



## Transportation Changes

CCSSR1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCSSR2: Determine **central ideas or themes** of a text and analyze their development; **summarize** the key supporting details and ideas.

The history of transportation is very long. It starts with walking. People used to walk to get to other places. If you wanted to get somewhere quickly the only way to do that was to run.

Then people invented ways to get places. In some cultures, people invented sledges. That is a kind of board that you drag along the ground. You can tie things on the sledge to help carry them. In other cultures, people invented the wheel. That was the beginning of many changes.

Once people had wheels they could invent other ways to travel. They could put the wheel on a board and make it a wagon. That wheel led to what we have today: trucks, automobiles, even planes.

How is the wheel part of planes? An airplane has to take off and land. It needs to have wheels so it can start building speed as it takes off. Then when it lands it needs wheels to help it land safely. Even the shuttle, a spaceship, needs to have wheels when it lands. Astronauts pilot the shuttle when it lands on a runway. Some planes have skids, those are like sleds. Those planes use those skids to land on water. But most planes need those wheels. The first planes were gliders. They just sailed on the wind. But they had wheels, too. Then came the airplane with an engine. And then came the jet plane. Now we have spaceships. They all started with that glider.

There is another kind of travel that started a different way. Water travel has changed a lot, and it has not needed wheels. The first way people could travel on water was swimming. Probably the first person to make a boat really just used a log. They could see if the log floated and then they could put things on it and push them along. Soon people would be carving wood to make boats. They would make them from animal skin, too. People figured out how to make sailboat so the wind would push the boat through the water.

### What is the main idea of this passage?

How do you know? Underline five sentences that help you know the main idea.