

Automotive History

The auto industry has had a great impact on our community. Long recognized as the historic heart of the American automotive industry, Detroit took on the nickname "Motor City." In the late 1800s, Flint was home to a booming carriage-making industry for horse-drawn buggies—which some say was the biggest in the entire world. Hence, Flint became known as "Vehicle City." Henry Ford pioneered the use of the assembly line in manufacturing automobiles and provided the model for mass production that other industries later adopted. Our area is so rich in automotive history, and provides careers for many residents; this patch was created to further your knowledge.

Choose 5 to complete the patch including one from each category.

People

Pioneers of Automotive History

- Identify 3 people who were involved in the early stages of the automotive history in our area. Describe their accomplishments and the significance of their contribution.

Women in Automotive History

- There have been significant contributions by women, although many of their accomplishments have been overlooked. They are not only responsible for the way we look at cars today, but for their evolution. Research information on prominent female figures in the automotive industry and discover the impact that they made? You might also do research on current careers. Find out what qualifications you would need and what responsibilities you would have.

Careers

- Talk with someone who has been involved with the automotive industry for at least 15 years. Discuss changes and improvements in their job responsibilities (working conditions, wage range, automation– robotics – computers).

Unions

- What is the purpose of a union? Name the main automotive union. What effect did the unions have on autoworkers? Discuss changes in the conditions of the auto industry. When did unions start in Michigan's automotive plants?

Buying Power

- What do women want in a car? Women look for different features in a car than men. Name a feature that might be important specifically to women? What feature would you like in a car?

Community

History

- Describe how the development of the automotive history has affected your community, in the early 1900's, mid 1900's and the present time, look at employment statistics. Progress means physical changes in our community. When new plants are built or closed how does it affect the surrounding areas, such as housing, traffic patterns, noise and pollution.

Notable Sites

- Name three statues or landmarks named after a leader in the automotive industry. Choose one and visit it or describe its importance.

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History

- Visit a museum, or other informative display of historical cars, or collect information on the development of cars. Trace the engineering and design changes that were made and the reasons for the changes. You might try visiting one of these: The Henry Ford Museum (Dearborn) or Stahl's Museum (Chesterfield), Sloan Museum (Flint) or Wills Sainte Claire Museum, (Marysville).
- Henry Ford installed the first moving assembly line for the mass production of automobiles. What benefits did this provide? How much timing savings? What other uses of technology are being used?

Today

Energy Efficiency

- List at least 3 types of fuel available. List the pros and cons of each fuel and compare the cost, availability and feasibility of each.

International Involvement

- List some of the countries involved in the early development of automobiles. What countries are major producers of cars today? What is the impact of foreign import/export car products on our economy?

To Buy or Not to Buy

- Visit a car dealership or research on line facts on buying, leasing, or renting a car of your choice. Evaluate gas consumption, insurance rates. Describe other expenses to keep in mind when owning a car? How much would a similar car cost in the 1950's?

Congratulations! You have completed the requirements to purchase the GSSEM Automotive History Patch. The patch can be purchased at any GSSEM Council Shop during working hours.

Next Steps: Explore badges that might interest you such as **Senior Car Care**, **Junior Moving Journey** or the **Brownie Model Car Design Challenge**.