



Gallery investigation

Day: Monday and Friday

Session length: 60–90 minutes including gallery visit

Party size: 30

This gallery investigation is a valuable opportunity for students to work in groups to undertake a survey which illustrates the important issues which face designers and engineers in the essential field of public transport. It can be used to inform design and make projects back in school.

1. What will the students do?

Step 1

Introduction to the Museum: How are the galleries arranged? What factors need to be considered when designing vehicles for public transport? Which vehicles will we be auditing?

Step 2

In groups of three, students are given a specific perspective:

Accessibility and safety

Environmental impact (power and construction)

Use of materials

Usefulness to Londoners: fitness for purpose

Aesthetics: how does it look?

They assign team roles and plan which elements of vehicles they need to examine when auditing them from a specific perspective.

Step 3

In groups, students visit the galleries to audit a selection of vehicles from the perspective they have been assigned. They use a discussion aid to make judgements about the strengths and weaknesses of each vehicle. They annotate an image of the vehicle with their judgements. They use digital cameras to photograph evidence to support their judgements.

(These pictures can be emailed to the school for follow-up work).



2. What are the two main learning outcomes?

- ♦ Students explore how vehicles have been designed and made in the past (with additional scope to explore how they are currently designed and made, and how they may develop in the future).
- ♦ Students evaluate a selection of significant vehicles and modes of transport from aesthetic, environmental, technical, economic, ethical and social perspectives in order to assess their impacts on the world, particularly on quality of life of city residents.

3. What are the main curriculum links?

KS3 Design and technology:

1.1a, c, d; 1.2a, b; 1.3b; 1.4a, b, c; 2a, (b, c, d, g); 3a, b, c, d, e, k, l; 4a, (b, c) d, f, g*

* Sections in brackets indicate how this activity could support a design and make activity in school.

4. Why use London Transport Museum to achieve this?

London Transport Museum presents a chronological display of vehicles and related artefacts which illustrate the history of public transport in the city. The galleries provide a fantastic resource for investigating developments in design and technology which have had an enormous impact on the quality of life of millions of people. The vehicles can be evaluated from aesthetic, environmental, technical, economic, ethical and social perspectives.

In addition to the historic galleries, the new Museum also includes galleries examining London's public transport today and in the future. Students will find this session an enjoyable and accessible way to gain insight into this vital area of design and technology.

Suggested pre-visit and follow up suggestions:

Before the visit, students can use the online Museum www.ltmcollection.org/museum/index.html to investigate and raise questions about the vehicles to be examined.

They can practise analysing a private car from a range of perspectives and annotate a picture of the car with their conclusions.

After the visit, students can play the Future Generator on the Museum website <http://future.ltmcollection.org/> to highlight the most important technological issues which will face designers in the future.

They can use the online Museum to develop their understanding of the elements of London Transport's design heritage and record these in a sketchbook.

Observations and conclusions from the visit can be used to inform a design and make task, for example, designing a public transport vehicle for the future.

