Invention of the Shopping Cart

with archivist Alison Oswald

Podcast Link: http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/shoppingcart.mp3
Video Podcast Link: http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/shoppingcart.m4a
Related Images: http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/shoppingcart.zip

Discussion Questions
The following questions can be used for in-class discussion or short written responses from students after listening to the podcast.

- Who were the two inventors involved in the creation of the shopping cart and what did each offer to its development?
- How did stores convince consumers to use the shopping carts?
- What does post-World War II American society have to do with the development and need for shopping carts?
- Why does Alison refer to the shopping cart as the "ultimate self-serve vehicle"?
- Think about your daily life, what other inventions have their roots in the growth of consumerism and the way people shop?

Related Resources—For continued instruction or resources for your students' research
National Museum of American History:
“Suburban Strip” – America On the Move -
http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthemove/exhibition/exhibition_14_1.html
1950’s and 1960’s Suburban Communities on the Move
http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthemove/learning/thinkfinity/AOTM_Unit4_Activity1.pdf
Thinkfinity:
Shopping Mall Math – from Illuminations: http://illuminations.nctm.org/LessonDetail.aspx?ID=L266
Explore the Spatial Patterns of Your Hometown – from Xpeditions
http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/03/g68/hometown.html

Related National Standards for U.S. History (National Center for History in the National Standards—from the National Center for History in the Schools
- Era 9: Postwar United States (1945-1970s)
  1A: The student understands the extent and impact of economic changes in the postwar period.
- Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968 to the present)
  2D: The student understands contemporary American culture.

Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

Find this podcast and more at http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts
Listen to the podcast. Take notes and answer the questions.

1. Who were the two inventors involved in the creation of the shopping cart and what did each offer to its development?

2. How did stores convince consumers to use the shopping carts?

3. Why did people need shopping carts? What does American society in the post-World War II time period have to do with this?

4. Why does Alison refer to the shopping cart as the "ultimate self-serve vehicle"?

5. Think about your daily life, what other inventions have their roots in the growth of consumerism and the way people shop?

Give it a try and email your question, comments, and discoveries to historyteachers@si.edu
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