

Mind the Gap

KS2: History

The Museum's Curator has received a mysterious message from a passenger who forgot to 'mind the gap' and is lost in time. We need your help to unravel the mystery!

Pupils will:

- Use objects from the past to find out how travel in London has changed over time
- Understand the different jobs that were used on London's transport in the past
- Work collaboratively to solve problems and gather information



london
transport
museum

enjoyment to
employment

Before your visit

- **Have a conversation with students on how they travel every day:**
 - Have you ever used the public transport?
 - How was your experience?
 - How is it different travelling on buses or trains?
 - How do you think transport might have changed over time?
- **Discuss and research in groups what a Transport Depot is. Present back to the class their findings:**
 - What are Depots used for?
 - Who works in a Depot?
 - What are some things they might need to be aware of when they go to the Depot (e.g. Health and Safety)
 - How might the London Transport Museum Depot be different to the Museum in Covent Garden?
- **Discuss the concept of time-travelling.** Think about a type of transport you would like to have seen when it was first invented, e.g. the first bicycle. Where and when would you like to travel back in time to, and what you would like to see? Compare and contrast to what life is like now. Children can use secondary sources to research the transport.

After your visit

- Write your own fantasy tale of time travel. In this extended piece of written work you could ask your students to include:
 - a vehicle which they saw at the Depot
 - A conversation with someone doing a job they learnt about
 - A puzzle they had to solve
- Write a diary entry
 - as Phyllis, the day before she got trapped in time
 - as the female bus conductor who gave Phyllis her ticket
- Imagine if Phyllis had time travelled into the future. What kind of transport might she have encountered?

After your visit continued

- Design an underground map of the future in teams:
 - Discuss in groups the differences between the map we use today, and maps from the 1950's, 1960's etc. How are they different? What are the pros and cons of each
 - What considerations should we think about for future maps
 - more underground lines and stations?
 - Different modes of transport- e.g. flying buses?
 - Could we use pictures instead of words for people who don't speak English?
- Pick your favourite vehicle from the depot and imagine the world when it was used:
 - Create a collage/painting of that scene
 - Write an account of travelling on that piece of transport at that time

Explore our [Future Engineering Wonders webpage](#) for more information