• Garrett Morgan is credited with inventing the traffic signal. Introduce students to this famous American and discuss the colors, or symbols, associated with the modern-day version of this traffic signal. (See: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/kids/townhall/morgan/morgan2.html) Play Red Light, Green Light as an active interpretation of this. Also, discuss other traffic signs and signals seen on roads in the community.

Suggested Internet Resources
Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com.

• education.dot.gov/k5/gamk5.htm
  The United States Department of Transportation presents this site for kids who are interested in learning about various modes of transportation, careers in transportation and pioneers in transportation.

• www.dot.state.tx.us/kidsonly/TransPg/Transport.htm
  Learn about airplanes, trolleys, ferry boats and 18-wheeler trucks with this web site for kids by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Suggested Print Resources

Transportation

Grades Pre-K–2

No matter where you live — by the sea or in the mountains, in a bustling city or along a sprawling countryside — you are a part of a community. My Community introduces students to the concept of community — a place where people live, work and play. They will explore the places that are an integral part of a community while learning about the role these places play and meeting the people that make them work. Students will discover similarities and differences among communities as they explore the diversity of urban, suburban and rural areas. They are encouraged to think about their own role in the community as they learn that the neighborhood they live in is a part of a community.
Program Overview
How do you move around your community? This program looks at all of the ways that you can get to places within your community and beyond. Some places are just a short walk away. When you travel there on foot, you are a pedestrian. To get to places that are a little farther away, you might hop into a car or catch a ride on public transportation. Public transportation, such as the bus, is provided by the local government to help people in the community who are on the move. The bus is a great way to get to your destination — just wait at the bus stop and pay your fare when you step aboard. Subways are a form of transportation found in some large cities. The underground trains are able to move many people at one time. If you are traveling outside of your community, depending on how far you need to go, you might take a train, airplane or even a boat! Many workers in the community also rely on transportation to help them do their jobs. Transportation brings your community to you and connects you to every other community, too!

Vocabulary
community — A place where people live, work and play. The town or city you live in is a community.
transportation — A way of moving people or goods from one place to another.
pedestrian — A person who travels on foot.
car — Also called an automobile, a 4-wheeled vehicle that can carry passengers from place to place.
taxicab — A car whose driver will take you where you need to go for money, called a fare.
public transportation — Transportation that is provided to the community by the government. The bus is a common example.
route — In public transportation, a set path that is traveled to pick up and drop off passengers.
bus stop — A waiting area along a bus’s route where passengers are picked up and dropped off.
bus driver — A community worker who drives a bus along an assigned route, safely picking up passengers, collecting fares and dropping them off.
fare — The fee, or money, people pay to move from one place to another.
subway — Underground railroads with electric trains that can move many people. It is a form of public transportation found in many large cities.
engineer — A person who operates a train, controlling its speed and watching out for any problems on the track.
conductor — A person who is in charge of a train. This person collects fares, or tickets, from passengers.
ferry — A boat that moves people, and sometimes cars, over a river, lake or other body of water. It is operated by a ferry captain.
airplane — A vehicle that is able to fly through the air. An airplane can move people or goods. It is operated by a pilot.
airport — A place where airplanes land and take off from.
airline — A business that moves people and goods from one place to another aboard airplanes.

air traffic controller — A person who works in an airport control tower to monitor all airplanes so that they safely move on land and in the air.

Pre-viewing Discussion
Use the following questions to help students recall their own ideas about transportation:
• How do you get to school?
• How to you get to places that are outside of your community?

Focus Questions
1. What is transportation? List some examples.
2. How does a pedestrian move about the community?
3. Why do you need a license to drive a car?
4. What is public transportation? List some examples.
5. How does a subway help people to get around? Do all cities have a subway?
6. How do road signs help people to stay safe when they are on the move?
7. Describe the jobs of the engineer and conductor on the train.
8. What is a ferry? How does a ferry move people from one place to another?

Follow-up Discussion & Activities
• Communities have many different places that deal with transportation. They might include harbors, service stations and train stations. Take students on a field trip to visit one of these places. Students can interview the workers there and tour the location to learn more about its importance and how it operates.
• In addition to moving people, transportation is used to move goods that people need from one place to another. Sometimes, goods might travel on boats, trains or planes before they reach stores in your community. Share with students pictures of freight trains, cargo ships, 18-wheeler trucks and other forms of transportation that help to move goods. Look at a map to determine how items such as oranges from Florida, potatoes from Iowa and lobsters from Maine might be transported to stores in your community. Would they move by land, air or water to get to their destination?
• Brainstorm with students all of the different types of transportation that exist to move people and goods from one place to another. Also consider the transportation, such as police cars, ambulances and utility trucks, used by community workers to do their jobs. Work with students to create an ABC class book all about transportation. You may also want to share Alphabeep!: A Zipping, Zooming ABC by Debora Pearson (Holiday House, 2003).
• Find out the fare for students to use public transportation in your community. Engage students in a coin-counting activity to determine all of the different combinations of coins that can be used to pay the fare. As an extension, students may enjoy the experience of planning a trip on a bus or subway. Obtain route maps to help students determine the way to a fun destination.

(Continued)