

DISCUSSION SHEET A



Role of a bus conductor:

Each bus had a driver and a conductor.

If you look at the back of the bus you can see that there is no door and that it required the passenger to climb aboard. The role of the conductor was to stop the bus by ringing a bell when a passenger wanted to get on. Once the passenger was seated the conductor rang the bell and the driver would start the bus again.

The conductor carried a ticket machine and a money bag. The passenger would buy a ticket that was then clipped. Money and change would be put into the money bag.

Female bus conductors had the nickname 'Clippies'.

Other Duties:

When you chat to another pair ask them what other duties they think a conductor would have.

These would be: helping people with luggage, advising passengers on routes and destinations, knowing the bus timetables and keeping passengers safe.

What skills would they need?

They would need to count money and give change. They need to know the routes. They need to be polite and friendly. They need to ensure passengers behave and sit down.

Conductors are also required to be smart, reliable and quite fit.



DISCUSSION SHEET B



Bus Travel in 1914

The very first buses were called 'omnibuses'. Omnibus is a Latin word meaning 'for everyone' and you can see why this name was shortened to bus.

A bus is a large vehicle that is designed to carry passengers between stopping places on a regular route.

Other words used are 'motor bus' and 'trolley bus'.

A double decker bus is used because it can carry greater numbers of passengers. These passengers pay a fare to travel.

The very first buses were horse drawn . These were in use in 1820, before Queen Victoria was on the throne and they were considered very uncomfortable. About eight to ten people could travel at a time.

In the 1830s steam buses were invented and these were quite similar to early steam trains. Then in 1882 electric trolley buses were used (see the picture).

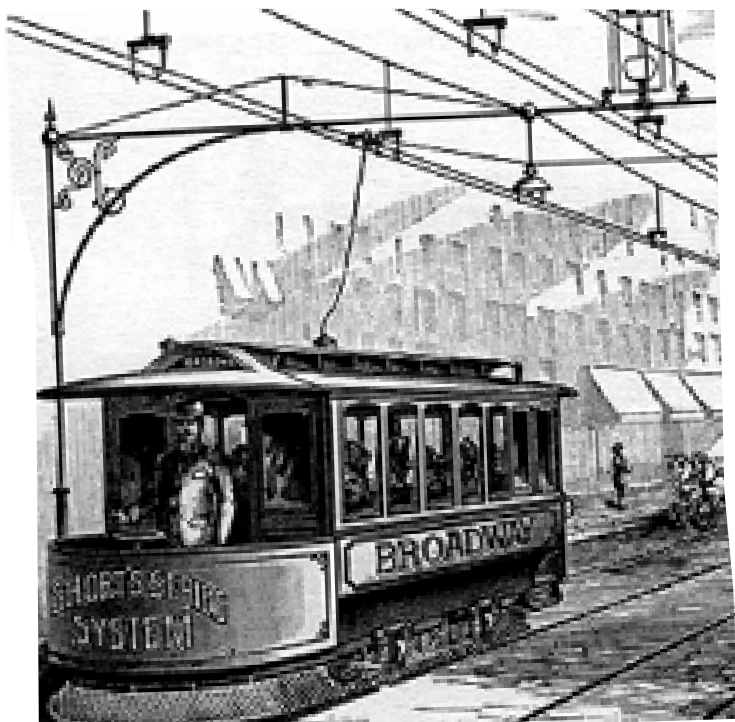


Image: British Trolley Database

Things to think about:

When you share information ask your friends how they think the trolley bus worked.

These buses were electric and had to run on cables attached to wires. They also ran on tracks in the road. Some cities, such as Manchester, still have them.

The first motorbus appeared in 1895 and these were the ones in use in WW1.
Why did people like to travel by bus?

It was faster than by horse. It was cheap to travel. The routes were local so it was very convenient for shorter journeys.