



Read the passage comparing how something was done in the past and how it is done today. Then answer the questions using evidence.

Think about: What changed? What stayed the same? Why did it change? Who benefited?

## Horse-Drawn Carriages vs. Automobiles: A Journey Through Time



Before cars, people traveled in horse-drawn carriages. These carriages were pulled by one or more horses and were a common way to get around cities and between towns. They were often made of wood and leather, with large wheels. Traveling by carriage could be slow, especially on bumpy roads or in bad weather. A typical journey might only cover a few miles in an hour.

The first automobiles, or cars, appeared in the late 1800s, but they became popular in the early 1900s. Early cars were noisy and sometimes unreliable, but they didn't need horses. Instead, they had engines that used gasoline to make them move. Modern cars are much faster and more comfortable than early models, and they are now the main way most people travel long distances.

**While** horse-drawn carriages were once the only personal transport available, automobiles changed everything. Cars are much faster; a journey that took a whole day by carriage might only take an hour by car. **However**, early cars were very expensive, meaning only rich families could afford them. Today, cars are more common and accessible to many families, **unlike** carriages which required caring for animals, feed, and stables.

Did you know that in the early 1900s, some people were worried that cars would scare horses and cause accidents? There were even laws made to try and control how fast cars



could go, like the "Red Flag Act" in the UK which required a person to walk in front of early cars waving a red flag!

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**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

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**(1) Which method of transport appeared first?**

- (A) Horse-drawn carriage    (B) Automobile    (C) Both    (D) Neither

**(2) Which method is described as being much faster for long distances today?**

- (A) Horse-drawn carriage    (B) Automobile    (C) Both    (D) Neither

**(3) Both provide a way for people to travel from one place to another. Is this a SIMILARITY or DIFFERENCE?**

- (A) Similarity    (B) Difference

**(4) One requires an engine, the other uses animals. Is this a SIMILARITY or DIFFERENCE?**

- (A) Similarity    (B) Difference

**(5) Explain ONE way horse-drawn carriages and automobiles are similar. Quote a detail from the passage.**

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