

Gasoline Pump



Each month The California Museum will introduce a new artifact with accompanying information and questions, which will consist of three different difficulty levels to choose from. To be used as a sponge or opening activity, you can use the artifact of the month for your students to study, question and form ideas. You can also print the image and place it on each student's desk, have them work in teams or project the image for a class activity.

Use the provided questions to help your students learn more about the artifact and its importance to California -- or make up your own questions. Most importantly, have fun!

Be sure to check out our web site, CaliforniaMuseum.org, for other interesting and unique activities for your students.

Gasoline Pump



In 1900, there were 20 million horses and only 4,000 cars in the United States. Today, gas stations are everywhere, but when cars were first invented, gas stations were not yet around. People bought their gasoline at the general store. They filled their own buckets with gasoline and used a funnel to pour it into the car's gas tank.

The increase in automobile ownership after Henry Ford started to sell cars that the middle class could afford resulted in greater demand for gas. In 1905, about 25,000 cars were manufactured in the United States and Sylvanus F. Browner perfected a pump that would take gas out of a barrel and fill a car's tank. The first "filling stations" started opening that same year.

The first gas station in the United States was built in St. Louis, Missouri. Some of the new stations were just a single pump right alongside the curb with an attendant ready to help when you drove up. Unlike the automated pumps of today, the first pumps took some muscle to hand pump. Customers pumped their own gas and the attendant wrote up the bill on a piece of paper. Starting in 1920, stations got fancier. Some put up neon signs to advertise their names and many added water fountains and vending machines for thirsty customers. The new pumps had glass covered gauges that displayed the amount of gas being dispensed and the cost. While the tank was filling, the attendant washed the windshield and checked the oil and water for you. Today, convenience stores are a part of many gas stations. It's kind of reminiscent of the days when gas was sold at the general store.

Gasoline Pump



Elementary

- 1) Where did people first buy gasoline for their cars?
- 2) How did people first fill their gas tanks?

Middle

- 1) How did "filling-stations" change the lives of Americans?
- 2) Pretend you were living in 1900 and saw your first horseless carriage. Write a story describing the scene and your thoughts and feelings when you saw it.

High School

- 1) How were automated pumps an improvement over hand pumps?
- 2) How did Henry Ford make it possible for more people to be able to afford to buy a car? What role did the assembly line play in this?

Word Search!

Gasoline Pump and Gasoline Stations

M N H V H O C A E L M E Q N V X O A
U T B T I G K L L I R J Z A O V N A
Z C J P A X G S T O E V A L E E H F
Z Z Y G A L I T T D N M I X K O N X
F I I V O U M S A N L J N K R J J P
K U X E O Z L U E G W Z G S U M B T
A Z N L G A W O S Y M A E I C H U X
G U T N R B L A C K S M I T H O C G
N S T E E P M U P O S A G N K R K P
N O N O S L A P L L Q O D P E S E C
K E I J M E N I A G V X A W D E T W
G Y Z T O O N E G A I R R A C L I I
U J K D A E B S T A B L E S K E Q M
Q Z O H M T X I T H Z B O E N S R C
F A X K R V S D L T P J V F A S V A
F J U F P N M V V E O L D Y T R C M
D O J Y Y V P N V Q I D Q N A M U P
G L J A V K O L T F K B O D U R W C

AUTOMOBILE
CARRIAGE
GENERALSTORE
NEON
STABLES
TANK

BLACKSMITH
FUNNEL
HORSE
PUMP
STATION

BUCKET
GASOLINE
HORSELESS
SEATTLE
STLOUIS

