

**A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS ABOUT CARS**  
**Preschool – Grade 8**  
**Developed for the California Automobile Museum**  
**Linda Jewett, School Library and Literature Consultant**  
**2009**

**NON-FICTION BOOKS:**

**AMERICAN CARS BEFORE 1950.** Craig Cheetham. Gareth Stevens. (*American Cars Through the Decades* series). 2007. Grades 3-6. Popular American cars manufactured prior to 1950 are featured in this book, including the Auburn Speedster, Model T Ford, Stutz Bearcat, and others. Illustrated with brightly colored photographs, and the feature “Under the Skin” allow the reader to see under the hood of each car. Includes Glossary, Bibliography and Index.

**AMERICAN CARS OF THE 1950s.** Craig Cheetham. Gareth Stevens. (*American Cars Through the Decades* series). 2007. Grades 3-6. Brief profiles of popular cars made in the 1950s are featured in this book, including the Chevrolet Bel Air, Ford Thunderbird, Plymouth Fury, and others. Illustrated with brightly colored photographs, and the feature “Under the Skin” allow the reader to see under the hood of each car. Includes Glossary, Bibliography and Index.

**AMERICAN CARS OF THE 1960s.** Craig Cheetham. Gareth Stevens. (*American Cars Through the Decades* series). 2007. Grades 3-6. Brief profiles of popular cars made in the 1960s are featured in this book, including the Corvette Sting Ray, Ford Mustang, Plymouth Roadrunner, and the Pontiac GTO. Illustrated with brightly colored photographs, and the feature “Under the Skin” allow the reader to see under the hood of each car. Includes Glossary, Bibliography and Index.

**AMERICAN CARS OF THE 1970s.** Craig Cheetham. Gareth Stevens. (*American Cars Through the Decades* series). 2007. Grades 3-6. Brief profiles of popular cars made in the 1970s are featured in this book, including the Chevrolet Camaro and Chevelle, Ford Mustang Mach 1, and the Pontiac Firebird. Illustrated with brightly colored photographs, and the feature “Under the Skin” allow the reader to see under the hood of each car. Includes Glossary, Bibliography and Index.

**AMERICAN CARS OF THE 1980s.** Craig Cheetham. Gareth Stevens. (*American Cars Through the Decades* series). 2007. Grades 3-6. Brief profiles of popular cars made in the 1980s are featured in this book, including the De Lorean DMC12, Ford Mustang LX, Jeep CJ-7, and the Pontiac Fiero. Illustrated with brightly colored photographs, and the feature “Under the Skin” allow the reader to see under the hood of each car. Includes Glossary, Bibliography and Index.

**AMERICAN CARS OF THE 1990s AND TODAY.** Craig Cheetham. Gareth Stevens. (*American Cars Through the Decades* series). 2007. Grades 3-6. Brief profiles of popular cars made in the 1990s to the present are featured in this book, including the AM General Hummer,

Chrysler Sebring, Lincoln Navigator, and others. Illustrated with brightly colored photographs, and the feature “Under the Skin” allow the reader to see under the hood of each car. Includes Glossary, Bibliography and Index.

**AUTO MECHANIC.** Aileen Weintraub. Children’s Press. (*Great Jobs* series). 2004. Grades 2-4. This book begins with a short history of the automobile and then covers in three chapters what it takes to be a mechanic, what a mechanic does, and what the future holds for mechanics. The text is illustrated with color photographs. Tidbit sidebars enhance the text. Includes Glossary, Bibliography, Resources, and Index.

**THE AUTOMOBILE.** Robyn Conley. Children’s Press. (*Inventions That Shaped the World* series). 2005. Grades 4-6. This book presents a concise history of the automobile and contains illustrated photographs and a timeline detailing the creation and development of early machines by Henry Ford, Karl Benz, George Selden, and others. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**BEHIND THE WHEEL: POEMS ABOUT DRIVING.** Janet Wong. McElderry. 1999. Grade 6+. Thirty-six poems look at various aspects of driving, including passing the written driver's test, being pulled over by a cop, and having an accident, and treat each as a metaphor for life.

**CAR.** Richard Sutton. DK Eyewitness Books. 2005. Grades 3-8. An encyclopedic photo essay about the history, development, and impact of automobiles from horseless carriages and Model T Fords to modern high-performance racing cars; featuring detailed cutaway photos showing how the moving parts of a car work. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**CAR SCIENCE.** Richard Hammond. DK Publishing. 2008. Grades 5-8. Diagrams, cutaways, color photos, computer graphics, and succinct text offer an illustrated examination of how cars work. The format of the book is encyclopedic photo essay with topics such as power, speed, handling, and technology. Each sub-topic is on a large 2-page spread. Includes Index.

**CARS.** Richard Abraham. Children’s Press. 2004. Grades 4-7 This book explores how automobiles both reflect and shape popular culture in America. Chapter titles: Start Your Engines, America Hits the Road, Dream Machines, and Cars of the Future. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**CARS.** Nancy Smiler Levinson. Illus. by Jacqueline Rogers. Holiday House (Level 2 Reader). Grades 1-3. This beginning reader relates the early history of the automobile and describes the impact it has had on modern society. The watercolor illustrations depict early automobiles in action. Includes Time Line, Glossary, and Different Engines. California author.

**CARS.** Chris Oxlade. Revised edition. Heinemann Library. (*Transportation Around the World* Series). 2008. Grades 1-4. Simple text and photographs describe a variety of cars, including family cars, limousines, dragsters, and hybrid automobiles. Includes Time Line, Glossary, Bibliography, and Index.

**CARS IN AMERICA.** Andrea C. Nakaya, Editor. Greenhaven Press/Thomson Gale. (*Opposing Viewpoints* series). 2006. Grades 6+. A collection of essays that debate issues concerning America's use of the automobile. Chapter titles are: How Do Cars Affect Life in the United States?; How Can Driving in America Be Made Safer?; How Should Youth Driving Be Regulated?; How Can the United States Meet Its Future Transportation Needs? Each chapter is broken down into pro and con essays about specific issues addressed in the chapters. Includes Bibliography and Index. This book is a terrific discussion starter about ethical and legal issues that face all drivers.

**CLASSIC CARS.** Jeffrey Zuehlke. Lerner. 2007. Grades 4-7. This book examines the history and culture of classic cars and features photographs and descriptions of representative automobiles. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**CLASSIC CARS: 1931-1980.** Norm Mort. Crabtree Publishing. 2007. Grades 3-8. Large color photos and succinct text illustrate the history of famous cars from 1931-1980.

**CONCEPT CARS.** Jeffrey Zuehlke. Lerner. 2007. Grades 4-7. This book explains what concept cars are, explores their history, discusses how they are designed and built, and describes the unique features of several examples, such as the 1957 Ford Nucleon. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**COOL CARS.** Seymour Simon. SeaStar Books. 2003. Illustrated with photos. Grades K-3. This beginning reader presents facts about, and photographs of all kinds of cars, from 1886 Benz, to the popular VW Beetle, to a luxury Rolls Royce, to the Thrust SSC, the fastest car in the world. Large photos fill each page. This book is suitable for the beginning reader, the reluctant reader, and the English language learner.

**CRAZY CARS.** Matt Doeden. Lerner. 2007. Grades 4-7. An overview of "crazy cars," automobiles that are unique for the sake of art, advertising, or simply innovation, which presents historical examples, describes various car concepts, and discusses crazy-car culture. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**DRAW CARS.** Doug DuBosque. North Light Books. c1993, 1998. Grades 4-8. This is a how-to-draw book of famous American cars. General drawing techniques are explained, and tips on how to draw special effects are included.

**DRAW IT! CARS.** Patricia Walsh. Illustrated by David Westerfield. Heinemann. C2001, 2006. Grades 4-6. This book is a step-by-step guide on how to draw cars from the Ford Model T to the Hummer. Includes Glossary, Art Glossary, Bibliography, Index.

**DRIVING AROUND THE USA: AUTOMOBILES IN AMERICAN LIFE.** Martin W. Sandler. Oxford University Press. (*Transportation in America* series). 2003. Grades 4-8. This photo essay presents a history of the car in America and how it has impacted society and customs. Students will be fascinated by the bright archival photos and prints that blend nicely with the text. One caption (pg. 38) identifies the photo as being from 1945; however many of the

cars shown are later models, and the film depicted was produced in the 1950s. While this error somewhat compromises the quality of the book, in general it is an accurate historical, sociological and cultural presentation of cars in America. Includes Timeline, Places to Visit, Bibliography, Index.

**EAT MY DUST! HENRY FORD'S FIRST RACE.** Monica Kulling. Illustrated by Richard Walz. Random House. (*Step Into Reading, Step 3* series). 2004. Grades 1-3. This beginning reading book relates the excitement caused by Henry Ford as he drove the "horseless carriage" he built – especially when he decided to enter a race to win money to build a new car that any working man could afford. The whimsical illustrations are filled with action and excitement.

**ELECTRIC DREAMS: ONE UNLIKELY TEAM OF KIDS AND THE RACE TO BUILD THE CAR OF THE FUTURE.** Caroline Kettlewell. Carroll & Graf Publishers. 2004. Grades 6+. This book recounts the true story of a group of rural North Carolina high school students who entered a high-tech contest sponsored by local utility companies and, beating all the odds, built an award-winning electric car. This book will grab the reader who is creative, loves challenges, just might want to try building an electric car!

**FROM IRON TO CAR.** Shannon Knudsen. Lerner. (*Start to Finish Series*). 2004. Grades K-2. Many urban children do not know that milk comes from a cow – nor that automobiles begin as pieces of metal. In this beginning research book, photographs and large text trace the process by which a car is made, from the mining of the iron ore, until the vehicle hits the road. This book would be best used with supplementary materials because it shows a complex process in just a few pages. Includes Glossary and Index.

**GET UP AND GO! THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN ROAD TRAVEL.** Sylvia Whitman. Lerner. 1996. Grades 4-7. Archival photos and interesting text examines how people have traveled across the U.S. on roads from Indian trails to interstate highways. Also describes the development of different means of transportation and their impact on American society. Includes bibliography and index.

**GREAT AUTO MAKERS AND THEIR CARS.** Bob Italia. Oliver Press. (*Profiles Series*). 1993. Grades 5-8. This book introduces some of the men whose ideas and innovations shaped the development of modern automobiles, including Henry Ford, William Lyons, Ferdinand Porsche, and Karl Benz. Illustrated with black and white photos. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**THE GREAT HORSE-LESS CARRIAGE RACE.** Michael Dooling. Holiday House. 2002. Grade K-3. This book tells the story of the first car race in America, on Thanksgiving Day of 1895, in which Frank Duryea, Oscar Mueller, and Jerry O'Conner battled the elements across Chicago for almost eleven hours and 52 miles to prove the strength and speed of the horseless carriage. Each car had an umpire to make sure the rules were followed, but if a car broke down, it was the driver who had to make all the repairs alone. The oil-on-linen illustrations evoke the period of history and the brutal cold of the race day. The observant reader will notice the black and white dog that enthusiastically follows the race throughout the pages of the book. Includes Author's Note.

**HENRY FORD.** Wil Mara. (*Rookie Biographies* series). Children's Press. 2004. Grades 1-3. In this beginning reader, archival photographs and succinct text provide facts about the life of Henry Ford, inventor of the first modern car, the Model T, and the assembly line method of manufacturing. Includes Index.

**HENRY FORD.** Lola M. Schaefer. Illustrated with archival photos. Pebble Books/Capstone Press. 2000. Grades K-3. This is a very brief biography of Henry Ford for early readers. The format includes a large archival photo with large print and brief text on the facing page. Includes a glossary, bibliography, and index. A nice biography for the student just beginning to research a topic.

**HENRY FORD.** Jane Shuter. Illustrated by Pat Tourret. Heineman Library. (*Lives and Times Set 4 Series*). 2001. Grades 1-3. This book presents the life of the man whose Model T automobile made the gasoline-powered car affordable to Americans. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**HENRY FORD.** Sheila Wyborny. Illustrated with archival photos. KidHaven Press/Gale Group. (*Inventors and Creators* series). 2002. Grades 3-5. This book presents a brief biography of Henry Ford, from his birth in 1863 to his death in 1947. The book discusses his years as an apprentice, his inventions, and the evolution of the Ford automobile up to his death. Includes Notes, Bibliography, and Index.

**HENRY FORD: A PHOTO-ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHY.** Erika Shores. Bridgestone Books (*Read and Discover: Photo Illustrated Biographies Series*). 2004. Grades 3-6. This book introduces the man who changed the American way of life in the early 1900s by inventing the Model T Ford automobile and founding the Ford Motor Company. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**HENRY FORD AND THE ASSEMBLY LINE.** John Bankston. Illustrated with archival photos. Mitchell Lane Publishers. (*Unlocking the Secrets of Science* series). 2004. Grades 4-6. This biography looks at the life and accomplishments of Henry Ford, stressing his invention of the assembly line, which changed not only the automotive industry but all production industries. Includes Henry Ford Chronology, Automobile Timeline, Bibliography, Glossary, Index. **Out of Print – Look in your library!**

**HENRY FORD AND THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY.** Lewis K. Parker. PowerKids Press. (*Reading Power: American Tycoons*). 2003. Grades 3-5. This book describes the life of Henry Ford, who is best known for his development of the Model T – the car that forever changed America. The author also discusses his use of the first moving assembly line. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**HENRY FORD AND THE MODEL T.** Michael O’Hearn. Illustrated by Phil Miller, Keith Wilson, Charles Barnett III; colorist, Melissa Kaercher. Capstone. (*Graphic Library: Inventions and Discovery* series). 2007. Grades 4-7. Tells, in graphic novel format, the story of Henry Ford and his popular Model T automobile. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**HENRY FORD AND THE MODEL T CAR.** Monica Rausch. Weekly Reader Early Learning Library. 2007. Grades K-3. Photographs, illustrations, and simple text describe the life and success of Henry Ford, whose invention of the Model T and the development of the assembly line revolutionized the automobile industry. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**HENRY FORD: BUILDING CARS FOR EVERYONE.** Pat McCarthy. Illustrated with archival photos. Enslow Publishers. (*Historical America Biography* series). 2002. Grades 5-8. An excellent biography of Henry Ford, the American inventor and industrialist, who is best known for making the automobile practical, inventing the assembly line, and making a car every working man could afford. Side notes give insights to Ford’s personality as do the many anecdotal incidents present in the book. Includes Chronology, Chapter Notes, Glossary, Bibliography, and Index.

**HENRY FORD: CARS FOR EVERYONE.** Daryl Davis Zarzyck. Mitchell Lane Publishers. 2004. Grades K-3. This book presents a short biography of Henry Ford and chronicles his family and childhood, his work as an apprentice, and his invention of the quadricycle and the Model T, as well as the creation of the Ford Motor Company. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**HENRY FORD: THE CAR MAN.** Carin T. Ford. Enslow. (*Famous Inventors Series*). 2003. Grades 2-4. This is a simple biography of the man who revolutionized American industry with his assembly-line production of cars, beginning with the Model T Ford.

**A HISTORY OF CARS.** David Corbett. Gareth Stevens. (*From Past to Present Series*). 2006. (Previously published by Tunbridge Wells, U.K. in 2003). Grades 3-6. This book presents a short history of the automobile, and examines the first horseless carriage, Henry Ford’s Model T, and the beginning of the moving assembly line. Includes Index.

**HISTORY OF THE CAR.** Elizabeth Raum. Heinemann. (*Inventions That Changed the World* series). 2008. Grades 2-3. Describes the creation of the first car, the changes automobiles have seen over the course of more than a century, and how the car has changed the world. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**THE HISTORY OF TRANSPORTATION.** Judith Herbst. Twenty-First Century Books. 2006. Grades 4-7. This is a general history of transportation – includes the wheel, the sail, the steam engine, the internal combustion engine, and the airplane. The chapter about the internal

combustion engine will be of special interest. Includes Timeline, Glossary, Bibliography of books and websites, Index.

**HONDA: THE BOY WHO DREAMED CARS.** Mark Weston. Illustrated by Katie Yamasaki. Lee & Low. 2008. Grades 3-6. This book is a biography of Japanese businessman Soichiro Honda, founder of the Honda Motor Company. The author focuses on Honda's early influences and later career as an innovative inventor and manufacturer of motorcycles and cars.

**HOTTEST MUSCLE CARS.** Bob Woods. Enslow Publishers. (*Wild Wheels Series*). 2008. Grades 3-6. This book presents the history of muscle cars in America. These super-fast cars include the Camaro, GTO, and others from the 1960s and 1970s. Large color photos of the cars, as well as numerous sidebars called "Wild Fact" will draw the reluctant reader into the text. Includes Glossary, Bibliography, and Index.

**HOTTEST SPORTS CARS.** Bob Woods. Enslow Publishers. (*Wild Wheels Series*). 2008. Grades 3-6. This book presents the stories of famous sports cars such as the Ferrari, the Lamborghini, the Porsche, and the Jaguar. Large color photos of each sports car, as well as numerous sidebars called "Wild Fact" will draw the reluctant reader into the text. Includes Glossary, Bibliography, and Index.

**THE LIFE OF A CAR.** Susan Steggall. Henry Holt. 2008. Preschool- Grade 1. The reader follows the life of a car as it is built, sold, delivered, used daily, and then after a fender-bender, is recycled to build a new car. Bright primary colors and collages and succinct text will delight the young car enthusiast. Originally published in England, the book shows cars with the steering wheel on the right – however, this will not detract from the book.

**LOWRIDERS.** Danny Parr. Capstone High-Interest Books. (*Wild Ride Series*). 2002. Grades 3-6. This book discusses the history and culture of the customized cars called lowriders. Chapters include details about lowriders, early models, and how the cars are customized. The first lowriders were built in the Mexican American neighborhoods of southern California, where they are still popular today. The book is illustrated with large color photos. Includes Glossary, Bibliography, and Index.

**LOWRIDERS.** Danny Parr. Chelsea House Publishers. (*Race Car Legends Series*). 2001. Grades 4-6. This book is similar to the book described above, but for a higher grade level. Chapters define a lowrider, the history of the lowrider, lowrider car clubs, and the culture of lowriders. Illustrated with black-and-white photos. Includes Glossary, Bibliography, About the Author, and Index.

**THE MODEL T: A CENTENNIAL HISTORY.** Robert Casey. Illustrated with archival photos and prints. John Hopkins University Press. 2008. Grades: High School to Adult. This comprehensive book is a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> year since the Model T was first offered for sale. The car was manufactured for 19 years and changed the culture of American society forever. This book is filled with wonderful archival photos and prints of marketing posters that enhance the text beautifully and will appeal to all ages. Includes Notes, Bibliography, and Index.

**R IS FOR RACE: A STOCK CAR ALPHABET.** Brad Herzog. Illustrated by Jane Gilltrap Bready. Sleeping Bear Press. 2006. Grades 2-6. In rhyming text the reader is provided with details on the famous drivers, history, and statistics from the sport of stock car racing. From A to Z topics such as Bill France, Daytona, helmets, pit stops, and more are explained and illustrated.

**SPORTS CARS.** Sandra Donovan. Lerner. 2006. Grades 4-7 This book defines sports cars, examines the history and culture of sports cars, and features photographs and descriptions of representative cars. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**THE STORY OF CHEVY IMPALAS.** David K. Wright. Gareth Stevens. (*Classic cars – an Imagination Library series*). 2002. Grades 3-6. This book surveys the history of the Chevy Impala, and discusses its designs, engines, and performance. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**THE STORY OF FORD THUNDERBIRDS.** David K. Wright. Gareth Stevens. (*Classic cars – an Imagination Library series*). 2002. Grades 3-6. This book surveys the history of the Ford Thunderbird, and discusses its designs, engines, and performance. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**THE STORY OF HENRY FORD AND THE AUTOMOBILE.** Zachary Kent. Illustrated with archival photos. Childrens Press. 1990. Grades 4-6. This book is a short biography of Henry Ford that spans his childhood to his death in 1947. It does not present an in-depth look at Ford but rather an overarching account of his accomplishments. The archival photos on each page will fascinate young readers. **Out of Print – Look in your library!**

**THE STORY OF MODEL T FORDS.** David K. Wright. Gareth Stevens. (*Classic cars – an Imagination Library series*). 2002. Grades 3-6. This book surveys the history of the Model T Ford – one of the earliest and most popular cars built in America.

**THE STORY OF PORSCHE.** David K. Wright. Gareth Stevens. (*Classic cars – an Imagination Library series*). 2002. Grades 3-6. This book surveys the history of Porsche cars, and discusses their designs, engines, and performance. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**THE STORY OF VOLKSWAGEN BEETLES.** David K. Wright. Gareth Stevens. (*Classic cars – an Imagination Library series*). 2002. Grades 3-6. This book surveys the history of the Volkswagen Beetle, and discusses its designs, engines, and performance. Includes Bibliography and Index.

**THE TIN LIZZIE: A MODEL-MAKING BOOK.** Frank Ross, Jr. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books. 1980. Grades 6+. This book provides detailed instructions for constructing replicas of several variations of Henry Ford’s dream machine, the Model T. Includes the 1909 touring car, 1913 closed cab pickup truck, 1913 Runabout, and the 1914 speedster. Includes Bibliography. **Out of Print – Look in your library!**

**VINTAGE CARS: 1919-1930.** L. Michelle Nielsen. Crabtree Publishing. 2007. Grades 3-8. This book presents a history of the automobile from 1919-1930 with archival photos of the

stylish cars. Includes information about the mechanics of the machines, advertisements, body types, and the use of vintage cars today. Includes Glossary and Index.

**THE VISUAL DICTIONARY OF CARS.** DK Publishers. (*Eyewitness Visual Dictionaries* series). 1992. Grades 4-8. This book is an encyclopedic presentation of the history of the automobile. This book will especially appeal to children who enjoy detailed cutaway photographs. Index.

**WE NEED AUTO MECHANICS.** Helen Frost. Capstone Press. (*Helpers in Our Community* Series). 2005. Grades K-2. In this book for the beginning reader, auto mechanics are defined, tools are described, and the importance of the role of auto mechanics in car safety is discussed. Large full-page color photos and succinct text give the very beginning reader insight into this occupation. Includes Glossary, Bibliography, and Index.