



# First Grade Social Studies

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Social Studies  
Activity 3**

\* There will be a short video lesson of a Knox County teacher to accompany this task available on the KCS YouTube Channel and KCS TV.

**Topic:** History: Then and Now

**Goal:** Identify the changes in transportation, communication, and clothing over time.

**Lesson:**

- Read the attached text and examine the pictures to learn about the changes in transportation, communication, and clothing throughout history.
- To support learning, access the video links listed at the bottom of the page.
- Complete the “Then and Now” task below.

**Task for Students to Complete:**

- Use the “Then and Now” page to select one topic (transportation, communication, or clothing) to describe in both the *past* and *present*. You may include an illustration and a written description.
  - Challenge: Draw and/or write to describe what you think an item in your chosen topic will be like in the *future*. (For example, think about a car of the future. What features might it have? What could it look like?)

**Additional Links for More Information:**

- “Transportation Today”:  
[https://cdn.studiesweekly.com/online/resources/pod\\_media/pod\\_video\\_transpotation\\_today\\_FINAL\\_720p.mp4](https://cdn.studiesweekly.com/online/resources/pod_media/pod_video_transpotation_today_FINAL_720p.mp4)
- “Communication Then and Now”:  
[https://cdn.studiesweekly.com/online/resources/pod\\_media/pod\\_video\\_Communication\\_Then\\_Now\\_FINAL\\_720p.mp4](https://cdn.studiesweekly.com/online/resources/pod_media/pod_video_Communication_Then_Now_FINAL_720p.mp4)
- “Dress Your Best”:  
[https://cdn.studiesweekly.com/online/resources/pod\\_media/POD\\_S0A\\_MIS\\_A\\_A\\_DressYourBest\\_WK0A\\_ENG\\_12142016\\_720p.mp4](https://cdn.studiesweekly.com/online/resources/pod_media/POD_S0A_MIS_A_A_DressYourBest_WK0A_ENG_12142016_720p.mp4)

## HISTORY OF TRANSPORTATION

When colonists first came to America, they **walked** or rode **horses**. With time, people began riding in **carriages** pulled by horses on trails made by Native Americans. In the 1800s, people began traveling by **wagons** pulled by oxen across the frontier. The railroad was completed in 1869 and more people began traveling by **train**.



As more cities grew, people could ride on **trolleys** or bikes. Gas engine **cars** were available in the early 1900s. **Airplanes** could also travel across the country in the 1930s. By the 1950s, most people had cars. Large **trucks** carried supplies across the country. People could also travel in public **buses**.



Today, modern cars have many safety features and can run on gasoline and electricity. People can travel the world in large jet **planes**. Busy cities also have large **subways**.

## HISTORY OF COMMUNICATION

In the colonies, people wrote **letters** to send messages. It might take 2 months for a ship to take a letter back to England. Later, **newspapers** and **pamphlets** were used in the colonies to share news. As the country grew into the frontier, people sent letters by horse riders, making it faster. Later, messages could be sent in minutes with a **telegraph** and a special system called Morse code.



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3 —.—



The first **telephone** was invented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell. By 1915, telephone wires connected calls across the country. **Radios** became popular in the 1920s. This was how most people got the news, and got it quickly. Radios also helped the music industry.

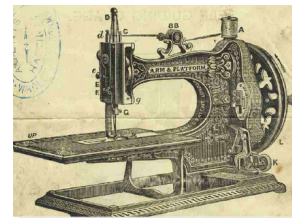
By the 1950s most homes had **televisions**. This helped people watch news as it happened. The first large **computers** were also in use, but not in homes.



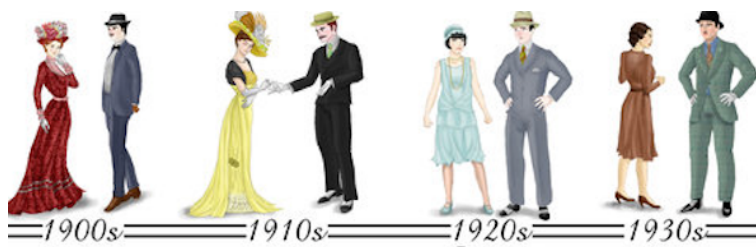
Today **electronic devices** like laptops, tablets, and cell phones allow for instant communication. While people can still send letters or make a phone call, most people choose to send an **email** or **text message**. **Social media** also gives people a way to stay in touch with others.

## HISTORY OF CLOTHING

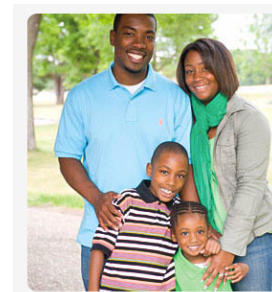
In the colonies, people wore clothes **sewn** by hand. It was made from yarn made from cotton or sheep's wool. Men wore pants and women wore dresses or skirts. Native Americans wore **animal skins**. On the frontier clothing was often made of **cloth** or **denim**. Men and women often only had two sets of clothing.



The sewing machine changed clothing in the 1900s. It could be sewn in **factories** and sold in **stores**. Styles also began to change as women began wearing pants and short skirts. By the 1950s other materials like nylon and polyester were being used to make **blended** fabrics. New **styles** like jeans and shorts became popular.



Today clothing has a **mix** of the past and present. Some people still sew, while most clothes are made in factories. **Casual** clothing is popular, while some people wear **designer** clothes.



# Then Now

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