Milestone Car’s Worksheet

Answer Key

1. What does the theme, “Spirit of Competition” mean? It is becoming better at something as a result of competition.

2. How does this theme work with sports racing cars? Competition/racing helped speed car development.

3. Why is it important to learn about the automobile? Automobiles helped create the mobile society that we have today.

4. Why are these four cars important to learn about? These cars represent important milestones in automotive engineering and design that still effect automobiles today.

5. How are the 1906 Renault Grand Prix cars related to the 1907 Renault 35/45 Runabout? The 1907 Renault 35/45’s were smaller replicas of the 1906 Renault Grand Prix Cars, the best sportscar of that time.

6. What significant feature helped a 1906 Renault win the French Grand Prix? The 1906 Renault Grand Prix Cars had detachable wheel rims, reducing the time needed to change tires.

7. Why are the 1907 Renault 35/45 Runabouts important? They represent early sportscars as street legal and more manageable versions of difficult track race cars.


9. Why is the 1921 Duesenberg 183 grand Prix Car significant? It represents a milestone in American racing history both historically and technically, the first international win for the United States. The next international win coming in 1967. Hydraulic brakes giving it a great advantage over its rivals.

10. What major race did a Duesenberg win in 1921? 1921 French Grand Prix.

11. What feature provided the greatest advantage to the Duesenberg team in 1921? The hydraulic brakes allowed the Duesenberg cars to stop much faster than their rivals.

12. What makes the significant features used by the 1921 Duesenberg 183 Grand Prix Car important to learn about today? Hydraulic brakes became industry standard and are
still used today. Other features like overhead camshafts and overhead valves are features still used today as well.

13. How does the 1936 Bugatti Tanks most significant feature relate to modern cars on the road today? Completely enveloped or cover bodies are what cars use today. This car represents the earliest example where aerodynamics became a major part of the design.

14. What makes the 1967 Ford GT40 Mark IVs among the most important American made cars in history? It has many innovative features (Monocoque/unitized chassis, honeycombing, aerodynamic body) and it was the last American made car with American drivers to win an overall at the 24 hours of Le Mans. It was a technological achievement for Ford Motor Company.

15. What made the Mark IVs successful? Technical innovation and reliability

16. How does the technology used in the Mark IVs relate to modern cars? Its chassis helped develop modern unitized car chassis. Its engine, breaking, cooling, and safety features were important developments as well.

17. Give five examples of how the automobile has effected modern life. Travel, housing, food, shopping, shipping, attitudes, culture, leisure time, spending, sports, communication, safety, industry, manufacturing, developing the world, many acceptable answers.

18. Provide three examples of racing technologies that helped develop production street cars. Safety (seatbelts, crumple zones, fire suits), brakes, hydraulics, aerodynamics, tires, rubber, reliability, design refinement, suspension, lighting (head lights), construction methods (unitized, monocoque, frames, etc.), materials (aluminum, titanium, carbon fiber, plastics, etc.). Many acceptable answers.