

Student Worksheet

Task 3 – Reading into Writing:
Means of Transport

Read the three texts about different means of transport and their economic importance. Then answer the questions which follow.

Text 1 The Donkey *(insert image of donkey)*

In today's modern world of articulated lorries, high-speed railways and super-efficient courier services, it is easy to forget that many rural communities and villages across the world would disappear if there were no donkeys.

Much of the world is dependent on donkeys moving food from farms to small towns. Donkeys generally work very hard in rural and mountainous areas where there aren't any modern transport facilities. They carry huge amounts of food from the villages to the towns and bring fertilisers and other supplies back to the village. If a lorry runs out of diesel or petrol, it cannot be used, but the donkey just needs grass, water and rest and is ready to work again for long hours.

Text 2 The Railways *(insert image of railway)*

Many countries have an effective network of railways to help transport different types of goods, mostly unperishable goods.

The earliest recorded system was in Ancient Greece in 600BC. Since then, rail-links were built to connect short distances. In the 19th century, this changed dramatically. Many countries developed their own network with private links between different towns with Germany and Britain leading the way. These links provided the capacity to carry heavy goods such as coal, iron ore and wood. Building a railway was tremendously hard work for labourers. Railways are extremely expensive to construct but essential for transporting raw materials and finished goods such as textiles quickly and cheaply. In the early 19th century, the first passengers travelled on the railways with horse-drawn carriages. From 1840 -1850, Britain was completely connected by railways and used steam engines to pull carriages.

Text 3 Air Travel *(insert image of airplane)*

Air-travel is the most modern form of public transport and it was developed in the 20th century. Millions of people use airplanes for a variety of reasons. It is also extremely expensive to set up air-travel facilities. Some travel for business, others go on holiday by air and others use cargo planes to move their products from country to country very quickly. Some courier companies now have their own fleet of planes ready to carry parcels and post more efficiently. There are different types of passenger services – some are cheap and provide a 'no-frills' service which is good for short journeys. Other airlines provide passengers with a luxurious flying experience.

Airports are getting busier and it is evident that more passengers and businesses than ever are using airplanes to get to their destinations.

Task 1 - Comprehension

Read the statements below and then decide if they are True (T) or False (F) based on the information given in Texts 1, 2 and 3.

Statement	Answer	Mark (1 each)
0. Donkeys are not needed in today's economy	F	1
1. The Ancient Greeks had a railway system in 800BC.		
2. The very early railways connected a lot of cities.		
3. British passengers first travelled on trains in the 1820s.		
4. 'No-frills' airlines are popular because they are costly.		
5. Some courier services use their own convoys of planes.		

Task 2 – Vocabulary Development

Match the phrases from Texts 1, 2 and 3 in Column A to the nearest meaning in Column B

Column A		Column B
0. Articulated lorries		a) Safe roads and rail-tracks
1. Courier services		b) Collection of aircrafts
2. Modern transport facilities		c) Simple, no extras
3. Unperishable goods		d) Hard labour
4. Tremendously hard work	0-e	e) Very big trucks
5. Fleet of planes		f) Non-consumable items
6. No-frills		g) Parcel delivery service

Task 3 – Comprehension

Join the first half of the sentence in Column A to the correct ending in Column B

Column A		Column B
1 Many remote communities need mules	A	to transport non-food goods.
2 British railway networks developed	B	but are needed by industry and governments for quick transport.
3 Many countries have an effective network of railways	C	because they can deliver a more efficient service.
4 Railways are extremely expensive to construct	D	because more passengers and businesses are using air transport.
5 Some courier companies now have their own fleet of planes	1 E	to transport food, raw materials and essentials.
6 Airports are getting busier	F	extremely quickly during the mid-19 th century.

Task 5 - Summary notes

Now complete the notes below with a suitable word or phrase from the texts. You can use up to 3 words.

Means of Transport – Summary notes

Many communities would disappear (1) if there were no donkeys.

Donkeys are a _____ (2) which can travel in the countryside and mountain regions.

They take goods to sell and bring back _____ (3) to the villages.

Railways are _____ (4) for carrying _____ (5) materials and finished _____ (6).

They are used to carry _____ (7) items.

They are _____ (8) expensive to construct.

Airplanes are used for a _____ (9) of reasons.

Many courier companies have their own _____ (10) of planes to transport letters and parcels more quickly.