

Kids Ride the Bus

Public Transit History

Overview

Many of BC Transit's systems are celebrating service milestones in their local communities. Public transit began in British Columbia using streetcars in Victoria (1890) and Nelson (1899) where rails were built to popular destinations. Many of the same routes continue today using buses. In the 1940s, the streetcars were replaced as the buses were more efficient in getting to other destinations at a lower cost. In 1978, BC Transit (formerly Urban Transit Authority) was formed to assist communities to create public transit. Students will explore local history to understand the benefits of public transit.

BIG IDEAS




Social Studies 3

People from diverse cultures and societies share some common experiences and aspects of life.

Career Education 3

Strong communities are the result of being connected to family and community and working together toward common goals.

Activities

-  **History:** Students will research when the local bus service began in their community and what was available before buses arrived. Students will create a story or image showing how people travelled before buses and how their arrival changed people's lives.
-  **Comparison:** As a class, students identify different types of buses around the world (army, Greyhound, public transit, school, handyDART, etc). Teams compare differences between public transit buses and one of the buses identified in the class list. For example, school buses are a different colour, school buses stop traffic and school buses transport children. Create a chart showing the differences.
-  **Anniversary:** Students will create 17" x 11" horizontal posters celebrating transit service anniversaries or milestones. Posters can be promoted within the school or submitted to BC Transit to be considered for posting on buses.

Resources

BC Transit History: Visit <https://bctransit.com/victoria/about/history> to learn about BC Transit's history. Discover when many communities began public transit service. Visit [Kelowna timeline](#) celebrating 40 years of service (Link available until end of 2017).

Anniversary: Contact marketing@bctransit.com to participate in the your community's anniversary celebrations six months prior to the anniversary date. See list of all transit systems start dates and upcoming anniversaries—PDF