

## Transport: Activity 2 - Travel Times

## TEACHERS' NOTES

(can be used with Transport: Activity 3 - Coaches and Trains)

### Learning Objectives

- Discover what it was like to travel on foot, by cart and by coach in the 1830s
- Understand the road conditions and the amount of time taken to cover relatively short distances

### Cross-curricular links

- Geography (map reading, working out distance from map scale)
- Maths (using time and distance travelled to work out speed)
- Literacy

### Sources



Source 1. Photograph of a turnpike road and toll cottage, Midhurst, 1898



Source 2. Photograph of a horse-drawn gig, Wisborough Green, 1896



Source 3. Photograph of a cart in a country lane, Small Dole near Upper Beeding, 1900s



Source 4. Painting of the Worthing-to-London stagecoach "The Accommodation", c1840



Source 5. 1830s map of Sussex including Chichester, Littlehampton, Flansham, Brighton, and Ditchling.



Source 6a. Extracts from a diary written by Richard Turner in the 1830s. He lived with his family at Newland Farm near Ditchling, then in 1835 he married Hannah Marten and moved to a farm at Flansham, between Chichester and Littlehampton.



Source 6b. Audio version of 6a.

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### Source 1

Compare to today: although this is a maintained turnpike road, the surface is very rough and muddy. The road is also very narrow, and there is very little traffic.....

### Source 2

A gig would be owned by middle-income people and would be used to carry two or three people and small packages, travelling between local towns and villages.

### Source 3

A cart would be used by tradesmen or farmers to carry people, hay, or other heavy goods between local towns and villages.

### Source 4

A stage-coach would take passengers and their luggage, travelling long distances between towns, for example from Chichester to London.

### Source 5

This map from the 1830s shows the part of Sussex covered in Richard Turner's diaries. The towns he mentions are highlighted.

For activities Mb and Mc, children could use a piece of string or a measuring wheel and the map to work out the distances for Richard's journeys; or the distances could be provided by the teacher:

Littlehampton to Ditchling approx 24 miles depending on the route

Flansham to Brighton approx 22 miles depending on the route

Children will also need to note the distance by road from

Chichester to London 64 to 72 miles, depending on the route

### Sources 6a and 6b

The diary extracts can be used by children to discover how Richard travelled and work out how long it took him on the following dates:

October 31 1835 - Littlehampton to Ditchling

transport: walking time taken: 7 hours

November 12 1835 - London to Chichester

transport: coach time taken: 8 hours

August 9 1837 - Flansham to Brighton

transport: cart time taken: 5 hours

August 26 1837 - Flansham to Brighton

transport: gig time taken: 4 hours

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Children could also be asked to work out his speed:

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| October 31 1835 - Littlehampton to Ditchling |                         |
| 24 miles/7 hours                             | = 3.43 miles per hour   |
| November 12 1835 - London to Chichester      |                         |
| 64 or 72 miles/8 hours                       | = 8 or 9 miles per hour |
| August 9 1837 - Flansham to Brighton         |                         |
| 22 miles in 5 hours                          | = 4.4 miles per hour    |
| August 26 1837 - Flansham to Brighton        |                         |
| 22 miles in 4 hours                          | = 5.5 miles per hours   |

The diaries give information on road conditions that could be useful when comparing to transport today:

August 26: "heavy thunderstorm came on at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5, did not start for Ditchling till 9" - Roads were unsurfaced, so rain would make travelling difficult.

October 31: "lost on hill" - There was no street lighting.

It is also interesting to note that in the 1830s relatively few people owned their own transport, so it would have been quite common to walk long distances, or to share with other people as on August 9: " I & Hannah started to Ditchling in Mr Duke's cart... & took Emily Turner & Martha Jane Duke with us".