

SOCIAL STUDIES ACTIVITY

Flight's Impact On Population Migration in the USA

The moment the Wright Flyer left the ground on December 17, 1903, under its own power, the world changed. People began asking new questions. They began dreaming new dreams. Since then the airplane has made a deep and lasting impact on where and how we live.

Exercise

Think about the impact the airplane has had on where and how we live today. Look at a map of the United States. Note on the map where you live. Now, note other cities and towns where your far away relatives or friends live, or maybe places where you'd like to visit or live someday.

Before the airplane was invented, most people didn't travel far from home. Travel by boat, horse, wagon, train, or even the earliest automobiles was hard. Travel was time consuming and required more money than most people could afford. But with the invention and evolution of the airplane, travel to other far away parts of the country has become easier. This has allowed many people to move away from their hometowns and settle in other places.

Write an essay on the effects of the invention of flight on population migration in the USA. Address your classmates as your audience.

Instructions:

Part One: Tell your classmates how the passenger plane has affected where people live in the United States. Use your own life as a basis for exploration. For example, if you could live anywhere else other than your hometown, where would you live? How would travel by airplane make it easier to get there? Would this travel be affordable? If you lived far away from friends and family, how might the existence of the airplane keep you connected to friends and family? If others wanted to move away from their hometowns and use the airplane to get there, too, how would this affect population migration in the USA?

Part Two: Describe how the airplane might help or hurt the sharing of ideas and regional cultural heritage. For example, if you live on the east or west coasts, it is easy to take an airplane flight to Arizona and experience first hand some of the southwest American Indian culture. As people from different regions of the country travel and move about, what are the effects of sharing cultural activities, experiences and ideas? Has air travel made our world smaller or has it expanded it?