

Design a vehicle of the future

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ÎLE SAINTE-HÉLÈNE

Design a vehicle of the future

Throughout history all kinds of innovative solutions have been made to help the people of Tiohtiá:ke/Montréal to travel. Snowshoes, carriages, bicycles, cars, and trains, to name a few. Today we are faced with new challenges, and new challenges call for new solutions! Consider our beautiful planet and the current environmental issues we face. New challenges require new solutions. Use your creativity to design a prototype of a vehicle of the future.

To make a prototype, you have everything you need right at home! Most materials from your kitchen or recycling bin can be repurposed as materials for this activity:

- Egg cartons (whole or cut into smaller pieces)
- Cardboard boxes (whole or cut into smaller pieces)
- Empty plastic containers
- Lids, bottlecaps, and corks
- Scrap paper

Other helpful craft materials:

- Scraps of fabric
- String or yarn
- Paperclips and binder clips

Psst! For an extra challenge, use your creativity to put together your prototype without tape or glue.



Share your creation

The Museum is interested to know what your creation is! How does it work? Who or what does it transport?

Share a photo and short description of your creation on Facebook and tag @MuseeStewartMuseum. You can also send your creation at communications.stewart@mccord-stewart.ca. Please specify your first name, last name, city of residence and age. We will post them on our Website.

Inspiration from the archives

Check out these images below to help get your creativity flowing.

Ice skates

Thought to have originated in the Bronze age, ice skates were used by people throughout eastern Europe and Russia. The first blades were built from animal bones and worked similarly to our modern models, allowing the skater to glide over the ice. Innovations to skates have been ongoing over the past few hundred years, helping to increase their speed and stability, as well as giving rise in popularity to a well-loved pastime and sports.



Horse drawn sleigh

Dogs, goats, oxen, donkeys, horses are some of the animals that have been used through time to transport both humans and goods on vehicles of many different names, shapes, and sizes. In Montréal, horses were an integral part of the city's functioning in the 19th century, and were the primary means of transportation. Attitudes towards animals in the city changed with time and they were increasingly controlled and moved away from the city center as it became increasingly industrialized.



Schell & Hogan,
A Survival of the Old Canadian Diligences. Run between Montreal and La Prairie, St. Philip, etc.
Harper's Weekly, February 19, 1887
1970.218 © Stewart Museum

Snowshoes

Although many of us use snowshoes for winter recreation, they were previously an essential part of winter survival gear. Snowshoes represent thousands of years of ingenuity and craftsmanship. The snowshoe as we know it today was used and perfected by Indigenous populations then later shared with settlers. They work by making the surface area of our feet bigger, spreading our weight over a larger area so as to not sink in the snow.



J. B. Scotin,
« Canadian going to war on snowshoes »,
Histoire de l'Amérique septentrionale, Paris, 1722
1983.681 © Stewart Museum