

# That's Fare!

**Learning Objective:** Students will learn about the different types of trolley fare (money, tickets, and tokens) and how the type of fare and fare collection evolved to fit the changing needs of society and the privately owned trolley companies.

**Introduction:** In the early 1900s, trolley companies were looking to make money by charging passengers a fee to ride so trolley lines ran almost everywhere people lived, worked, or wanted to go! Trolley passengers were charged a fare for each ride and transfer and could pay with money or tickets and tokens. From 1905-1910, trolley companies experimented with different methods of more efficient fare collection and tracking, such as rearranging car interiors to alter passenger flow, fare boxes, and fare registers.

## Essential Questions:

Why did trolley companies charge passengers a fee to ride?

How and why did the type of fare and the method of fare collection change?

## Learning Activities:

- Create Your Own Fare
- Calculate Your Fare
- Register Your Fare
- Purchase Discount Tickets

## Learn more:

- "That's Fare! Tokens, Tickets, and Transfers"
- "Fare and Square: Car Design, Fare Collection, and Changing Technologies"

## Trolley Terms:

Tokens-Also known as metal tickets, tokens were often made of cheap aluminum or more costly bronze and featured cutouts in the form of letter shapes to distinguish tokens from money coins. Each token had a unique design to represent the location of service or company. Both the front (obverse) and the back (reverse) had designs on them.

Tickets- Usually made from paper or celluloid, tickets ranged in size, shape, and color depending on the trolley company.

Celluloid- Transparent plastic. Celluloid tickets could be disc shaped and approximately the size of a nickel.

Fare Register- The conductor used this machine inside the trolley when taking fares to record and count the number and/or type of fares collected.

Fare Box- Passengers drop their tokens or money into this strong metal box inside the trolley when paying for their ride. Some fare boxes have 2 compartments – a clear part on top with glass windows for the conductor to inspect the fare, and a secure, locked bottom part to hold the fares.

Conductor-The conductor serves as the second member of a two-man car team. Duties include assisting with boarding, collecting and counting fare, ensuring the safety of the passengers, and helping the operator as needed.

Operator- The operator or motorman is responsible for the safe operation of the trolley. If operating a one man car, the operator is also responsible for monitoring fare collection.

Ticket Punch- Conductors used a ticket punch to mark tickets as used (think about the Polar Express conductor!). Punches had distinctive patterns giving each conductor a unique punch mark. At the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum, conductors still punch tickets during each trolley ride.

Pay As You Enter (PAYE)- In the PAYE system, fares are collected from passengers as they board instead after passengers are seated. This sped up boarding and decreased the amount of missed fares.