

# Family Activity Sheet

## Transportation

Transportation is the way that people get from one place to another. There have been many changes in transportation over the years. Today, we have cars, buses, trains, and planes. A long time ago there were fewer options. People would walk, ride horses, or take boats to get around.

How did you travel to the Connecticut Historical Society today? Was this type of transportation around hundreds of years ago?

Explore our *Making Connecticut* exhibit to learn more about transportation.



### SIT in the wooden canoe.

The word “Connecticut” comes from the Native American word, “Quinnetukut”, which means “a long tidal river,” like the huge river that runs through the middle of our state. Native Americans used canoes for transportation.

- Imagine that you are taking a trip. Do you think that this canoe would be comfortable?



### FIND the big wooden wheel.

This wheel would have been part of a wagon or cart. Before cars, people used wagons pulled by horses or oxen to get around. The roads were not like our roads today—they were bumpy, filled with rocks and holes, and made out of dirt!

- Is this wheel bigger or smaller than the wheels on our cars and buses today?
- Imagine riding in a horse-pulled wagon—what would it be like? What would you do if it started to rain?



### SPOT the bicycle.

In the 1880s, Connecticut factories produced thousands of bicycles. The bicycle in the exhibit, which looks almost the same as this bicycle, was for a female rider. For many years, girls and women had to wear floor-length skirts while riding bicycles—not an easy thing to do!

- Does this bicycle look like the bicycles that you see today? Why or why not?
- Do you own a bicycle? Where do you like to ride your bicycle?



### LOOK for the speed limit sign.

In Connecticut, cars have been around since the 1890s. The first speed limit for driving through cities was 12 mph.

- Are most speed limits today faster or slower than the 12 mph speed limit from long ago?
- Cars allowed people to go places they had never been before! If you could visit anywhere, where would you go? Why?

\*Today, all cars must have a license plate. Try to find the 2 license plates in this exhibit.\*



### PLAY with the magnet board.

Find the bin marked “Transportation” and see how travel has changed over time. You can create an entire town by using all the magnets.

- Make up a story about what it is like to live in the town that you just built. What would you name your town?

\*If you want to find out more about transportation over time—like streetcars, trains, and planes—look for our “How did people get around?” flipbooks, which are located in each time period section.\*

## Activity: Create your own Tavern Sign

Visit our Inn & Tavern Sign exhibit (located in the Auditorium on the first floor). In the 1700s and 1800s, people rode horses to get from one place to another; sometimes the horse pulled a wagon or cart filled with people and goods. There were no cars! It was difficult for people to ride their horses when it was dark or rainy or when they were tired. A tavern was a place where travelers could stop, eat dinner, talk with others, and spend the night. Have you ever stayed at a hotel or motel? What is the best part of it? What is the worst part of it?

Look around the room at all of the different inn and tavern signs and then draw your own!

