

U.S. HIGHWAYS AND INTERSTATES

Historic U.S. Highways

The Lincoln Highway - “The Main Street across America”

1. When was the Lincoln Highway constructed?
2. What were the terminus points of the Lincoln Highway?
3. Through which states did the Lincoln Highway pass?
4. Much of the Lincoln Highway is known by which U.S. route number?
5. Select a state the Lincoln Highway passed through. What are some interesting places near the highway?

Route 66 - “The Mother Road”

6. How long is Route 66?
7. What were the terminus points of Route 66?
8. What states did Route 66 pass through?
9. Much of the western part of Route 66 is paralleled by which interstate highway?
10. When was Route 66 officially decommissioned as an official U.S. highway?
11. Select a state Route 66 passed through. What are some historic and interesting places near the highway? What are some interesting businesses (restaurants, motels, etc.) that developed along Route 66? What has happened to many of these businesses as a result of the interstate highway system?

Other U.S. Highways

12. Identify any numbered U.S. highways in your immediate area, making sure not to include interstate highways.
13. Consult a U.S. highway map or road atlas to investigate the highways. What are the terminus points of the U.S. highways in your area? Are any of these highways “coast-to-coast” or “border-to-border”? To what extent is the place where you live connected to other places?

Interstate Highway System

How Interstates are Numbered

14. Which interstate begins in the east at Jacksonville, Florida and continues west to Los Angeles, California?
15. Which interstate begins in the east in North Carolina and continues west to California?
16. Which interstate links New York City and San Francisco?
17. What pattern do you notice about these interstate numbers?
18. Which interstate begins in San Diego, California and continues north to Seattle, Washington?
19. Which interstate links Laredo, Texas with Duluth, Minnesota?
20. Which interstate links Maine and Florida along the eastern seaboard?
21. What pattern do you notice about these interstate numbers?
22. Compare I-10 with I-64. Both are east-west interstates, but which is longer?
23. Compare I-95 with I-79. Both are north-south interstates, but which is longer?

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24. What can you conclude about interstates that end in five (5) or zero (0)?
25. Locate Washington, DC and Indianapolis, Indiana. What do you notice about the interstate highways at these cities?
26. What is different about the number of the interstate highways that go around these cities?
27. How are they numbered?

Getting There on Interstate Highways

1. Select an interstate highway that passes through your community or state.

Identify the interstate and select a direction to travel.

Interstate highway _____

Direction to travel _____

List the cities and states that are linked to your state by that interstate.

2. Do the same for the other direction of travel.

Direction to travel _____

List the cities and states that are linked to your state by that interstate.

3. Identify some points of interest on or near the interstate highway, such as national or state parks, natural and cultural landmarks, or amusement parks.

Planning a Trip

Plan a trip across the United States starting from your community. Select a route that will take you from your community through at least five other states.

- Describe what highways you would take to get to your destination, and what sights you would see along the way.
- Identify the landform features and major rivers you will cross, as well as large cities you will pass through.

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- Figure the mileage between major stops and for the total trip.
- If you average 50 miles per hour on your trip, how long will the trip take?
- If your car gets 25 miles per gallon, how much will it cost to drive to your destination and back? (Use an average price per gallon of gasoline)