

Activities

1. Are We There Yet? A Road Trip from Jacksonville to Tampa in 1917

Using the 1917 AAA map, students will determine the best route to travel between Jacksonville and Tampa, Florida. They will use a modern video of a 1917 model T Ford to infer travel conditions in 1917 and develop a chart to compare travel then and now.

Background

Travel in 1917 was different than it is today. The road from Jacksonville to Tampa was in fair condition, according to the AAA map. The vehicle of choice for travelers was Henry Ford's Model T automobile. The 20 horsepower engine was capable of carrying the vehicle at a top speed of around 45 mph – although the speed limit was 25 miles per hour. A ten-gallon fuel tank allowed the car to travel approximately 200 miles before it needed gas. The engine started by a hand crank located at the front of the vehicle and was very difficult to turn, causing many broken arms. The Model T also lacked windshield wipers. Filling (gas) stations were scarce and restaurant and modern hotel chains did not exist.

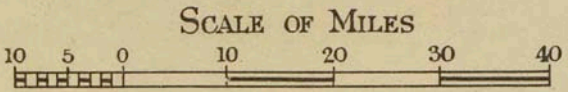
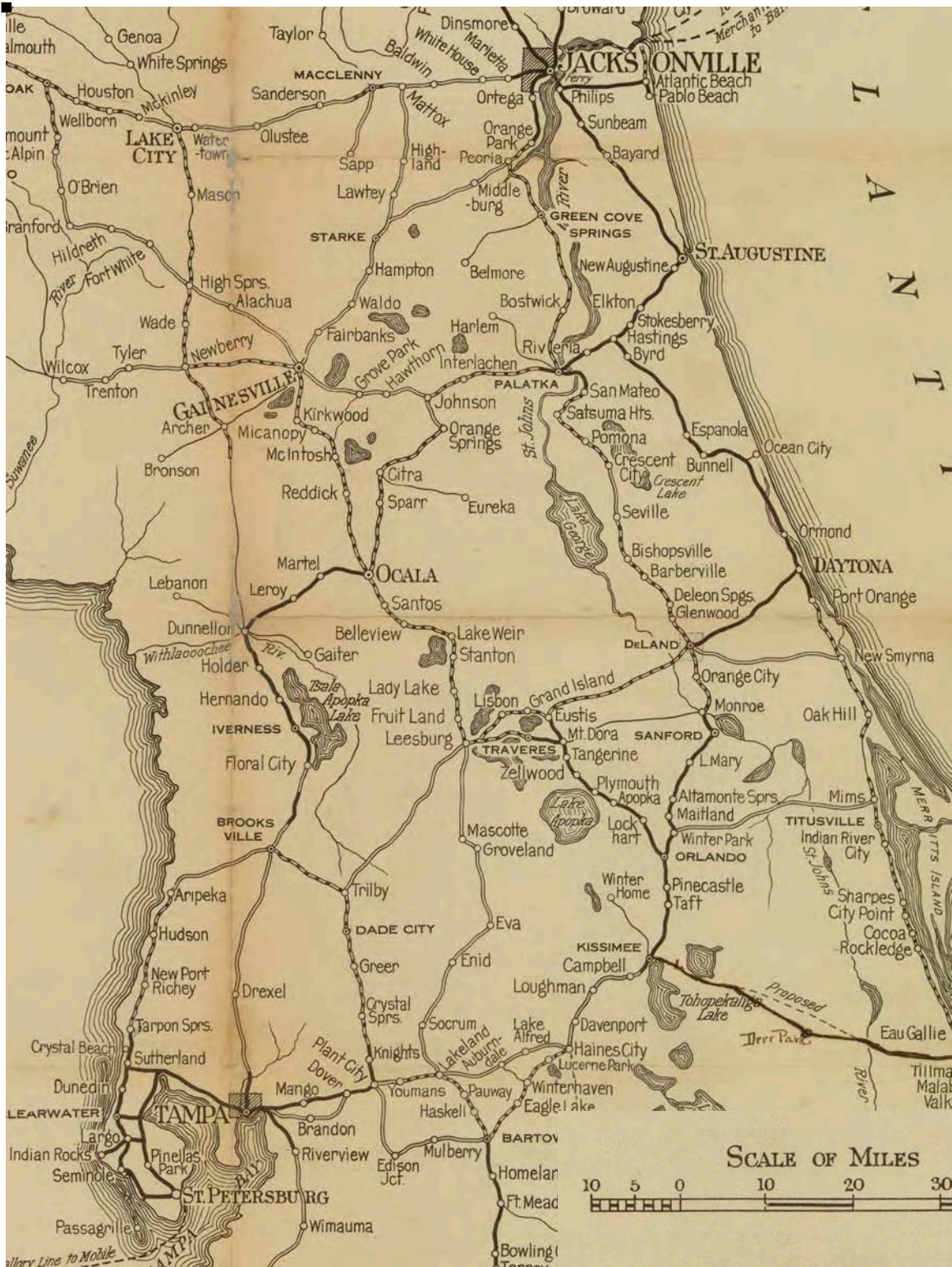
Materials

- AAA map enlarged view of Jacksonville to Tampa with legend
- Ruler, paper and pencil for calculations
- Access to the Internet and a YouTube video on the Model T http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbfkShPQ_og
- If possible, access to a computer with a graphic organizer program


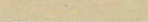

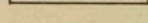
Directions

1. Share the YouTube video and background information about travel in 1917 Florida with your students.
2. Working in pairs, ask students to examine the AAA map and decide on a car route between Jacksonville and Tampa.
3. Discuss with their partner the many ways that travel was different in 1917. Encourage them to calculate the distance of the route they chose and the approximate length of time for the trip. Discuss the obstacles people faced while traveling by car and also how travel in 1917 might have been better.
4. On paper or with a computer based graphic organizing program, build a comparison chart that demonstrates the differences between car travel then and now.

American Automobile Association, Florida. (New York City, 1917). Print type.



LEGEND

-  Improved Road
-  Fair to Good Road
-  Poor to Fair Road
-  Very Poor to Poor Road

