



Firefighters in America

by Sienna Jagadorn

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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BOSTON

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America in the 1700s

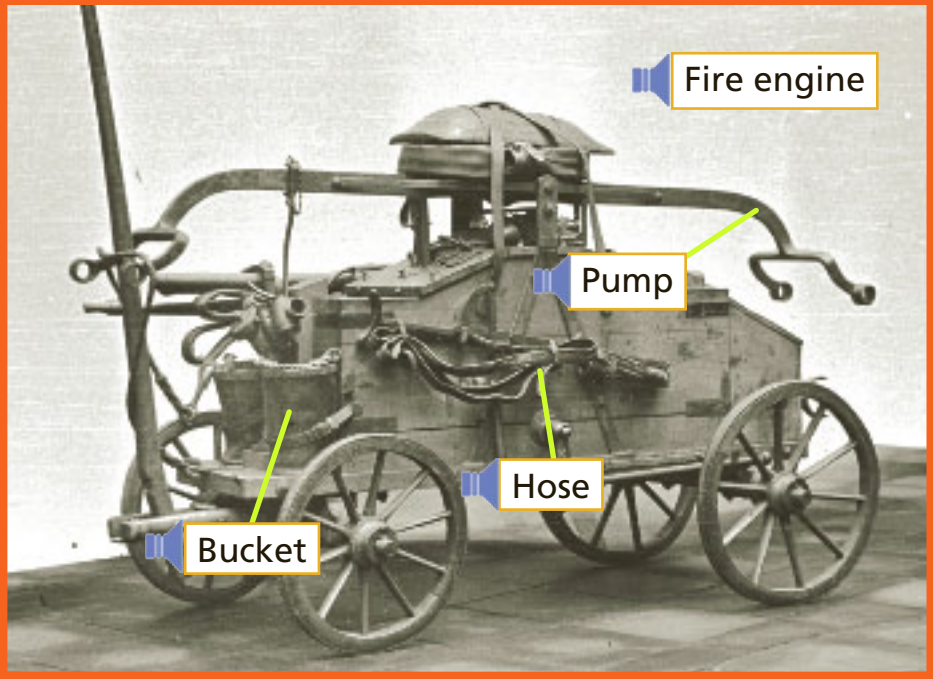
▶ America Long Ago

America was very different in the 1700s. There were no smooth streets or tall buildings. Most people were farmers. They rode horses to go places.

▶ Think of the **inventions** we have today. People did not have many of these things. There were no gas stoves or electric lights. People used fire to cook meals. They burned candles to see at night.



🔊 Sometimes fire in the home was dangerous. Other things could catch fire. Most homes were made of wood. They burned very easily. Homes were also close together. Fires moved quickly from one house to another. People had to protect, or look after, themselves and their homes.



🔊 Fighting Fires in the Past

Boston was the first city to help people keep safe from fire. People in Boston bought a fire engine that was **designed**, or planned, in England.

🔊 Some men in Boston worked as firefighters. They pushed or pulled the engine to a fire. They used buckets to fill a tub with water. Then they pumped the engine. The engine pushed the water from the tub into a hose. Finally, water sprayed out of the hose. It was a lot of work!




Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin helped people in the city of Philadelphia. Franklin made a team of 30 men. He called the team a fire brigade. The fire brigade learned how to put out fires. They practiced. They talked about fire safety. As a result, they could fight fires much better.



Fire engine

 When there was a fire, people rang bells and yelled for help. The fire brigade had an engine that could be pulled to fires. They used horses to pull the engine. The firefighters also carried buckets. They filled the buckets with water when they got to the fire. Then they threw the water on the fire.



Leather bucket



Union Fire Company marker

Benjamin Franklin's fire brigade was called the Union Fire Company. It was America's first fire department. People thought the fire brigade was one of Franklin's best accomplishments.

The Union Fire Company put out many fires. Philadelphia was much safer. The brigade achieved a lot of success. Other cities made fire brigades, too.



Fire truck

Today's Firefighters

Firefighting is very different today. Now firefighters use all kinds of equipment. They do not ride on horses anymore. They ride in trucks. They do not carry buckets of water from wells. They get water from hydrants on the street.



Fire trucks have powerful hoses that can spray large **amounts** of water. Fire trucks also have long ladders that can reach 100 feet off the ground. Firefighters can climb them to reach flames high above the ground.

Today, most firefighters work from fire stations. They keep fire trucks, ladders, and uniforms inside each station. Firefighters eat and sleep in the station when they work for a long time.

Uniforms





Pole

When there is a fire, people call 911 to get help. An alarm goes off at the fire station. Firefighters quickly put on their uniforms. Then they slide down poles to their truck. The firefighters hop on the fire truck and race to the fire.

🔊 Long ago, only men fought fires. Today, women put out fires, too. Some firefighters also help people who are hurt or sick.





Statue

Firefighters are **remarkable**, or very special, heroes. People sometimes write about how brave firefighters are. People even **compose**, or make up, songs and make statues to show how brave the firefighters are!

🔊 What will firefighting be like in the future? What will firefighters' uniforms look like? Maybe fire trucks will fly. Then firefighters can save even more lives!

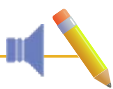
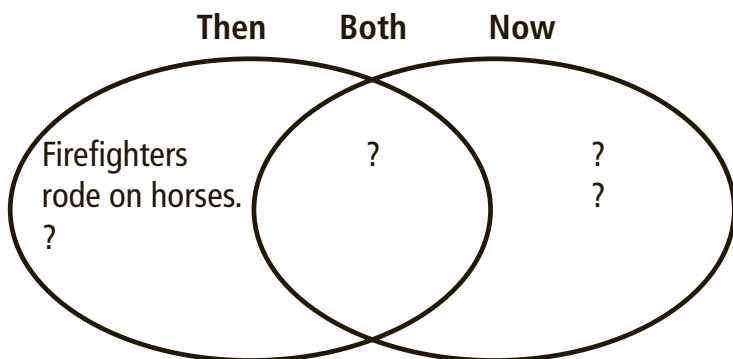


Responding



TARGET SKILL Compare and Contrast

How has firefighting changed? Copy and complete this diagram.



Write About It

Text to World Do you think firefighters should ride on horses or in trucks? Write a paragraph that tells your opinion. Be sure to use opinion words and phrases, such as *should*, *I think*, *I feel*, and so on.



TARGET VOCABULARY

accomplishments
achieved
amounts
compose

designed
inventions
remarkable
result



TARGET SKILL **Compare and Contrast**

Tell how two things are alike or not.



TARGET STRATEGY **Visualize** Picture what

is happening as you read.



GENRE Informational text gives facts about a topic.

Level: M

DRA: 28

Genre:

Informational

Strategy:

Visualize

Skill:

Compare and Contrast

Word Count: 619

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