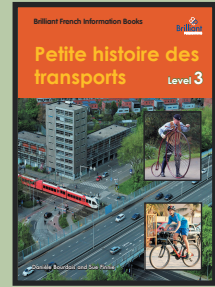


Petite histoire des transports

This book concentrates on some early and more modern forms of transport.

Many inventors had worked on developing a bicycle, but the Michaux' was the first commercially successful design, with rotary cranks and pedals fixed to the front wheel hub.



Cugnot was a military engineer who designed machines to transport cannons for the French army. You can see his *farrier à vapeur* at the *Musée des Arts et Métiers* in Paris.

Louis Blériot was an inventor as well as a pilot. He invented a headlamp for trucks and the money made from manufacturing them went towards the cost of his flights. He also set up a successful aircraft manufacturing company.

The Channel Tunnel links Folkestone in Kent to Coquelles in northern France. The tunnel was opened in May 1994 and passenger train services began later that year.

Laika a stray dog from the streets of Moscow was the first living creature to be sent into space, as a precursor to human space missions. Note the feminine form of *le chien*, which is *la chienne*.

Pupils could research more details on these and other forms of transport.

Answers: 1a, 2b, 3b, 4c

English translation

A short history of transport

p2 In the modern world, there are lots of different means of transport: planes, boats, trains, bicycles, cars, etc. But the first means of transport was ... animals! Horses, donkeys, elephants

and camels, for example.

- p3 Bicycles. The first bicycles haven't got any pedals. In 1861, in France, Ernest Michaux and his father Pierre invent the first bicycle with pedals.
- p4 Cars. In 1769, a French engineer, Joseph Cugnot, invents the first car. It is a steam-powered machine. It has three wheels.
- p5 Planes. The first person to cross the Channel (the sea between France and England) by plane, is a French pilot, in 1909. His name is Louis Blériot. The flight lasts 36 minutes.
- p6 Trains. Today there is a tunnel to go from France to England. This tunnel (under the Channel) is 50 450 meters long. The longest tunnel in the world is the Seikan tunnel in Japan. It is 55 850 meters long.
- p7 Spacecraft. There are now rockets to travel into space. Who went into space for the first time in 1957 on board Sputnik 2? A man? A woman? No! It was Laïka, a Russian dog. French rockets are launched at Kourou, in Guyana. This is a French territory in South America.
- p8 Planes, boats, trains, bicycles, cars ...
Which is the fastest? The most comfortable?
The most interesting? The least expensive? The least polluting?
- p9 Do you have a good memory?
1. Ernest and Pierre Michaux
 - a) invent a bicycle b) invent a car c) travel in space
 2. In what year does Blériot cross the Channel?
 - a) 1869 b) 1909 c) 1957
 3. What means of transport does Cugnot invent?
 - a) a plane b) a car c) a rocket
 4. The tunnel under the Channel
 - a) is the same length as the Seikan tunnel.
 - b) is longer than the Seikan tunnel.
 - c) is not as long as the Seikan tunnel

Which means of transport do you prefer?