

A Few Words About Cars

Lesson at a glance:

Students will read “A Few Words About Cars” to gain a very basic understanding of car history and technology, and they will complete fill-in-the-blank and word search activities to reinforce vocabulary.

Skills:

Reading, Writing, Understanding History and Technology

Grades:

3-5

Materials:

- ❑ Car Vocabulary

One copy per student:

- ❑ “A Few Words About Cars”
- ❑ “A Few Words About Cars” Fill in the Blank
- ❑ “A Few Words About Cars” Word Search



Activity:

1. Provide each student with a copy of “A Few Words About Cars” to read.
2. Following this reading assignment, students will test their comprehension skills by finding the correct vocabulary words in the text to complete the “Car Words” fill-in-the-blank worksheet.
3. Vocabulary will be reinforced as they complete the “Car Words” word search.

Assessment

1. Lead your students in the “Classy Car Engine” activity
2. Have students write a short story about a car using at least five of the “Car Words” vocabulary words.

Extensions:

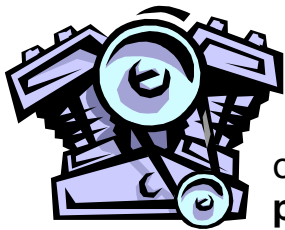
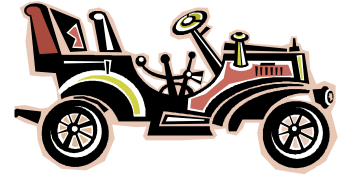
1. Have students research other kinds of transportation and compare them to cars.
2. Have students complete the “Family Cars” activity to help them understand that cars have changed over time.



AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM®

A Few Words About Cars

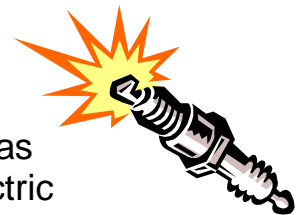
Automobile is another word for car. Auto means “self” and mobile means “move.” Before we had **cars** people used other kinds of **transportation** to get themselves from place to place. Most people rode horses or rode in carts, wagons or carriages that were pulled by animals, including horses. That is why the first **cars** were called horseless carriages.



Engine

There are more than 625 million cars in the world today. That is a lot of cars! People **drive** cars for many reasons. To get to work, to get to school, to go to the grocery store or even to go on vacation. An **engine** is made up of many **parts** which work together to make the car move.

Most car engines get the energy they need to run by burning **gasoline** (gas for short!). For a car engine to start it takes **electricity** from the **battery** and gas pumped from the gas tank. The gas then mixes with air. With the help of a small electric spark, the mixed gas and **air** make a small **explosion** that gets the engine going. The spark comes from an engine part called a **spark plug**.



Spark plug



Speedometer

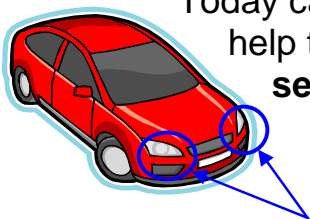
Cars are not the only **vehicles** with engines that we use for transportation. We can also use buses, trains, motorcycles and even airplanes. The **speedometer** lets the driver know how fast he or she is going.

Cars and other vehicles couldn't move without **wheels**. Unlike the wooden or metal wheels of the past, the **rubber tires** help to give us a smoother ride. When the driver uses the **brakes**, pressure is put on the wheels. This creates friction that slows the car down or brings it to a stop.



Rubber tire

Today cars are much safer than they used to be. Bright **headlights** help the driver to see and be seen at night. We buckle up our **seat belts** to help keep us safe in case of a car accident.



Headlights



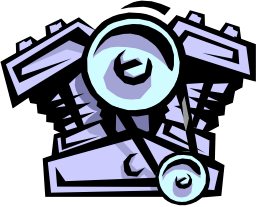
A Few Words About Cars

Fill-in-the-Blank

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below using the bolded words in the reading assignment **A Few Words About Cars**.

1. If you want to get from place to place without walking, you can use a car as _____.

2. _____ is another word for car. The first part of this word means “self” and the second half of the word means “move.”



3. Every car has an _____ that is made up of many _____ that work together to make the car move.

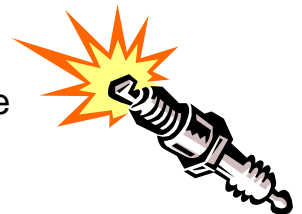
4. When gas and _____ are mixed together with a spark of fire it will get the engine going.

5. Cars and other vehicles couldn't roll along the road without _____.

6. Every vehicle has _____ to slow it down or make it stop.

7. The battery gives the car's engine the _____ that it needs to get it started.

8. With the help of a small electric spark, the mixed gas and air make a small _____ that gets the engine going.

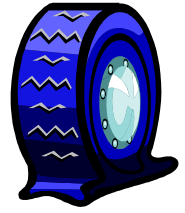


9. The spark comes from an engine part called a _____ plug.

10. Burning gas in a car's engine will give it the _____ it needs to run.



11. Most car engines get the energy they need to run by burning _____ (gas for short!).



12. Unlike the wooden or metal wheels of the past, the rubber _____ on wheels help to give us a smooth ride.

13. People _____ cars to get to work, to get to school, to go to the grocery store or even to go on vacation.

14. Bright _____ help drivers see where they are going at night.



15. The _____ let's the driver know how fast he or she is going.

16. We buckle up our _____ to help keep us safe in case of a car accident.

17. Buses, trains, motorcycles and airplanes are examples of other _____ with engines that we use for transportation.

18. Before we had _____, people used transportation without engines, such as wagons and carriages pulled by horses.



A Few Words About Cars Word Search

Find these car vocabulary words in the word search below. Words might be vertical (up and down), horizontal (left to right), or diagonal (at a slant). Look carefully and have fun!

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> automobile | <input type="checkbox"/> electricity | <input type="checkbox"/> seatbelt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> air | <input type="checkbox"/> engine | <input type="checkbox"/> spark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> brakes | <input type="checkbox"/> explosion | <input type="checkbox"/> speedometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cars | <input type="checkbox"/> gasoline | <input type="checkbox"/> tires |
| <input type="checkbox"/> drive | <input type="checkbox"/> lights | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> energy | <input type="checkbox"/> parts | <input type="checkbox"/> vehicle |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> wheels |

E I F A I R Q S E D H S P A R K
 I X N S S E Y N N Z C E H Y P G
 D T T Y R B R A K E S A C T X L
 A D E X P L O S I O N T R T L G
 T R G L C A D T N I V B N S J W
 Q I S P E E D O M E T E R K L O
 F V R I G C S G M C N L M E B F
 L E K E A J T L I G H T S B O E
 T R A N S P O R T A T I O N K M
 I A U T O M O B I L E O H A I N
 S D R E L G T Y W C I A F Q F R
 I G R R I X G V E H I C L E A Q
 R L F W N R C I Z S E T E X L W
 O R Q K E K E I R I N E Y F I F
 A S E N G I N E T E A E L P J Q
 X Z E N G N T F O P A R T S R B



AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM®

A Few Words About Cars

Fill-in-the-Blank TEACHER KEY

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below using the bolded words in the reading assignment **A Few Words About Cars**:

1. If you want to get from place to place without walking, you can use a car as ___**transportation**_____.
2. ___**Automobile**_____ is another word for car. The first part of this word means “self” and the second half of the word means “move.”
3. Every car has an ___**engine**___ that is made up of many ___**parts**___ that work together to make the car move.
4. When gas and ___**air**___ are mixed together with a spark of fire it will get the engine going.
5. Cars and other vehicles couldn’t roll along the road without ___**wheels**_____.
6. Every vehicle has ___**brakes**___ to slow it down or make it stop.
7. The battery gives the car’s engine the ___**electricity**___ that it needs to get it started.
8. With the help of a small electric spark, the mixed gas and air make a small ___**explosion**___ that gets the engine going.
9. The spark comes from an engine part called a ___**spark**___ plug.
10. Burning gas in a car’s engine will give it the ___**energy**___ it needs to run.
11. Most car engines get the energy they need to run by burning ___**gasoline**___ (gas for short!)



12. Unlike the wooden or metal wheels of the past, the rubber _____ **tires** _____ on wheels help to give us a smooth ride.
13. People ___ **drive** _____ cars to get to work, to get to school, to go to the grocery store or even to go on vacation.
14. Bright ___ **headlights** _____ help drivers see where they are going at night.
15. The ___ **speedometer** _____ let's the driver know how fast he or she is going.
16. We buckle up our _____ **seat belts** _____ to help keep us safe in case of a car accident.
17. Buses, trains, motorcycles and airplanes are examples of other _____ **vehicles** _____ with engines that we use for transportation.
18. Before we had ___ **cars** _____, people used transportation without engines, such as wagons and carriages pulled by horses.



A Few Words About Cars

Word Search

TEACHER KEY

Find these car vocabulary words in the word search below.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> automobile | <input type="checkbox"/> electricity | <input type="checkbox"/> seatbelt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> air | <input type="checkbox"/> engine | <input type="checkbox"/> spark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> brakes | <input type="checkbox"/> explosion | <input type="checkbox"/> speedometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cars | <input type="checkbox"/> gasoline | <input type="checkbox"/> tires |
| <input type="checkbox"/> drive | <input type="checkbox"/> lights | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> energy | <input type="checkbox"/> parts | <input type="checkbox"/> vehicle |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> wheels |

E I F A I R Q S E D H S P A R K
 I X N S S E Y N N Z C E H Y P G
 D T T Y R B R A K E S A C T X L
 A D E X P L O S I O N T R T L G
 T R G L C A D T N I V B N S J W
 Q I S P E E D O M E T E R K L O
 F V R I G C S G M C N L M E B F
 L E K E A J T L I G H T S B O E
T R A N S P O R T A T I O N K M
 I A U T O M O B I L E O H A I N
 S D R E L G T Y W C I A F Q F R
 I G R R I X G V E H I C L E A Q
 R L F W N R C I Z S E T E X L W
 O R Q K E K E I R I N E Y F I F
 A S E N G I N E T E A E L P J Q
 X Z E N G N T F O P A R T S R B



AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM®