



RIDE THE RAILS ON A BUTTON TRAIN!

KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 2

Ride the Rails on a Button Train!

By Tara Chase

Summary

Students will learn how the Transcontinental Railroad enhanced travel across the country. They will compare how quickly people travel today as then. Students will create “button trains” and discuss what trains carried in 1869 and now.

Main Curriculum Tie

Kindergarten Speaking and Listening Standard 1, Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about *kindergarten topics and texts* with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

Additional Curriculum Ties

Kindergarten Fine Arts Visual, Create Strand, Students will generate artistic work by conceptualizing, organizing, and completing their artistic ideas. They will refine original work through persistence, reflection, and evaluation

Time Frame

1 time periods that run 40 minutes each

Group Size

Large group discussion followed by individual work

Life Skills

Aesthetics Character Communication Employability
 Social & Civic Responsibility Systems Thinking Thinking & Reasoning

Bibliography

“Train Songs.” Songs For Teaching, Songs for Teaching, 2016. www.songsforteaching.com/trainongs/

Materials

Map of the United States

Button Train worksheet copied on to heavy paper if possible.

A variety of buttons for students to glue on worksheets

Crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc.

Glue

Background for Teachers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvQyBcbHJkg>

<https://tccr.com/>

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students will learn how the Transcontinental Railroad enhanced travel across the country.

Students will practice creating visual art while improving fine motor skills.

Instructional Procedures

1. Ask students how they get from one place to another (bus, car, walk, ride bike). Expand to discuss how they might get somewhere very far away (car, plane). Introduce them to the idea that long ago the fastest way to travel was on a train.
2. Teach or use a Train song: <http://www.songsforteaching.com/trainsongs/>
3. Show students a map of the USA and (see map toward bottom of webpage <https://tcrr.com/>) draw in where the transcontinental railroad ran between Nebraska and California. Explain how in the 1860s (a long long time ago!) thousands of people worked for years to build a railroad that would cross the entire country.
4. Discussion questions
 - a. How long do you think it would take to walk that far before they built a railroad? (months)
 - b. How long did it take to ride the train that far? (days)
 - c. How long does it take us today to get between those points on a plane? (hours)
 - d. What sort of things did a train carry then? What do you think trains carry today? (Coal, dry goods, passengers, etc)
5. Direct students in creating a “button train” using the attached worksheet. Have a variety of buttons available for them to add as the wheels on the train. Additionally, have students draw into the cars what the train might be carrying.
6. If time allows, have students show their button trains to the class. Review together how trains used to be the fastest mode of travel—carrying people and goods across the country.

Strategies for Diverse Learners

1. Allow more time and more support on Button Train activity
2. For G/T, encourage students to create a pattern in the buttons they glue on the train.

Extensions

Share books about the railroad—*Freight Train* by Donald Crews, *Sleep Train* by Jonathon London, etc.

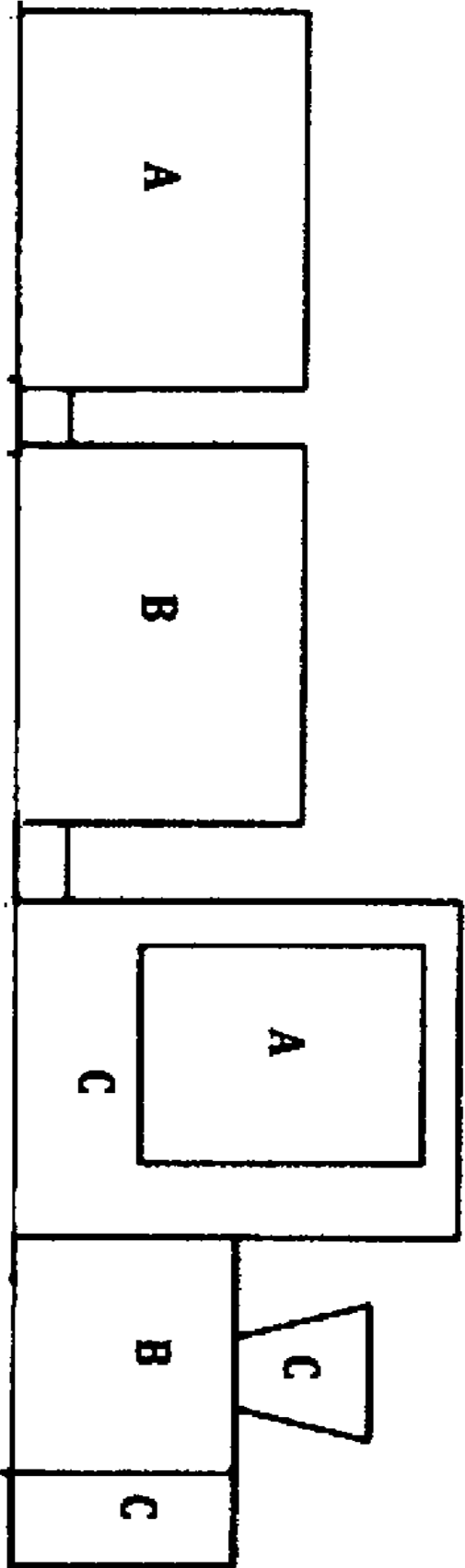
Have students share experiences they have had traveling long distances. If anyone has been on a train, share that experience too.

Assessment Plan

RUBRIC	1	2	3
Participated in group discussion.	Did not participate	Made one or more comments that were off topic	Made one or more comments that related to the discussion at hand.
Created a visual representation of a train	Did not create a visual representation of a train	Partially completed the train assignment on provided worksheet.	Created a visual representation of a train on provided worksheet.

Name _____

Can you help complete the train so it's ready to travel on the Transcontinental Railroad?



Color the A parts RED. Color the B parts BLUE. Color the C parts GREEN.

What will the train carry? Draw in the train's cargo!

Glue buttons under the train for its wheels and then it will be ready to go! **ALL ABOARD!!**



Lesson plans on the Transcontinental Railroad created with the support of Spike150, the Utah Division of State History, and Utah Council for the Social Studies.

