

# Curiosity

# Corner

Treasures from the  
FCS Archives

Welcome to *Treasures from the FCS Archives*, a repository of resources for teachers and history enthusiasts! Every month, we are sharing photos, artifacts, documents and other treasures for you to review, discuss and discover. We encourage you to click the links, scan the photos and dig deeper into these treasures, all of which can be found in the Fulton County Schools Archives. Enjoy!

## RAILROAD SIGNAL LAMP: AN INNOVATION IN COMMUNICATION



Rarely does a primary source connect to so many themes and topics like the one featured in this edition of *Curiosity Corner*. The railroad signal lamp (left), part of the Teaching Museum transportation collection, represents one of many types of [signal lights and semaphores](#) used throughout the development of the railroad and transportation industries. It is essentially a communication device, which uses a specific, visual language to ensure the safety of rail travel—part of an evolution of such equipment that originated during the Industrial Revolution.

The [railroad signal lamp](#) is also a century-old artifact, situated in the middle of a transportation timeline— influenced by the major developments in maritime safety that preceded it, yet impacting the way we move about in our own personal vehicles today.

As you explore this edition of *Curiosity Corner*, take the opportunity to visit with the Teaching Museum’s own explorer of primary sources, Professor Inquiry, as he discovers the mysteries of science and history in “[Been Workin’ on the Railroad](#),” a ten-minute film produced by the Teaching Museum and Fulton County Schools Communications Department, funded by the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#).

### Curiosity in the Classroom: *A Closer Look*

Prior to sharing the name or function of this object with your students, let them explore the object and infer its possible function. Click on the image above for a higher resolution jpeg. Ask students to carefully and quietly study the image.

#### Ask students:

- What do you notice about this object?
- What descriptive words come to mind?
- What types of materials were used to make this object?
- How do you think this object was used?
- Who might have used this object? When?

After prompting student observations and curiosity, guide students through discovering answers to their questions through the text on this main page and provided links.

#### Lesson Ideas & Links:

[Elementary School Connections](#)

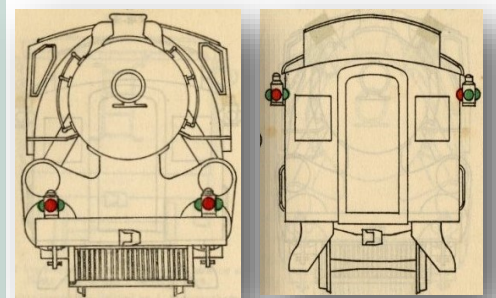
[Related Primary Sources](#)

[Middle School Connections](#)

[Ask the Teaching Museum](#)

[High School Connections](#)

[Additional Online Resources](#)



Images, (above, left) New York Central Railroad Signal Lamp; (above) Directions for signal lamp use, *Rules and Regulations of the Transportation Department, Central of Georgia Railway, 1947*

Fulton County Schools Teaching Museum Transportation collection

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TEACHING MUSEUM  
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For more information and resources or to connect with staff at the *FCS Archives*, contact us at [archives@fultonschools.org](mailto:archives@fultonschools.org)