

Name _____

Wheels of Progress: The Invention of the Automobile

Short Answer Key

1. The internal combustion engine paved the way for the invention of the car. It was more practical and efficient than earlier steam-powered engines, allowing for the development of smaller and more maneuverable vehicles.
2. Karl Benz was a German engineer known for building the first true automobile powered by an internal combustion engine. His invention, the Benz Patent-Motorwagen, marked the beginning of the automobile era.
3. Henry Ford's assembly line production methods revolutionized the automobile industry by making cars more affordable and accessible to the masses. This innovative approach streamlined production and reduced costs.
4. The rise of automobiles brought concerns about traffic congestion, air pollution, and road safety. As more cars hit the road, these issues became increasingly significant.
5. Road trips during the era of the automobile represented a sense of freedom, adventure, and exploration. Families and individuals could travel more easily and see new places, symbolizing a changing way of life.

