

Taxi!

New York's Iconic Transportation System

Students will have the opportunity to learn the history of the New York taxi cab and practice figuring out routes and fares for a quick trip around the city.

Background

The New York City taxi goes back to the 1800s, when people traveled in horse-drawn carriages for hire. In 1907, the first gas-powered taxis arrived. They were a variety of colors, and it was Harry N. Allen who first painted his cabs bright yellow so that they would be easy to see. By the 1960s, New York City mandated that all taxis be a specific shade of yellow, solidifying the iconic image of the yellow cab.

Today, all licensed taxis must have a special “medallion” permit to operate. NYC taxis are now a classic and fast way for people to get around the city, carrying millions of passengers every year.



Taxi Cab Practice

Divide the class into small groups. Tell the students that they will plan a trip to several New York destinations by taxi.

Each group must do the following:

- Choose three New York City destinations. Some excellent resources to use include the following:
 - [Global Munchkins](#)
 - [Trip Advisor](#)
- Use [Google Maps](#) to find the distance between the three destinations.
- Compute the cab fare required to complete their journey. [New York City Taxi Cabs](#)

Ask each group to share its work with the entire class.