



Museum Access: Illinois Railway Museum

SEASON 2 - EPISODE 6

The Illinois Railway Museum in Union, IL exhibits roughly 450 pieces of historic railway and transit equipment. From streetcars and locomotive steam engines to electric and diesel trains, all important means of transportation that helped expand the American economy. Let's continue the learning with these questions and talking points.

Question 1

Have you ever ridden on a train? Talk about your trip.

More Talking Points:

1. How is riding on a train different from other forms of transportation?
2. Would you want to take a train for a long trip? Why or why not?

Question 2

How has train travel developed over the years?

More Talking Points:

1. What type of trains are you familiar with?
2. How have other transportation innovations influenced train travel?

Question 3

Why was transportation by train so impactful in developing and expanding the U.S.?

More Talking Points:

1. How did trains impact the economy?
2. How did trains make travel easier?

Question 4

In the past, the signals for trains were a big industry. They helped protect people and direct trains. Why are signs and signals so important?

More Talking Points:

1. How have railway signs and signals changes over the years?
2. What other important signs and signals do you see and use regularly? Why are they important?

Question 5

How did railway companies know where to lay railroad tracks?

More Talking Points:

1. Why do you think tracks were laid the way they were?
2. Do you think there might have been a better way to decide where to put tracks? What might that be and why?

