



## Minnesota Railroads (Land)

**LENGTH:** Five 45 minute periods

**CURRICULUM:** Reading, Art, Speech

**OBJECTIVES:** Student will increase their awareness of the railroad system in Minnesota. The student will read for information using text, maps, graphs and charts. The student will interpret the information and demonstrate the comprehension of material read.

**EDUCATIONAL LEVEL:** Grades 4 - 5

### MATERIALS:

1. Video "**The Engine That Drives America**" (Mn/DOT Library)
2. ***The World of Speed*** by Jonathan Rutland
3. Booklet "**Information about Minnesota Railroads**"
4. Construction paper
5. Markers
6. Pencils
7. Names of major railroads written on small pieces of paper place in a shoe box (i.e. Northern Pacific, Burlington Northern, Soo Line, Duluth Mesaba and Iron Range, Canadian Pacific etc.)

### PROCEDURE:

1. Watch video. Discuss with students.
2. With students in groups of two or three, have them pick a railroad name out of the box.
3. Using the available resources (video, booklet, and book), have students do research on their railroad to determine:
  - a. number of employees
  - b. miles of track
  - c. main type of freight
  - d. company logo
  - e. other interesting facts
4. Have students create a product (poster, chart, or model) which will display their researched information in a neat and concise manner.
5. Have students present their final product to the class.

### POINTS TO DISCUSS:

If railroads were to stop running, what impact would this have on our country and its economy?  
How would it affect you personally?

**Pictures on next page---**

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