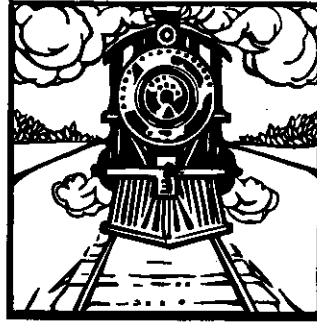


## TRAINS and RAILROADS

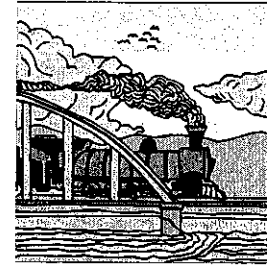


- Search your public, school, and classroom libraries and at home for any books about trains and railroads. Also search for information on the Internet. Collect all the materials you can. Research and read all you can about trains and railroads. Keep a bibliography of the books, magazines and Internet sites you researched. Record this information in your "Terrific Trains" chart.
- Find out how a steam locomotive operates. Make a poster board display of a steam locomotive and all of the working parts. Carefully label all of the components. Include a 1-2 page report describing how the steam locomotive works.
- Based on your research, determine how far a steam locomotive could travel before it had to take on more coal or water. Create a series of math word problems dealing with the steam locomotive, rate of travel, distance traveled on a set amount of fuel, etc. Include illustrations that will help someone trying to solve the problems. Publish your problems into a book for use in the classroom. If the book is laminated, you will be able to use dry erase markers to solve the problems.
- Many people are fascinated by trains. If your area has a train or railroad museum, arrange a visit and ask to speak with a museum guide or docent. Often these people will have a passion for the subject. If your area does not have a museum dedicated to the railway, try and locate a railroad enthusiast. A good place to begin looking is at local hobby shops or scale model shops.
- Read about famous train robberies. These criminals have often been "romanticized" as daring adventurers. The truth is somewhat different. Select one of the famous train robberies and write a newspaper article about the event. Be sure to include "eyewitness" accounts and commentary.



Remember the important "Who, What, When, Where, and How" of newspaper reporting.

- Research all the different types of cars a train can pull. Using recycled materials, create models of several of the more interesting cars. Create a set of museum type display cards that explain how the cars were used.



- Write a poem that will make the reader "hear" the sounds of a train as it travels through the night. You may want to consider using a standard beginning for each line, such as: "Through the dark, misty night." This type of structure, a repetitive beginning, establishes a rhythmic pattern. It also allows you to really focus on creating a visual image of the sounds of the train.

- One of the most extraordinary sections of railway track in the United States is routinely traveled by the California Zephyr as it makes its way over the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Create a model that shows the route of the railroad tracks leading from Denver to Winter Park, through Glenwood Springs and over to Grand Junction. Show the mountains, tunnels, rivers and towns that are along the way.

