



MCNY Investigations

Cars, Culture, and the City

Name _____

Date _____

Today you will explore the exhibition Cars, Culture, and the City to understand how the car has helped to shape modern New York.

I. Thinking about transportation in the city in 1895.

Look at the Jacob Riis photograph of East 5th Street, which shows the conditions of New York City streets in 1895.

Describe this street in your own words. Make sure to include descriptions of the buildings and transportation.

What about this street in 1895 is different from what you would see in the city today?

What is the same?

II. Thinking about the car and the city today.

Look at the photograph called *Yellow Cab, Checker Cab Series: No. 1, circa 1979* by Stephen F. Harmon.

What kind of transportation is shown? _____

Imagine you are taking a ride in this type of car today and you are looking out the window. Think about what you'd see.

List the types of traffic signs you'd see that help drivers stay safe.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

List the types of signs you'd see that help people walking around stay safe.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Remember to think about the signs you would see when you are looking down and up. For example, think about street names, traffic lights, and crosswalks.

Draw a street that exists today using the details you listed above. Be sure to include buildings, people, transportation, and green space.



III. Think about the car and the city in the future!

Look at the image called *Times Square 2009 Proposal*. This is a plan that could help to solve some of the problems in a very busy area of the city called Times Square.

What are some of the problems you see that exist between people walking around and transportation on the street?

How might this plan help to solve these problems?

Think about some of the issues we have on our city streets today such as pollution, traffic, safety for people walking around, and lack of green space such as trees or grass.

Draw your own plan showing a New York City street in the future that helps to solve some of these problems. Label your solutions in your drawing.

