

# THE ELECTRIC STREETCAR: A Curriculum Guide

Developed in 2000 by

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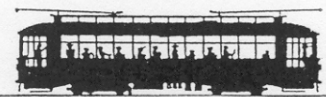
## A MUSEUM ABOUT STREETCARS

The National Capital Trolley Museum preserves and interprets the history of Washington's electric street railway history. A one-mile demonstration railway serves as the Museum's primary interpretive facility. Traditional exhibits, an O scale trolley layout and multimedia presentations also educate and delight visitors of all ages. Using cars selected from the collections, Museum volunteers interpret rural trolley transportation of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The collection of 14 cars spans seventy years of equipment design and service features, many of which originated in the United States and then were later adapted in Canada and Europe. The collection, as a whole, reflects both the global impact of technology pioneered in the United States and the cosmopolitan nature of the Nation's Capital.

The Museum holds its collections in trust for the public and is accountable to the public it serves. Care for its collected objects includes adhering to proper conservation, documentation, handling, storage, exhibition and interpretation procedures. Care for the public includes physical and intellectual access to the objects together with integrity and objectivity in exhibitions, programs, and publications. Using its car collection, demonstration railway, and Visitor Center exhibits, the Museum interprets the nature of urban transportation of the past in a rural setting.

## LESSON PLANS WITH DOCUMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The National Capital Trolley Museum invites teachers to have fun with these suggested plans as they prepare their lessons. Intentionally, there are no grade or age levels indicated. Teachers may photocopy freely and adapt these ideas as they wish to meet student needs. A visit to the Museum will reinforce student understanding of the importance of the electric streetcar.



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Preserving and interpreting the history of electric street railways for the Nation's Capital

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