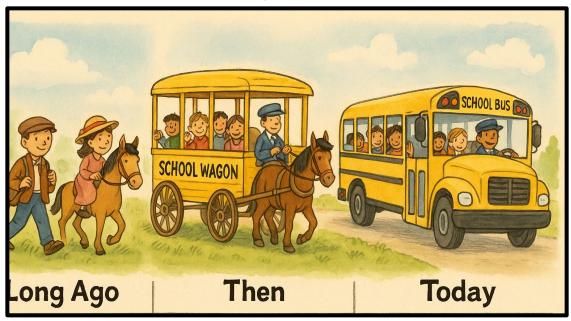
Read the short story and answer each question.



The First School Buses

Long ago, children walked or rode horses to school. Some children lived far away and had to travel a long time each day.

In the early 1900s, schools started using wagons pulled by horses. These were the first school buses. They were called "school wagons."

Later, people began using cars and trucks to carry more students. Over time, school buses became larger and stronger.

Today, school buses are bright yellow and have flashing lights. They are made to carry many students safely.

The need to help kids get to school led to the invention of school buses. Each change helped students travel easier and faster.



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The First School Buses

- 1. What were the first school buses called?
- A. School wagons
- B. School trains
- C. School bikes
- D. Horse carriers

- 2. What is one reason school buses were invented?
- A. To teach kids how to drive
- B. To help students get to school more easily
- C. To carry books home
- D. To clean the roads

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The first school buses were pulled by ______.

4. What is the connection between the need for safe travel and the invention of school buses?

5. How did school transportation change from the past to today?

Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: H Lexile Level: 200L-350L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, Middle of the Year **Genre:** Informational Text (History & Community)

Introducing the Text

"Today we're reading about how school buses were invented. We'll look closely at how one event led to another—how the need for safer and faster travel helped create new ways to get students to school. This helps us understand how ideas and events are connected in nonfiction."

Vocabulary: school wagon, invention, travel, flashing, safer

Before Reading Discussion Questions

- How do you get to school each day?
- What do you think kids did before school buses were made?
- 3. Why do you think it's important to help kids travel safely?

During Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What was the first kind of school transportation?
- 2. Why did buses change over time?
- 3. What idea caused school buses to be invented?

After Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. How is the invention of school buses connected to students' needs?
- 2. How did the changes in school transportation make travel better?
- 3. What is something you learned about the past from this passage?

Activity Idea

Give students a 3-part timeline: "Long Ago," "Then," and "Today." Students draw or paste a picture of a school wagon, an old bus, and a modern school bus in each box. Under each, they write or dictate a sentence about how school travel improved and why it changed.

