

Name _____

Wheels of Progress: The Invention of the Automobile

Open-Ended Response Questions

1. Explain the significance of the internal combustion engine in the invention of the car. How did it differ from earlier steam-powered vehicles, and why was it a game-changer?
2. Discuss the impact of the Model T and Henry Ford's assembly line production methods on the accessibility and affordability of cars in the early 20th century.
3. Reflect on the benefits and challenges that accompanied the rise of automobiles. How did cars transform both urban and rural life, and what environmental and social concerns emerged as a result?
4. Explore the symbolism of road trips during the era of the automobile. How did road trips represent freedom, adventure, and a changing way of life for families and individuals?

