

Teacher Guide to Student Worksheet 2-The Pennsylvania Turnpike

Welcome to the Pennsylvania Turnpike, America's First Superhighway!

Directions: Read the paragraph about the Pennsylvania Turnpike, then answer the questions below.

When it opened in 1939, the Pennsylvania Turnpike had many nicknames. Some called it "The World's Greatest Highway". Others named it "the road from nowhere to nowhere". Whatever you want to call it, the Pennsylvania Turnpike was a popular attraction in Pennsylvania in the 1940s and 1950s.

After World War II, when the highway was used for military vehicles, the Pennsylvania Turnpike was a popular attraction for motorists who owned cars for the first time. With tunnels cutting through huge mountains, drivers could travel in all kinds of weather conditions. Rest stops along the turnpike served food and provided gas when an exit was not nearby. Best (or worst) of all, when the turnpike opened, there was no speed limit and drivers could drive as fast as they wanted to!

Drivers on the turnpike could quickly travel across Pennsylvania like never before, paying a toll to get from place to place. The toll was used to pay for construction projects and before long the turnpike stretched across the entire state, connecting to New Jersey and Ohio.

Young, old, rich, and poor, Pennsylvania was now available to anyone!

1. **WHAT** was the main idea of the article?

Answers will vary. Student should indicate that the Pennsylvania turnpike was a popular attraction in the 1940s and 1950s. It opened up the possibility of quick travel to many people.

2. **WHO** traveled on the Pennsylvania Turnpike?

Answers include: motorists who owned cars for the first time, the military, young, old, rich and poor, Pennsylvanians

3. **WHERE** could early travelers go?

Answers include: through tunnels, rest stops, across Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio

4. **WHEN** was the Pennsylvania Turnpike built?

The Pennsylvania Turnpike opened in 1939.

5. **WHY** was the Pennsylvania Turnpike built?

Answers will vary. They should mention that it helped motorists travel easier and faster. Some students might also have picked up one of the first purposes of the highway was transportation of military vehicles during World War II.

6. **HOW** do you think the tunnels were created through the mountains?

Unscored item. Use as discussion point.

TOTAL POINTS = 5