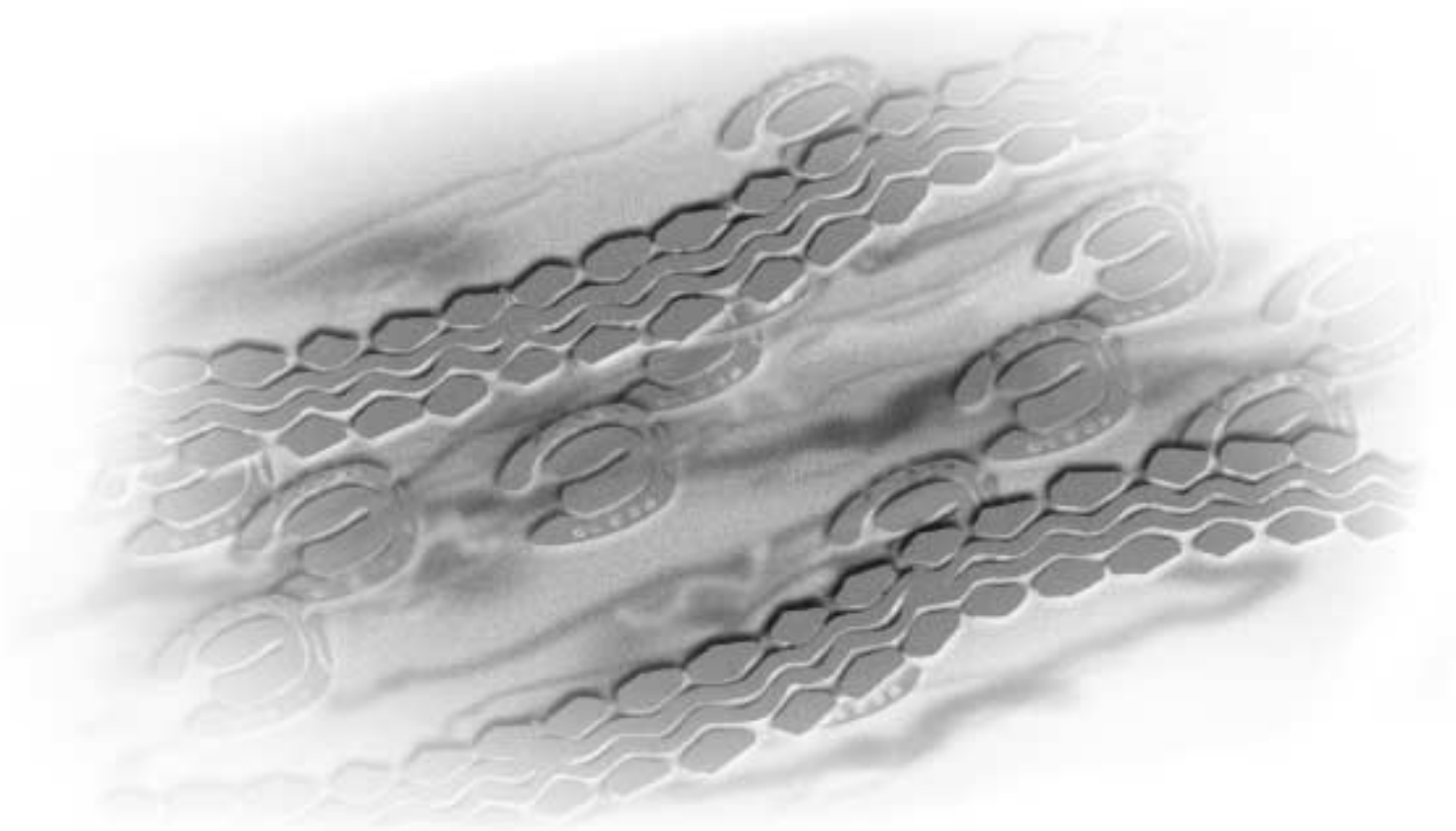


Table of Contents

Resources	5	Ford's America/Success	19
Henry Ford's Birth/Down on the Farm	6	The Model T	20
Mechanical Aptitude	7	Model A and Model T Fords	21
Personal Interests Quiz	8	The Car Everybody Loved/The Assembly Line ...	22
Changes	9	A National Craze	24
Working in Detroit	10	Model T Cardboard Cut-Out	25
Henry's Horseless Carriage	11	Better Salaries and Working Conditions	26
Henry Ford's Quadricycle	13	Fair Lane/Helping Others	27
New and Improved!	14	The End of the Model T	28
The First Detroit Automobile Company		Another Model A	29
Car/Race Cars	15	Hard Times/Ford Today	30
The Ford Motor Company	17	A Ford Festival	31
Car Repair Action Song	18	Fascinating Car and Driving Facts	32



Henry Ford

Henry Ford's Birth

When Henry Ford was born on July 30, 1863, no one anywhere was thinking of automobiles. The Civil War was raging in America. A month earlier was a decisive battle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Henry's mother, Mary, had already lost a brother in the war. William, Henry's father, had come to America from Ireland 16 years earlier. He worked hard on his 90-acre farm near Dearborn, Michigan. Henry was born in the two-story white farmhouse surrounded by fruit trees, tilled fields and patches of timber. A narrow, rutted dirt road going by the farm had never had an automobile on it. So who could guess that the baby born that day would one day change the course of America with an automobile!

Travel Research

Challenge students to research and find out how people traveled from one place to another at the time of Henry Ford's birth, since there were no automobiles yet. You may want to divide students into small groups and have each group research a mode of transportation (horse and wagon, boat, train, etc.). Have students draw pictures to illustrate their findings. Let them share their findings with the rest of the class.

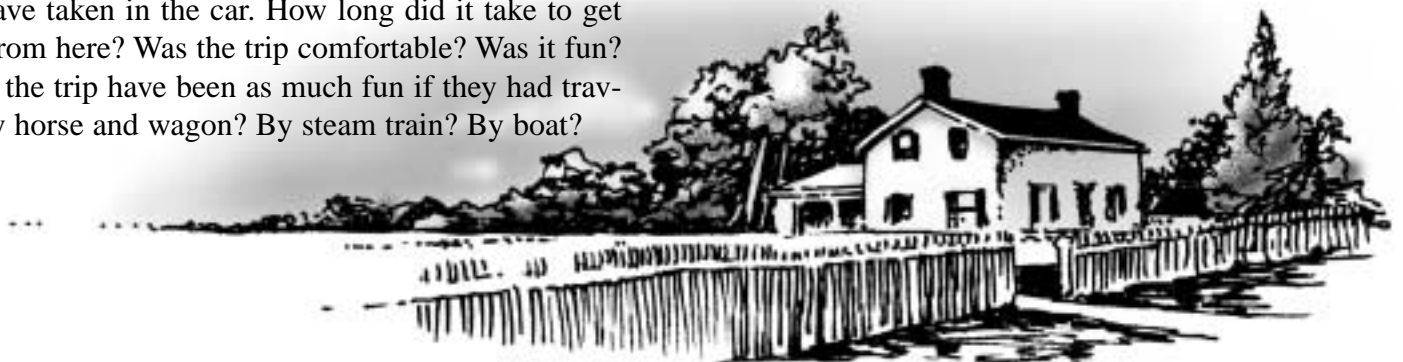
Discussion

Discuss the difficulties of traveling during the time of Henry Ford's birth. Talk about the time and expense it probably took to get from one place to another. Ask students to consider how this restricted people in where they went. Discuss the discomfort of most travel (no motels, dirty conditions, no roadside restaurants or fast-food places, no bathrooms or very crude ones, etc.). Contrast traveling of that time with the freedom of travel we have today. Ask students to tell about family trips they have taken in the car. How long did it take to get there from here? Was the trip comfortable? Was it fun? Would the trip have been as much fun if they had traveled by horse and wagon? By steam train? By boat?

Down on the Farm

As a child, Henry Ford loved living in the country. His home was surrounded by wild flowers, birds, butterflies and wild animals such as rabbits, raccoons, foxes and muskrats. As an adult Henry wrote: *The first thing I remember in my life is my father taking my brother and myself to see a bird's nest under a big oak twenty yards east of our home and my birthplace. John was so young that he could not walk. Father carried him. I being two years older could run along with them. . . I remember the nest with four eggs and also the bird and hearing it sing.* He also remembered his father once turning the direction of his plow to keep from running over a bird's nest on the ground. These early years on the farm gave Henry Ford a love for nature that stayed with him his whole life.

Henry was the oldest of six children, four boys and two girls. His mother taught him to read so Henry had a little head start when he went to school for the first time at the age of 7½. He had to walk a mile and a half to the red brick schoolhouse that was so modern it had glass windows! Henry's teacher was a 17-year-old girl, and he quickly made a best friend, Edsel, with whom he played pranks on other students, frequently getting into trouble. However, Henry tried hard with his lessons and, though spelling was always a trial for him, he was especially good at math. When Henry was about 10, a new teacher came to the school. He challenged the young boy to do mental arithmetic. Henry loved it and throughout his life was able to figure math problems in his head quickly and accurately, which was a real benefit to him in his business. When the teacher left to teach at another school, Henry transferred to the new school to stay with his teacher.



Henry Ford

Mechanical Aptitude

At his new school Henry involved himself in projects that satisfied his mechanical curiosity. He helped a group of boys with a waterwheel project in a ditch near the schoolhouse. Henry and some students also built a steam turbine. Unfortunately, the boiler blew up slightly injuring him and another student and catching the school yard fence on fire. Henry's father repaired the fence, explaining to his son the importance of being careful. As Henry grew older and more responsible, his father gave him mechanical projects to do on the farm. He repaired wagons and harnesses and even invented simple devices such as one to enable the farmer to open and close the farm gate without getting down from the wagon. His curiosity led him to take things apart to see how they worked. Children who brought toys to the farm were warned, "Don't let Henry see them! He'll take them apart!"

Henry loved the mechanical projects his father gave him, but he hated the farm work itself—the plowing, planting and milking. He much preferred sharpening a saw to using it to cut wood, and he'd rather repair the plow than actually use it in the field. His mother said Henry was a born mechanic. He later wrote: *Even when very young I suspected that much might be done in a better way. That is what took me to mechanics . . . I had a kind of workshop with odds and ends of metal for tools before I had anything else. In those days we did not have the toys of today; what we had were home-made. My toys were all tools—they still are!*

Personal Interests Quiz

Copy the quiz on page 8 and give one to each student to complete. Explain that there are no right or wrong answers; the quiz is merely to define where children's interests lie, what they are most interested in.

When students are done they should list the numbers they circled. Use the following explanations to help students see where their interests lie. (Point out that most of us have a variety of interests, which is a healthy, normal way to live. The quiz may, however, show that a student has some definite preferences.) How many of your students are interested in mechanical things as Henry Ford was?

Personal Interests Quiz Results

1, 6, 17, 21, 23—A definite literary interest

2, 14, 15, 16, 18—Interested in fitness and exercise

3, 8, 9, 11, 13—Nature and animal lover

4, 10, 12, 19, 20—Mechanical/Problem-solving interests

5, 7, 22, 24, 25—A budding musician



1800s Farm Mural

Lay a long strip of mural paper or white shelf paper on the floor. Mark off a section for each child to draw on. Provide pencils and colored markers or crayons. Talk about what farm life was like in the days of Henry Ford's childhood. Remind children that there were few machines and most of the farm work had to be done by human muscle. Even the farm wife had to work hard to clean and cook since she had few labor-saving devices such as we have today.

Ask students to each choose an aspect of Henry Ford's farm life to illustrate. You may want to suggest some such as Ford family members milking cows, plowing the fields, planting, weeding the garden, harvesting crops, feeding chickens, painting the barn, grooming the horses, shearing sheep, going to town in the wagon, housecleaning, cooking and eating meals, swimming in the pond or creek, etc. Have children draw their illustrations in pencil on the paper, then add color. When the mural is done, mount it on the wall with the following caption over it: "Down on the Ford Farm."

Henry Ford

Name _____

Personal Interests Quiz

Circle the numbers of the five activities you most enjoy.

1. reading
2. riding your bike
3. playing with your pet
4. building something with blocks or Legos™
5. playing a musical instrument
6. writing in a journal or diary
7. singing
8. bird-watching
9. planting a garden
10. putting together a model plane or car
11. fishing
12. taking something apart to see how it works
13. going to the zoo
14. jogging or running
15. playing softball or basketball
16. jumping rope
17. making up stories
18. swimming
19. solving math and logic problems
20. thinking of new ways to do familiar things
21. playing word games
22. listening to music
23. reciting poetry
24. dancing
25. making musical instruments of everyday things

