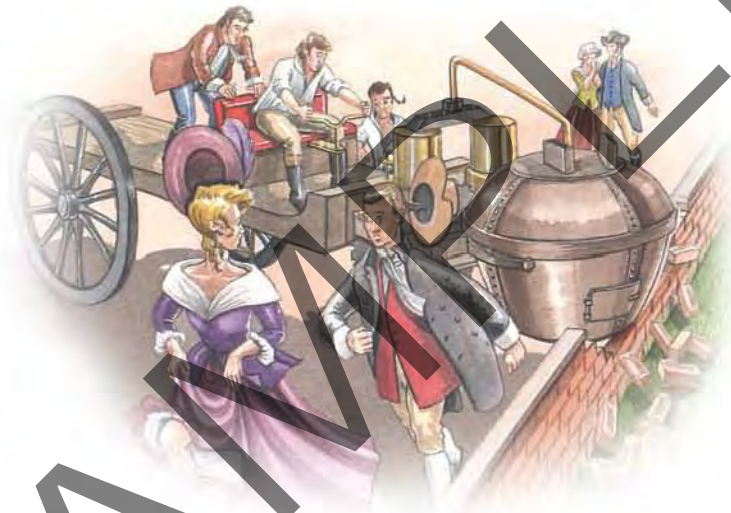


Transportation Firsts



Peter Riley

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Photography: Ancient Art and Architecture: p. 5 (bottom left); Associated Press: p. 16 (bottom); Collection Viollet: p. 24 (middle); Corbis: p. 17; The international architecture firm of Wimberly, Allison, Tong and Goo: p. 29 (middle); Genesis: pp. 26 (middle), 27 (top and bottom right); GettyOne Stone: p. 28 (top); Hulton Getty: p. 22 (middle); London Transport Museum: p. 13 (top and middle); Mary Evans Picture Library: pp. 4 (bottom right), 6 (both), 13 (bottom), 14 (bottom), 19 (top), 20 (top), 22 (top); Millennium Jet Incorporated: p. 28 (bottom); National Motor Museum: p. 12 (top); Photo Affairs: p. 15 (middle); Popperfoto: pp. 19 (bottom), 22 (bottom), 23 (both), 25 (bottom); Powerstock: pp. 10 (bottom), 15 (top); Quadrant Picture Library: pp. 8 (middle), 9 (bottom), 12 (bottom), 16 (middle), 18 (top), 29 (top); Rex Features: p. 16 (top); Science and Society: pp. 3, 5 (bottom right), 7 (bottom right), 8 (top), 11 (bottom), 14 (top and middle), 18 (bottom), 21 (both), 24 (top), 25 (top), 26 (top and bottom); Science Photo Library: p. 27 (middle); Stockfile: p. 7 (middle left and right).
Illustrations by Julian Baker (pp. 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 [top], 11, & 17 [top]);
Nick Hawkin (pp. 10 [middle], 17 [middle and bottom], 18, & 20)
Front cover photograph by Corel.
U.S. edit by **Rebecca McEwen**

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This Americanized Edition of *Transportation Firsts*, originally published in England in 2001, is published by arrangement with Oxford University Press.

08 07 06 05 04
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Published by

Pacific Learning

P.O. Box 2723

Huntington Beach, CA 92647-0723

www.pacificlearning.com

ISBN: 1-59055-404-3

PL-7419

Printed in China.

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This one-person submarine, called the *Turtle*, was invented by David Bushnell in 1776.

INTRODUCTION

Transportation used to be simple. Early humans walked wherever they wanted to go and swam when they came to a river. Then, about 10,000 years ago, people began to tame animals. Soon horses and camels were transporting people. In time, people began inventing machines to help them do all kinds of things. Some early transportation ideas failed. Other ideas were more successful and led to the kinds of transportation we use today.

In this book you will explore some of the different means of transportation for land, water, and air – today and in the future. The timeline on pages 30 and 31 shows when each kind of transportation first came into use.

How many kinds of transportation have you used today?		
airplane		
bicycle		
boat		
bus		
car		
walking		
helicopter		
rollerblades		
skateboard		
flying saucer		
train		

FACT BOX

Rolling Along

The wheel was invented as a machine to help make pottery. Then someone realized that if the wheels were turned on their sides, they would be ideal for transportation.



FACT BOX

Flight Attempts

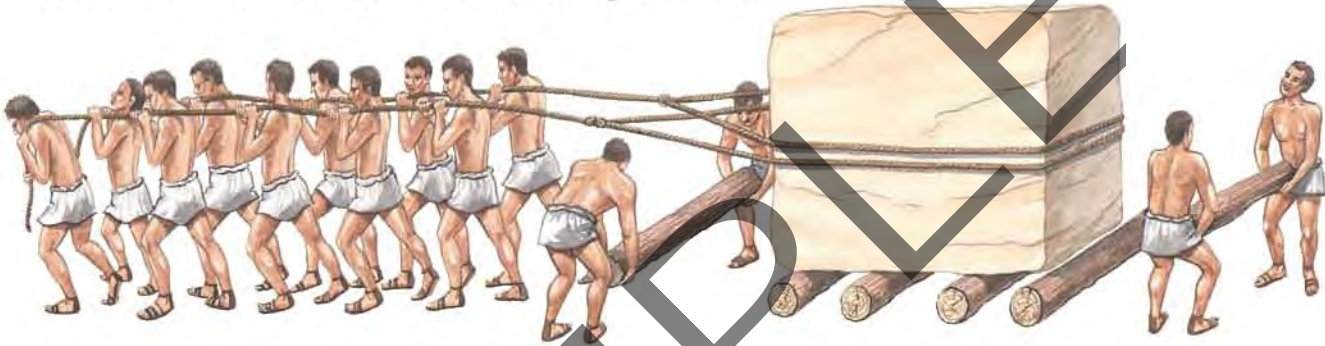
Many people have wanted to fly like a bird. In 1865, someone designed a flying machine that used ten eagles but it never took off.

Many inventors designed airplanes with flapping wings, but these shook to pieces within minutes.



THE WHEEL

If you had a heavy load to move in 5000 BC, you would have had to drag it on a sled. Around 4000 BC, someone thought of a better idea and invented rollers. Workers placed wooden logs under the load so that it rolled over them as it was pulled along. This process was as slow as it was methodical, because the rollers had to be moved from the back to the front to keep the load moving.



The invention that helped people move efficiently on land was the wheel. Once wheels were attached to a load, it could move with both speed and ease.



The first wheelbarrow was invented in China around AD 300. It was used to carry goods and people.

▲ The first wheeled vehicles were carts. Later, coaches carried people in greater comfort.

