into groups and have the students debate the use of canal vs. railroad transportation.
2. Have the students go back to the different types of transportation pictures that they drew (pre-site activity) and list how each form of transportation changed the lives of the people who lived in the Cuyahoga Valley.
3. Reflect on or compare how transportation has made our lives easier or harder and how changes in transportation have affected our environment.
4. Group Project: Divide students into groups of four. Each group must complete four of the following:
 - Make up a new form of transportation
 - Sketch a picture of this new form of transportation or draw a story board poster promoting the advertisement of your product.
 - Make a video commercial promoting the new product.
 - Write a newspaper article as a reporter doing a story on the unveiling of the new form of transportation or write an article on how environmentally friendly this mode of transportation is.
 - Create a radio jingle for your product.
 - Research how much this mode of transportation would cost the consumer if manufactured...



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Should you have any questions regarding your contract or the information above, contact CVSR at (800) 468-4070 ext. 3034 or via email at education@cvsr.com. Should you have any questions regarding the content of the programs, academic standards met, or self-guided trail activities, contact Park Ranger Pamela Machuga at (330) 657-1914 or pam_machuga@nps.gov.