It can be grabbed by a crane, placed on a freight train, and pulled by a truck. It’s a container!

Containers stuffed with goods are lifted off ships and placed on trucks and freight trains for transport to cities and towns.

Peterbilt Truck
The building of interstate highways from the 1950s until the 1990s allowed huge tractor trailers to rush products from place to place, speeding across the states.

16. If you were driving this tractor trailer, you would have to record the number of hours you drove each day. Find the driver’s logbook and estimate the average number of hours driven per day.

Discover how businesses were affected by new transportation systems. (Answers to multiple-choice questions are on the back page.)

Jupiter Locomotive
On May 13, 1876, a newspaper reporter in Santa Cruz, California, wrote: “At last our enterprising young city is free from the rule of the sleepy stage coach.”

1. Look at the Jupiter. If you were the Santa Cruz Sentinel reporter covering the arrival of this new train and railroad system, how would you describe the Jupiter to your readers? What adjectives would you use? How would you describe the impact of the railroad on the community of Santa Cruz?

2. What feature caused the Jupiter to be sold to Guatemala when the Southern Pacific Railroad Company bought the Santa Cruz line? (Look at the locomotive; the clue is on the ground.)

Electric Streetcar
In the late 1880s, Americans began moving from farm work to factories and offices in the cities. Although most people walked to work, there were other options.

3. If you lived in the new suburbs, would you choose to take the trolley downtown to work? Look at the streetcar, the streetcar map, and safety issues before making your decision.

4. Why did some girls in long skirts have to practice getting on and off streetcars?

5. Food as well as people had to be transported into cities. Look at the foods. How would bananas be delivered to Center Market? How about milk?
New York Harbor/Oak Engine Room
New York Harbor was very busy in the 1920s, and the Oak worked in the harbor during that decade.

6. Find the Oak engine room; it’s over in the corner. Why was the harbor so busy and what was the job of the Oak? Which is the correct answer? For clues, look at the photographs and tactile map.
   a. New York was a center of manufacturing, handling half of America’s imports and exports. The Oak delivered the products.
   b. In 1923, over 8,000 new immigrants were arriving per month. The Oak delivered them from Ellis Island to New York City.
   c. People and goods traveled in and out of New York on all sorts of vessels. The Oak delivered wood and coal to lighthouses and cared for the buoys that marked shallow waters in the harbor.

7. Take a look down into the engine room of the Oak. Can you find the engine order telegraph? It’s round, with words like full, half, and slow. The engineer used this device after receiving orders from the captain about how fast the ship should go. What other directions are listed?

Winton/Model T Roadster Turn-Auto
The Winton was the first car driven across the country. It had a wooden body and an engine in the middle of the car.

8. Find three other things about the Winton that make it different from today’s cars.

Look at the Model T in the Turn-Auto.
9. Why would car owners want to have their auto turned? Who used the device? What made it turn?

   a. Ford Motor Company produced more cars than all other car manufacturers.
   b. Ford created a moving assembly-line system that kept manufacturing costs low enough to make cars affordable for millions.
   c. Ford’s public statements, car dealerships, and car design appealed to everyone.
   d. All of the above.

1401 Locomotive
Look inside the railroad station waiting room and at the cases along the 1401 locomotive.

11. How many different railroad jobs can you find here? What job would you want? Why?

12. Look at the details on the train. Do you think it carried people or goods? What is your evidence?

13. What kind of products could you buy through a mail-order catalog? Discover the items and find the one that traveled the farthest.

Car Showroom
Find the car advertisements.

14. Decide how many of the following reasons to buy a new car were used by car companies.
   a. to show off the latest styling as a status symbol
   b. for families to commute to stores and schools
   c. for women to commute to work

15. Why were so many people buying cars in the 1950s? Why did car showrooms like this one move into the suburbs?
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10. How did the Model T car change American industry?
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Businesses and Communities on the Move

A self-guiding brochure for middle- and high-school groups

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Take a look at real containers, then visit the Going Global section and see how world products get around.

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Mystery Item:

Use the hints provided to find a mystery item. Hint: In the last 30 years, what has transformed how goods are moved around the world? It’s strong, and it’s grabbed, pushed, and pulled.

State Farm Companies Foundation is proud to make possible the educational materials for America on the Move.

Ready to find the mystery item?

Follow the directions below.

(Answers to multiple-choice questions are on the back page.)