

Name _____

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

The Impact of the Automobile

During the late 1890's, about three-fifths of all Americans lived in rural areas. The majority of these people had little or no contact with anyone who lived more than 20 miles away. In the early 1900's, automobile makers began mass producing cars. The development of the automobile had an enormous impact on the way people lived. It gave them freedom of movement beyond their own communities in a short time. This meant people could travel outside of their communities to find work, to do shopping or to visit friends and family. In this way, the automobile has also contributed to the growth of suburbs, hotels and highways, among many other things. During the 1920's, many people were relocating to suburbs because of the convenience of being able to simply drive into the city to go to work. By the 1950's, some companies were beginning to move their factories to suburban areas.

Many aspects of life have changed because of the automobile. Some of the changes would be very mysterious to people who had lived before the 1900's. Just think what these people might say if today they saw a fast food restaurant drive-through window!

1. What is the main idea of this story? (Circle the answer)
 - A. A long time ago people didn't travel much.
 - B. Fast food drive through windows are a new invention.
 - C. The invention of the automobile had a huge impact on the way people lived.
2. During the late 1890's, why didn't people have much contact with others who lived more than about 20 miles away?

3. What are two things that automobiles contributed to the growth of?

4. What do you think someone from the 1890's would think of a drive-through window?

5. Besides a drive-through window, think of something that we have in modern times that we would not have if we did not have cars.
