

Student Handout 7.1 San Francisco as a Site of Encounter

Background: Later in his life, Andrew Hallidie (Source 7) wrote about how he got the idea for using his invention of wire rope (cable) on trams, or “street railways,” as he called them. Today we call them cable cars. Hallidie organized this text into a cause-and-effect structure. This is a very common pattern in history texts, because historians want to know why things happened and what the results were. There are signal words that authors use with the cause-and-effect structure. Those words are in bold print on the chart. Hallidie’s text is in the middle column. The first column identifies text parts as causes, effects, or details. The arrows show the relationship between a cause and its effect.

Directions:

1. Read the text silently to yourself.
2. With your group, fill in the blanks in the middle column. If the blanks are enclosed in parentheses, write down what the preceding phrase refers to. If the blank has no parentheses, write down the missing words from the text.
3. Discuss and answer the questions in the third column.
4. Finally answer the question, How did Andrew Hallidie get the idea to use wire rope (cables) on street railways (trams)? You may use the space below.

Andrew Hallidie, Wire Rope and Cable Cars

I was largely induced to think over the matter from seeing the difficulty and pain the horses experienced in hauling the cars up Jackson Street, from Kearny to Stockton Street, on which street four or five horses were needed for the purpose — the driving being accompanied by the free use of the whip and voice, and occasionally by the horses falling and being dragged down the hill on their sides, by the car loaded with passengers sliding on its track....

With the view of obviating these difficulties, and for the purpose of reducing the expense of operating street railways, I devoted all my available time to the careful consideration of the subject, and so far matured my plans that I had California Street surveyed ... [in order] to run a rope railway. ...

Vocabulary

induced: caused, led to

obviating: getting rid of, solving

street railways: trams (running on railroad tracks in a city)

matured my plans: started making his design into a real project

How did Andrew Hallidie get the idea to use wire rope (cables) on street railways (trams)?

Cause and Effect: Andrew Hallidie, Wire Rope and Cable Cars
 How did Andrew Hallidie get the idea to use wire rope (cables) on street railways (trams)?

Cause/ Effect/Detail	Text	Questions/Notes
	I was largely induced to think over the matter from	Signal words are bolded
Cause	seeing the _____ the horses experienced in hauling the cars up _____ Street, from Kearny to Stockton Street, on which street	What do the words “hauling” and “up” tell you about Jackson Street?
Detail of Cause	four or five horses _____ for the purpose	Normally only one or two horses were needed and drivers did not have to yell at them or crack the whip. So, what do these details tell us about the street?
Detail of Cause	The driving being accompanied by the free use of the _____, and	
Effect/Cause	Occasionally by the horses _____ and being _____ down the hill on their sides,	What caused the horses to fall?
Effect/Cause	By the car loaded with _____ on its track	What dragged them?
Effect/Cause	With the view of obviating these difficulties (_____), and for the purpose of reducing the expense of operating street railways	Why were the trams so expensive in San Francisco?
Effect	I devoted all my available time to the careful consideration of the subject (_____) and so far matured my plans that I had California Street surveyed ... [in order] to _____ railway	How did Hallidie solve the problem created by these causes?

Answer this question in a short paragraph:

How did Andrew Hallidie get the idea to use wire rope (cables) on street railways (trams)?