

# History of Transport

Did you know that a very important invention happened a very long time ago? In 3500BC, a wheel was attached to a cart for the first time.

This invention meant that people could use a cart to carry food that they had gathered instead of having to carry it by hand. People could use the cart to carry items for longer distances.



In 1783, a man called Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier flew in a hot air balloon for the first time.

This is a hot air balloon.

Jean-François worked as a French chemistry and physics teacher. He knew that the people who flew in the hot air balloon for the first time

would be remembered forever. King Louis XVI thought that two criminals should be put into the hot air balloon, but Jean-François disagreed. He managed to convince King Louis XVI to let him be the first person to fly.

In 1785, Jean-François tried to cross the English Channel in a hot air balloon. The balloon deflated during the flight and crashed. Jean-François was killed in this accident.

A man called George Stephenson invented the first steam-powered engine in 1814. He called the engine 'Blucher'. Blucher's first job was to carry eight coal wagons along an uphill track. Blucher was so successful that Stephenson ended up building another sixteen engines.

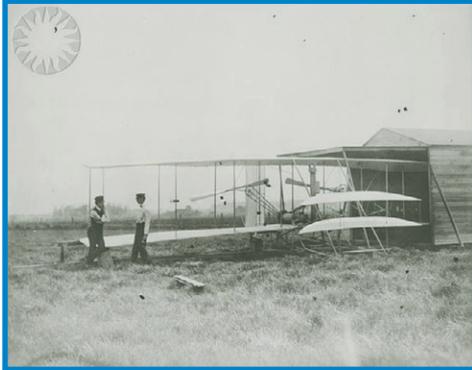
German inventor Karl von Drais invented something that he called the 'Laufmaschine', which means 'running machine'. It looked a lot like a bicycle, but something was missing! Can you see what is missing from this bicycle invention?

This invention had two wheels and handles at the front of it for steering, but it had no pedals. Instead, the rider pushed along the ground with his feet.



Karl von Drais' 'Laufmaschine', or 'running machine'.

In 1903, brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright flew the first powered aeroplane in North Carolina in America. When they were building their plane, they watched birds to see how they used their wings and they used what they saw to help



them design the wings for their plane. When it was time for them to test the plane for the first time, they couldn't decide which brother was going to fly it first. They flipped a coin. Wilbur won the coin toss so he flew the plane first. This flight only lasted 12 seconds.

Orville and Wilbur Wright

The word 'supersonic' means 'faster than the speed of sound', which is very, very fast! The first supersonic flight took place in 1947. During the flight, the plane flew at 700mph. The pilot's name was Charles Yeager and he was an Air Force general officer. His plane was called 'Glamorous Glennis'.



Air Force general officer Charles 'Chuck' Yeager

In 1994, the Channel Tunnel opened. High-speed trains take people from the UK to France. The tunnel is just over 31 miles long and it takes trains about 35 minutes to get from one side to the other. This has made the journey between England and France a lot quicker. The ferry between Dover and Calais takes around 90 minutes.

**Some people think that the next big thing to happen in transport will be regular trips into space! What do you think the next big transport invention will be?**

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# Questions

Read carefully and complete the answers to the questions below.

1. What was added to carts in 3500BC?

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2. What did people use the carts for?

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3. What did Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier do?

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4. What caused the accident that killed Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier?

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5. What was 'Blucher'?

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6. How many steam engines did George Stephenson make after he tested the first one?

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7. What was missing from Karl von Drais' bicycle invention?

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8. Which of the Wright brothers flew the plane first?

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9. How did the Wright brothers decide who was going to fly the plane first?

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10. Why did the Wright brothers study birds?

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11. How fast did Charles Yeager's plane travel?

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12. What was Charles Yeager's plane called?

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# Answers

1. What was added to carts in 3500BC?  
**Wheels were added to carts.**
2. What did people use the carts for?  
**They used the carts to help them carry food that they had gathered.**
3. What did Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier do?  
**He flew in a hot air balloon for the first time.**
4. What caused the accident that killed Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier?  
**The hot air balloon that he was in deflated and crashed.**
5. What was 'Blucher'?  
**Blucher was the name of the steam engine that George Stephenson invented.**
6. How many steam engines did George Stephenson make after he tested the first one?  
**George Stephenson made 16 more engines after he made Blucher.**
7. What was missing from Karl von Drais' bicycle invention?  
**Karl von Drais' invention didn't have pedals.**
8. Which of the Wright brothers first flew the plane?  
**Wilbur Wright flew the plane first.**
9. How did the Wright brothers decide who was going to fly the plane first?  
**Orville and Wilbur tossed a coin to decide who was going to fly the plane first.**
10. Why did the Wright brothers study birds?  
**They looked at their wings to help them design the wings for their plane.**
11. How fast did Charles Yeager's plane travel?  
**The plane travelled at 700mph.**
12. What was Charles Yeager's plane called?  
**His plane was called 'Glamorous Glennis'.**

# History of Transport

In 3500BC, a wheel was attached to a cart for the first time. This invention meant that people could use a cart to carry food and other items, instead of having to carry them by hand. Using a cart with wheels made carrying large amounts of food for long distances easier, so people didn't have to live close to the places where food was produced.

In 1783, a man called Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier became quite famous. He was from France and was a chemistry and physics teacher. He also became the first person to fly in a hot air balloon. However, Jean-François had to persuade King Louis XVI to let this happen, because the King had already decided that two criminals were going to be the first people to fly in it. Jean-François realised that whoever went into the hot air balloon first would be remembered for a long time and he did not think that criminals should be famous.

Two years after this first flight, Jean-François tried to cross the English Channel in a hot air balloon. Sadly, the balloon deflated during the flight and crashed. Jean-François and his passenger were killed in this accident.

George Stephenson invented the first steam-powered railway engine in 1814 and he called the engine 'Blucher'. Blucher's first test was to carry eight coal wagons along an uphill track. Blucher was such a success that Stephenson ended up building another sixteen engines.

Have you ever travelled anywhere on a bicycle? How far do you think you would get without pedals? German inventor Karl von Drais invented something that he called the 'Laufmaschine', which means 'running machine'. This invention had two thin wheels, with handles at the front for steering, but no pedals. Instead, the rider pushed along the ground with his or her feet.

Karl von Drais' 'Laufmaschine', or 'running machine'.



In 1903, brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright flew the first powered aeroplane. They did this in America in a state called North Carolina. When they were



designing their plane, they studied birds to learn how they could fly. This helped them design the wings for their own aircraft. They couldn't decide who would attempt to fly the first aeroplane, so they flipped a coin. Wilbur won the coin toss and sat in the pilot's seat and flew! This first flight only lasted 12 seconds.

Orville and Wilbur Wright

The first supersonic flight took place in 1947. The word 'supersonic' means 'faster than the speed of sound', which is very, very fast! During the flight, the plane flew at 700mph. The pilot was Air Force general officer Charles Yeager, and the plane was called 'Glamorous Glennis'.



Air Force general officer Charles 'Chuck' Yeager

Another invention that has made travelling easier is The Channel tunnel. The Channel Tunnel opened in 1994. High-speed trains take people from the UK to France. The tunnel is over 31 miles long, but the trains travel through it so fast that it only takes around 35 minutes to get from one side to the other. This has definitely made the journey between England and France a lot quicker. The ferry between Dover and Calais takes around 90 minutes.

**Some people think that the next big thing to happen in transport will be regular trips into space! What do you think the next big transport invention will be?**

Photo courtesy of Klaus Nahr, Public.Resource.Org, DVIDSHUB (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

# Questions

Read carefully and complete the answers to the questions below.

1. What was invented in 3500BC?

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2. Why were people able to live further away from the areas where food was produced?

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3. Who thought that criminals should be the first people to fly in the hot air balloon?

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4. What is 'Blucher'?

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5. How many steam engines did George Stephenson make after he tested the first one?

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6. Karl von Drais' bicycle-like invention had no pedals. How did riders make it move?

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7. Which of the Wright brothers flew the first plane?

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8. How did studying birds help the Wright brothers?

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9. What does the word 'supersonic' mean?

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10. How fast did Charles Yeager's plane travel?

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11. What was Charles Yeager's plane called?

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12. How long does it take for a train to travel through the Channel Tunnel?

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# Answers

1. What was invented in 3500BC?  
**Carts with wheels were invented in 3500BC.**
2. Why were people able to live further away from the areas where food was produced?  
**They were able to use the carts to carry food for longer distances.**
3. Who thought that criminals should be the first people to fly in the hot air balloon?  
**King Louis XVI thought that two criminals should go into the hot air balloon first.**
4. What is 'Blucher'?  
**Blucher was the name of the first steam engine that George Stephenson invented.**
5. How many steam engines did George Stephenson make after he tested the first one?  
**He made another sixteen engines.**
6. Karl von Drais' bicycle-like invention had no pedals. How did riders make it move?  
**They pushed themselves along with their feet.**
7. Which of the Wright brothers flew the first plane?  
**Wilbur won a coin toss to fly the plane first.**
8. How did studying birds help the Wright brothers?  
**They studied birds' wings to help them design the wings for their plane.**
9. What does the word 'supersonic' mean?  
**'Supersonic' means 'faster than the speed of sound'.**
10. How fast did Charles Yeager's plane travel?  
**Charles Yeager's plane travelled at 700mph.**
11. What was Charles Yeager's plane called?  
**Charles Yeager named his plane 'Glamorous Glennis'.**
12. How long does it take for a train to travel through the Channel Tunnel?  
**It takes around 35 minutes for a train to get from one side of the Channel Tunnel to the other.**

# History of Transport

One of the earliest transport inventions happened a long time ago, in 3500BC, when a wheel was attached to a cart for the first time. This might sound simple, but it changed the way that people lived. They could use a cart to carry goods further than they could before. This also meant that where people lived changed too. Using a cart with wheels made carrying large amounts of food for long distances easier, so people no longer had to live close to the places where food was produced.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to float into the air in a hot air balloon? In 1783, a man called Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier found out exactly what it would have been like! Jean-François was a French chemistry and physics teacher and, in 1783, he became the first person to take flight in a hot air balloon. He almost didn't get this chance though, because King Louis XVI had already decided that two criminals should be the first people to go in the hot air balloon. However, Jean-François predicted that the names of the people who would fly in a hot air balloon for the first time would be remembered forever, and managed to persuade King Louis XVI that this was too big an honour for people who were criminals.

Two years after this first flight, Jean-François attempted to cross the English Channel in a hot air balloon. Sadly, the balloon deflated during the flight and crashed, killing Jean-François and his passenger.

Some years after this incident, in 1814, George Stephenson invented the first steam-powered railway train. The first successful steam-powered locomotive that Stephenson built was called 'Blucher'. Blucher's first test was to carry eight coal wagons along an uphill track. Blucher was such a success that Stephenson ended up building another sixteen engines.

Have you ever travelled anywhere on a bicycle? How far do you think you would get without pedals? German inventor Karl von Drais invented something that he called the 'Laufmaschine', which means 'running machine'. This invention was very similar to what we now know as a bicycle. It had two thin wheels, with handles at the front for steering, but it had no pedals. Instead, the rider pushed along the ground with his or her feet.



Karl von Drais' 'Laufmaschine', or 'running machine'.

In 1903, brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright invented something that had a big impact on the way we travel today: they flew the first powered aeroplane in North Carolina in America. The brothers studied birds to help them understand flight and used what they saw to help them design the wings for their own aircraft. Unable to decide who would attempt to fly the first aeroplane, Orville and Wilbur flipped a coin. Wilbur won the coin toss and sat himself in the pilot's seat, ready to take to the skies. This first flight lasted only 12 seconds, but it was an important event in the history of transport.

The first supersonic (this means faster than the speed of sound) flight took place in 1947, and there was a big difference between this flight and the one made by the Wright brothers in 1903. During this flight, the plane flew at 700mph! The pilot on this flight was Air Force general officer Charles Yeager, and the plane was named 'Glamorous Glennis'.



Air Force general officer Charles 'Chuck' Yeager

There have been more recent inventions that have made travel easier. The Channel Tunnel opened in 1994, allowing high-speed trains to help people travel between the UK and France. The tunnel is just over 31 miles long, but the trains travel through it so fast that it only takes around 35 minutes to get from one side of it to the other. This has definitely made the journey between England and France a lot quicker, because the ferry between Dover and Calais takes around 90 minutes.

**Some people think that the next big thing to happen in transport will be a regular trips into space! What do you think the next big transport invention will be?**

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# Questions

Read carefully and complete the answers to the questions below.

1. What invention was made in 3500BC?

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2. How did attaching wheels to carts give people more options of where to live?

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3. What did Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier do for the first time in 1783?

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4. Who did King Louis XVI say should be the first people in the hot air balloon?

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5. What was George Stephenson's first steam-powered locomotive called?

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6. How many coal wagons did the first steam-powered locomotive pull along the track?

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7. How many steam engines did George Stephenson go on to make?

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8. What was missing from the bicycle that Karl von Drais invented?

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9. How did Orville and Wilbur Wright decide who was going to fly their plane first?

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10. How did studying birds help the Wright brothers?

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11. What does the word 'supersonic' mean?

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12. How fast did Charles Yeager's plane travel?

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# Answers

1. What was invented in 3500BC?  
**In 3500BC, wheels were attached to carts for the first time.**
2. How did attaching wheels to carts give people more options of where to live?  
**Attaching wheels to carts meant that it was much easier to carry food for longer distances, so people no longer had to live close to the places where food was produced.**
3. What did Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier do for the first time in 1783?  
**Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier was the first person to fly in a hot air balloon.**
4. Who did King Louis XVI say should be the first people in the hot air balloon?  
**King Louis XVI originally wanted two criminals to make the first hot air balloon flight.**
5. What was George Stephenson's first steam-powered locomotive called?  
**It was called 'Blucher'.**
6. How many coal wagons did the first steam-powered locomotive pull along the track?  
**Blucher pulled eight coal wagons along the track.**
7. How many steam engines did George Stephenson go on to make?  
**After Blucher, Stephenson made another sixteen steam engines.**
8. What was missing from the bicycle that Karl von Drais invented?  
**The bicycle was missing pedals.**
9. How did Orville and Wilbur Wright decide who was going to fly their plane first?  
**The Wright brother tossed a coin to decide who would sit in the pilot's seat for the first flight.**
10. How did studying birds help the Wright brothers?  
**The Wright Brother paid close attention to how birds used their wings and used this to help them design the wings for their aircraft.**
11. What does the word 'supersonic' mean?  
**Supersonic means 'faster than the speed of sound'.**
12. How fast did Charles Yeager's plane travel?  
**The plane travelled at 700mph.**