

## TOPIC 11 – THE AGE OF AUTOMOBILES

### Topic Overview

Topic 11 highlights the advent of the automobile and its role in North Dakota and includes primary sources that will help you understand how this industry contributed to economic growth and social change.

### Topic Objectives

- As a result of the study of Topic 11, you will be able to
  - Analyze and interpret primary documents.
  - Identify and describe the effect the automobile had on North Dakota and its people.

### ND Content Standards

- 8.1.2
- 8.1.3
- 8.6.1

### Common Core Standards

- RH 2
- RH7

### Topic Activities

- Learning From Historical Documents
- Creative Interpretation 1
- Creative Interpretation 2
- Debate/Discussion

### Learning from Historical Documents

To access a photo/document/map, refer to the topic reading assignments or use the SEARCH feature to enter its name or number.

Automobiles held immediate appeal for most North Dakotans. Some thought that automobiles might be a passing fad. One problem that faced drivers was the concern for good roads. Several factors influenced the improvement of roads in North Dakota. Having good roads connected towns which benefitted from increased business. After 1900, Good Roads organizations popped up in every state, including North Dakota. The organizations emphasized the advantages of auto tourism and its economic benefits. In addition, national organizations promoted the development of national highways funded largely by federal money. Some of the earliest national highways cut through North Dakota. One was called the Theodore Roosevelt International Highway, but many locals referred to the road as the T.R.

Examine the Theodore Roosevelt Highway tour guide book cover (Image 12) and respond to the following questions:

1. What are the main colors the artist used on the book cover?
2. What symbols and /or images do you notice on the book cover?
3. Which symbols or images stand out to you?
4. What message is relayed to you through the use of these symbols and images?

5. Who do you think is the intended audience for this document?
6. What do the creators of this document hope the audience will do?
7. What purpose is served by this document?
8. Do you think this is an effective message? Explain your response.

### **Creative Interpretation 1**

To access a photo/document/map, refer to the topic reading assignments or use the SEARCH feature to enter its name or number.

Create an advertisement for a Model T. Direct your ads to appeal to the needs of different audiences – farmers, townspeople, business owners, men or women. Include a catch phrase and three reasons why someone should purchase the Model T.

### Creative Interpretation 2

To access a photo/document/map, refer to the topic reading assignments or use the SEARCH feature to enter its name or number.

Prepare notecards with the names of two locations in North Dakota. Divide students into pairs or groups and provide each group with a North Dakota state map. Assign the following tasks:

- Determine the fastest route between the two North Dakota locations named on the notecard.
- Determine the number of miles between the two locations. Based on an average speed of 60 mph, calculate how long it would take to travel by car from one location to the other.
- Identify factors that could affect the time it would take to drive this distance. What would make the trip take more time or less time?
- Have a class discussion about the findings.

Follow up activity: Read Ralph Ehler’s interview about driving the Red Trail Highway (Document 7).

### Debate/Discussion

To access a photo/document/map, refer to the topic reading assignments or use the SEARCH feature to enter its name or number.

From your readings in Topic 11, write down responses to the following questions. Then, discuss your responses with a partner or in a small group. Share your group’s responses with the entire class.

1. How did the automobile change the way people travelled?
2. What did the invention of the automobile allow people (men, women, farmers, townspeople, businesses) to do differently?
3. In what ways did the invention of the automobile change people’s lives?
4. How did the automobile affect the state’s economy?