

All Aboard!



photo by Jerry Huddleston

Mini Fact:

The Auto Train, which travels between Virginia and Florida, carries people and their cars.

In the first half of the 1900s, before airplane travel was common, many people traveled by rail. Railroads moved about 80% of passengers and goods.

Today, passenger trains carry only about 5% of travelers between cities. Still, more people are riding the train every year. Trains serve American cities throughout the country, but mostly in the Northeast.

Reaching west

The first U.S. rail service began in 1831 in South Carolina. Twenty years later, railroad companies were building tracks that reached west to the Mississippi River. Trains carried settlers, goods and mail to the Midwest.



photo by James St. John

In the early 1860s, the Union Pacific railroad began building track west from Omaha, Nebraska. The Central Pacific started laying track east from Sacramento, California.

In 1869, the two tracks met at Promontory Summit in Utah. North America became the first continent to have a railroad from coast to coast.

Freight trains

Freight trains are the kind you probably see most on the tracks. They carry goods such as cars, steel, livestock and other products. They carry more coal than any other material.

Passenger trains

Two types of trains carry passengers:

- **Commuter trains** carry people around

a city or to and from their homes outside the city. They generally have a lot of seats but no dining or sleeping cars.

- **Intercity trains** carry passengers longer distances, sometimes overnight. Overnight trains often have sleeping cars and dining cars.



The Acela Express travels between Washington, D.C., and Boston. At its fastest, it travels at about 150 miles per hour.

Who's who on the crew?

- A **conductor** takes tickets and is responsible for the safe operation of the train. He is the first one off the train when it pulls into a station.



photo courtesy Massachusetts Office of Transportation

- **Assistant conductors** carry two-way radios and stay in touch with the engineer.
- **Engineers** and **assistant engineers** run the train.
- The **steward** manages the dining car. The **chef** and **cooks** prepare the meals, and **waiters** serve them.

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of trains are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

CARS, CHEF, CITIES, COAL,	T	T	P	R	O	M	O	N	T	O	R	Y	K	N	D
COAST, COMMUTER,	T	D	R	P	O	D	C	O	N	D	U	C	T	O	R
CONDUCTOR, COOK,	R	S	R	A	A	N	Z	R	C	B	P	O	L	S	A
ENGINEER, FREIGHT,	E	F	A	I	V	S	G	T	E	A	X	O	A	T	W
NORTHEAST, PASSENGER,	E	E	Z	O	D	E	S	H	R	T	R	K	O	E	E
PROMONTORY,	N	H	X	Q	C	E	L	E	N	A	U	S	C	E	T
RAILROAD, RIDE, STEEL,	I	C	I	T	J	C	Q	A	N	I	C	M	B	L	S
STEWARD, TRACKS,	G	S	E	I	T	I	C	S	S	G	A	K	M	U	M
TRAIN, TRAVEL.	N	F	R	E	I	G	H	T	B	O	E	R	S	O	K
	E	I	R	A	I	L	R	O	A	D	O	R	T	P	C



Cook's Corner

Energy Snack Mix

You'll need:

- 1 cup chopped dates
- 1 cup dried apricots, chopped
- 1 cup dark chocolate yogurt raisins
- 1 cup sunflower seeds
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped

What to do:

1. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl.
2. Transfer to plastic bag or covered bowl for storage. Makes 5 cups.



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

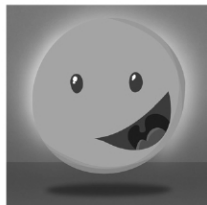
7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. take prisoner (7) _____
2. handbag (5) _____
3. blood-pumping organ (5) _____
4. it comes before thunder (9) _____
5. Scar, to Mufasa (7) _____
6. bring in the crops (7) _____
7. facial hair (8) _____

VEST	HTN	TURE	BRO
TA	THER	HAR	PU
ART	CAP	CHE	RSE
MUS	ING	HE	LIG

Answers: capture, purse, heart, lighting, brother, harvest, mustache.



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Mini Jokes



Casey: Why should you never complain about the price of a train ticket?

Carrie: It's bound to be fare!

Eco Note



Birding enthusiasts used GPS to track a pair of common cuckoos as the faster one, Banyan, made an epic 4,500-mile journey from East Africa to China in just seven days. Banyan reached China's Yunnan province on May 8, while Onon paused briefly in northeastern India to rest. Both, and others of their species, are in a race to reach their summer breeding grounds in eastern Mongolia, where they will compete with others for the best spots to raise their young.

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For later:

Look in your newspapers for stories about transportation.

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