

Comparing Cultures

Transportation

As you have read, one of the five themes of geography is movement—how people move themselves and their goods across the Earth’s surface. The earliest humans moved by foot from place to place. Later, they used animals, both to ride and as pack animals. Needing to cross streams, ancient people built primitive boats from available materials, such as wood and reeds. Over the centuries, advances in technology from wheeled vehicles to the steam engine to the construction of lighter-than-air craft has enabled people in different regions to meet the challenges posed by their environments.



In North African countries like Algeria, camels are often called “ships of the desert” because they can carry freight and people across long distances. The Arabian, or one-humped, camel shown here in the Sahara Desert can cover 40 miles a day for four days carrying 400 pounds.



Flat, smooth roadways crisscrossing Vietnam make it easy for these workers to transport hundreds of fish traps from workshops to customers on the coast by bicycle.

GeoActivity

RESEARCHING TRANSPORTATION

Working with a partner, use the Internet to research transportation around the world. Then prepare a report that shows the design of a **Web page** highlighting some aspect of world transportation.

- Create text to present the information you have found.
- Select suitable images.
- Locate appropriate links for visitors to your Web site.



RESEARCH LINKS
CLASSZONE.COM

GeoData

LAND TRANSPORTATION

- In the United States, there is one car for every two persons; in Somalia, one for every 500.
- One of the world's longest single rail systems, Russia's Trans-Siberian Railway, covers a distance of 5,867 miles from Moscow to the port of Nakhodka.
- Snowmobiles have replaced dogsleds as transport in remote, cold climates of North America.
- China has more bicycles—about 540,000,000—than any other country.
- Animals, including dogs, horses, donkeys, mules, camels, and elephants, still provide transport for many people around the world.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

- Airliners carried 137 million passengers on more than 1 million flights from the United States to other countries from June 1999 to June 2000.

WATER TRANSPORTATION

- Some modern cruise ships and ocean liners are more than 900 feet long and can carry upwards of 2,000 passengers on a voyage.

In the northernmost reaches of **Canada**, roads are scarce. So, vast distances between places are more easily covered by small planes that can touch down on land or water, like this one flying into Cochrane, Ontario.

This crescent-shaped boat on **Lake Titicaca in Peru** is made from a reedlike plant. Native peoples of the region have made these boats for centuries.

