### **UNIT II: THE GOLDEN AGE (1897-1918)**

**Topic: Agriculture** 

# **Lesson 17: Transportation and Communication**

# **Objective:**

Students will learn that transportation and communication improvements lessened rural isolation.

#### **Materials:**

Student Access to *The Iowa Farmstead*, pp. 7 and 14

#### **Activities:**

- 1. Review the kinds of transportation and communication available to people living in rural areas at the end of the nineteenth century:
  - a. People walked or used horses and wagons for short trips.
  - b. Railroads provided transportation for people and goods for longer journeys.
  - c. Most people did not travel often except to town to do their trading.
  - d. People kept current on the news when they picked up their mail in town, usually no more often than once a week.
- 2. Have students read pp. 7 and 12 of *The Iowa Farmstead*.
  - a. Discuss the advantages of daily mail delivery. Consider the receipt of family letters, newspapers and farm magazines.
  - b. Have the class discuss advantages the telephone brought to farm families. What percent of farm families had telephones by 1920? What does this tell about farm families' desire for telephones?
  - c. Discuss the changes that the automobile brought to the farm. List the advantages on the board.
- 3. Summarize the ways in which the farm family became less isolated with these twentieth century conveniences.

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