



DESIGN A STAGECOACH

This activity allows students to delve into historical technology and transportation design by constructing a historically accurate (or creatively adapted) model of a Cobb and Co coach.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Cardboard boxes for the coach body
- Paints and brushes for decoration
- Wooden dowels or skewers for axles
- Plastic bottle caps or small wooden wheels
- Fabric scraps for curtains or seats
- Glue, scissors, and other craft tools
- Images of Cobb and Co coaches for reference

ACTIVITY STEPS

- 1 Study Historical Designs:** Begin with a session reviewing what Cobb and Co coaches looked like, focusing on features essential for rugged terrains like sturdy wheel design, suspension techniques, and the boxy shape of the coach.
- 2 Design Sketches:** Have students sketch their stagecoach designs, incorporating both historical features and any creative elements they want to add.
- 3 Construction:**
 - Use cardboard to form the body of the coach. Students can cut out windows and doors.
 - Attach the wheels using wooden dowels as axles. Ensure the wheels are sturdy enough to "support" the coach.
 - Decorate the coach using paints to mimic the colours and designs typical of the era. Fabric scraps can be used to create curtains or upholstered seats inside the coach.
- 4 Adding Details:** Encourage students to add creative details such as luggage racks, faux horses in harness, or even figures of drivers or passengers.
- 5 Exhibition and Storytelling:** Display the completed models. Each student or group can tell the story of their coach's design, including any creative adaptations they made and explaining how their design would handle a journey to Geelong.

Uses the creative arts to express ideas and make meaning.

