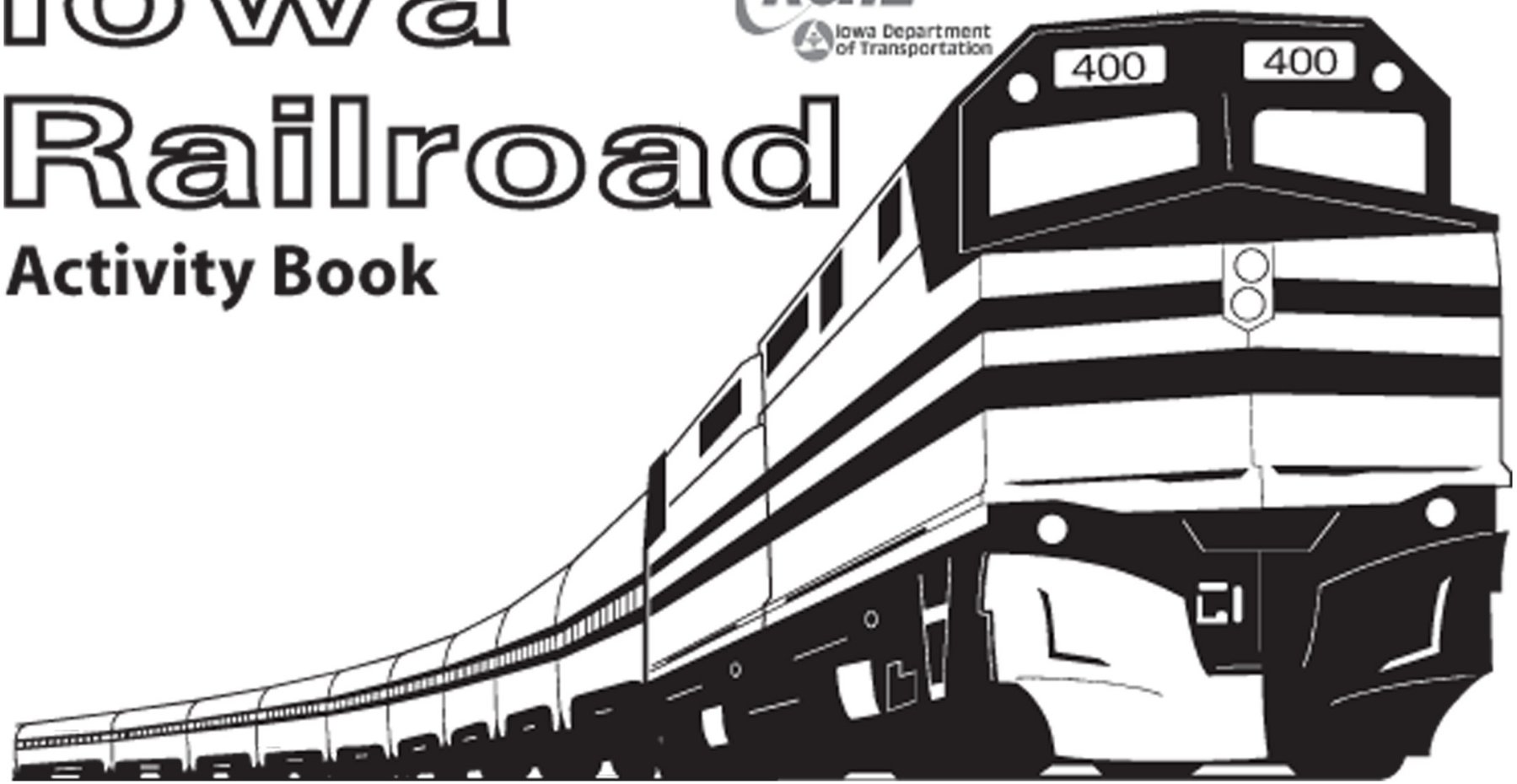
OFFICE OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Iowa Department of Transportation

Iowa Railroad

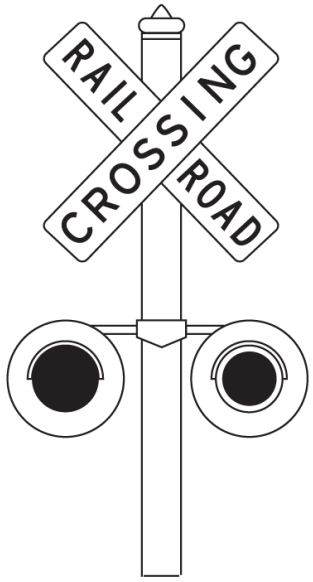
Activity Book



What do the signs mean?

The advance warning sign tells you that a railroad crosses at the road ahead. Watch and listen for trains and be prepared to stop.

A crossbuck sign marks the place where a road crosses a railroad track. This sign tells you to look and listen for a train. If a train is coming, you must stop and let the train go by before crossing the tracks.



Some railroad crossings have lights that flash. Others have flashing lights with a gate that lowers across the road. When the lights are flashing, a train is coming. STOP. NEVER ignore a flashing light or go around a lowered gate.

Fun Fact: A 100-car train takes over a mile to stop. To be safe, stay far away from trains and off the tracks. YOU can stop quickly, but a TRAIN cannot.

Locomotive

The locomotive provides the power to pull the train cars. The engineer drives the locomotive.

The engineer worries when people are on or near the tracks because he knows that trains are big and fast and can't stop easily.

Can you draw the engineer driving the locomotive?

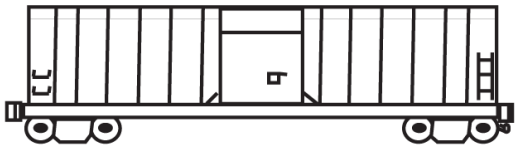
A longer train may have more than one locomotive to provide enough power to pull all the train cars. Sometimes you will even see locomotives at the end of a train, to help "push" the rail cars down the track.

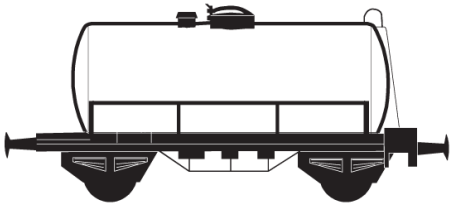
Answer: Tanker Car

Match Game

Match the picture with the name of the rail car. *(Hint: The answers can be found in this activity book.)*

1.

2. 

3. 

4.

A. Hopper Car

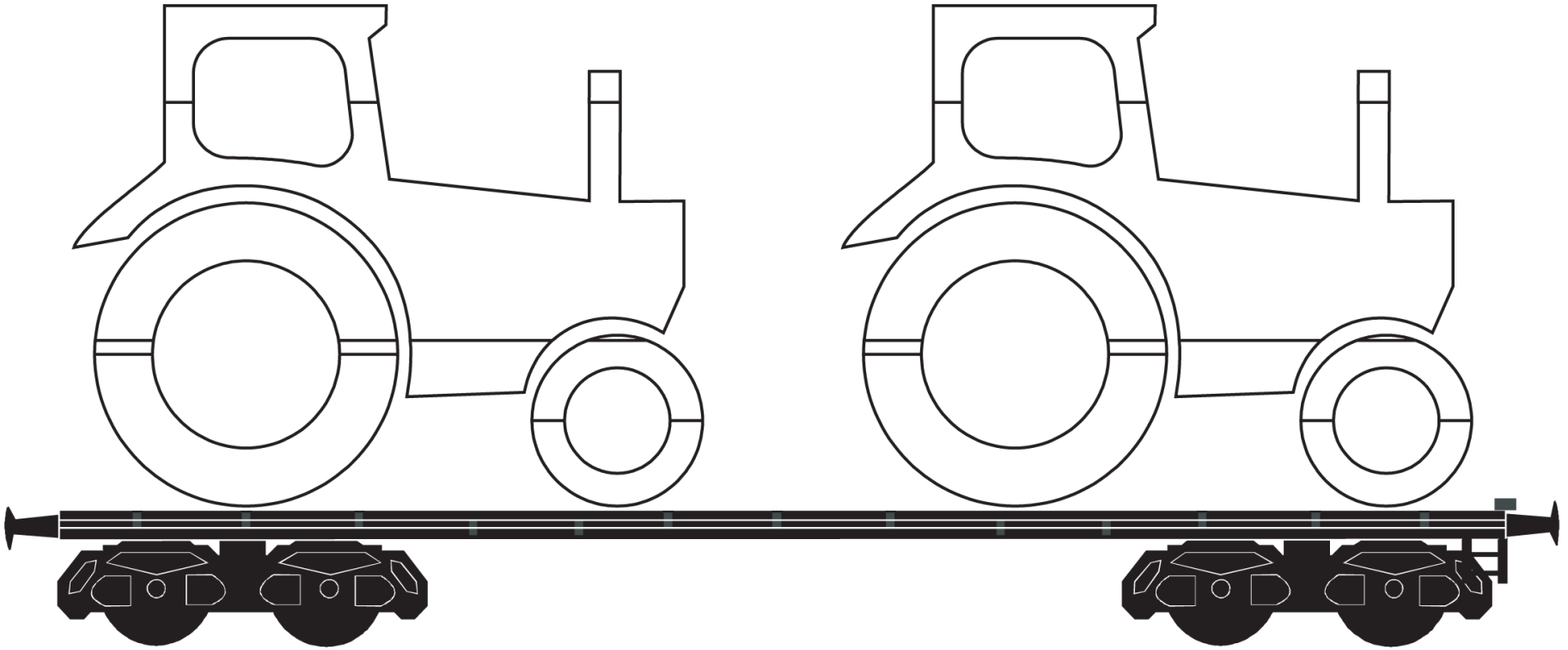
B. Tanker Car

C. Box Car

D. Flat Car

Fun Fact: There are many other types of rail cars for special purposes - rail cars to carry lumber, rail cars to carry cars and trucks, or rail cars that carry truck trailers or containers that can be loaded on trucks.

What is this railroad flat car carrying?



Fun Fact: Farm equipment makers in Iowa ship their products all over the world. To reach countries far away, the equipment is shipped by rail to a seaport and then loaded on a ship to cross the ocean.

Answer: Tractors

Iowa Railroad Word Find

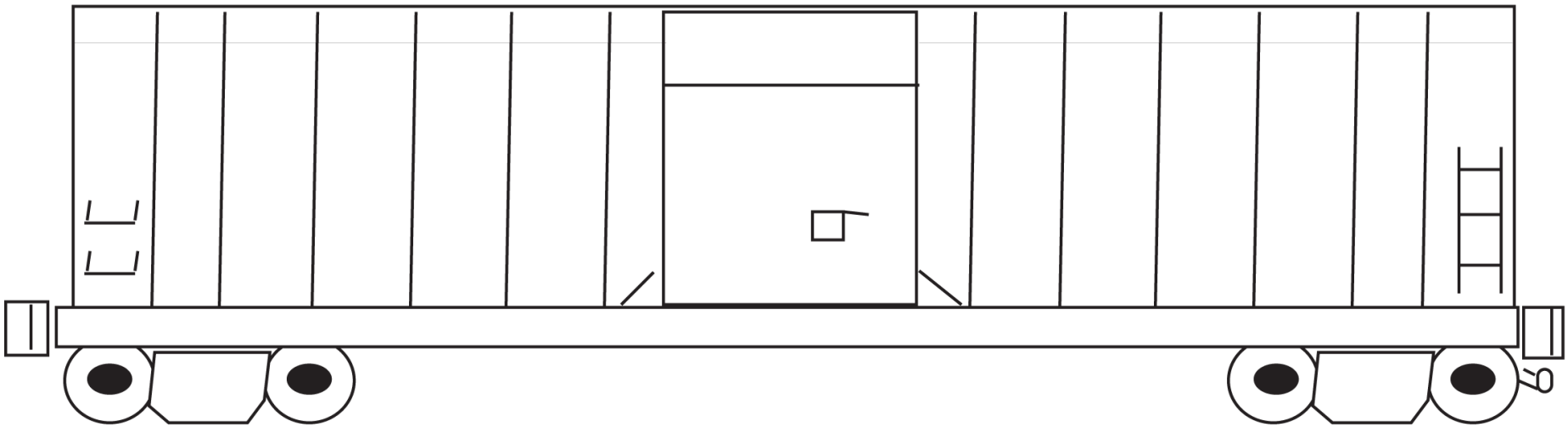
Many railroads have ***very*** long names. To keeps things simpler, railroads are often called a nickname made up of two to four letters. See if you can find the nicknames of these Iowa railroads in the word search.

D A I R X C N I K K
Q S S B I R A A Z L
U A J C G N A I H D
C R M B R R P S P V
Y E C T S D N U E S
D R B F K E C T X B
I W J S I C R T A I
U C R K D M E O H V
L K E R V L Z O Z B
Z J Q F S N B M Y W

AMTK	Amtrak
APNC	Appanoose County Community Railroad
BNSF	BNSF Railway
CEDR	Cedar River Railroad
CIC	Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railway
DAIR	D & I Railroad
DME	Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad
DWRR	D & W Railroad
IAIS	Iowa Interstate Railroad
IANR	Iowa Northern Railway
IATR	Iowa Traction Railway
ICE	Iowa, Chicago and Eastern Railroad
NS	Norfolk Southern Railway
UP	Union Pacific Railroad

This is a box car. Box cars carry many things like food, toys and clothing.

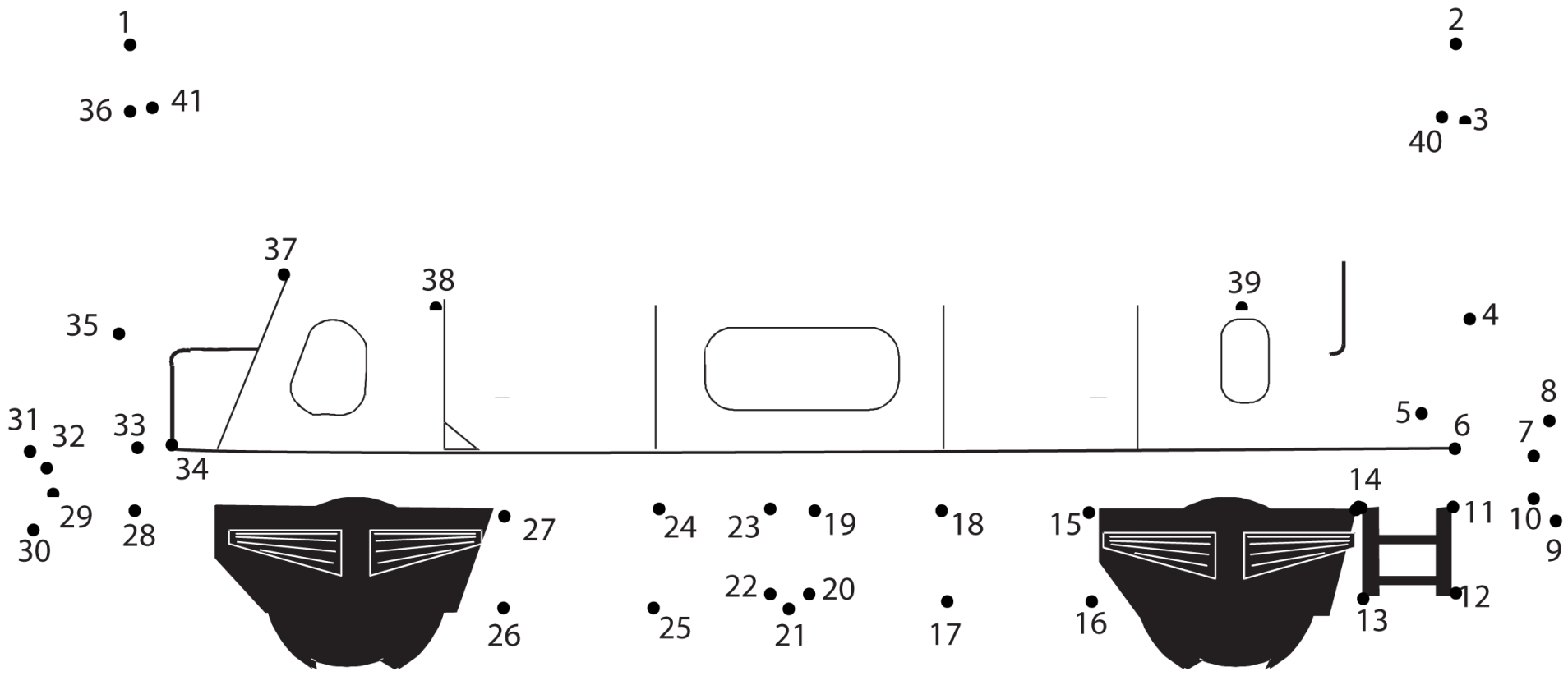
Can you fill the box car by drawing your favorite toys?



Fun Fact: Refrigerated box cars are used to ship fruits, vegetables and frozen foods over a long distance without spoiling.

Do you know what type of rail car this is?

Connect the dots to draw a rail car that often carries coal or rocks.



Fun Fact: Much of our electricity in Iowa comes from burning coal. Almost all the coal is shipped into Iowa by rail.

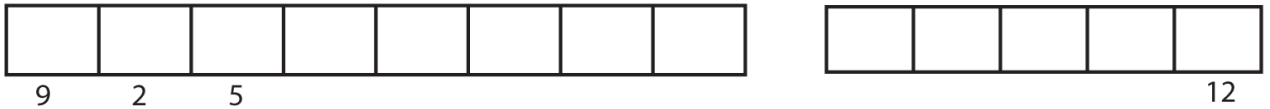
Answer: Hopper Car

Word Scramble

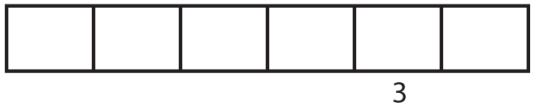
Unscramble each of the clue words.
Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

CORGISNS

SHNIGFAL TILGH



SANGIL

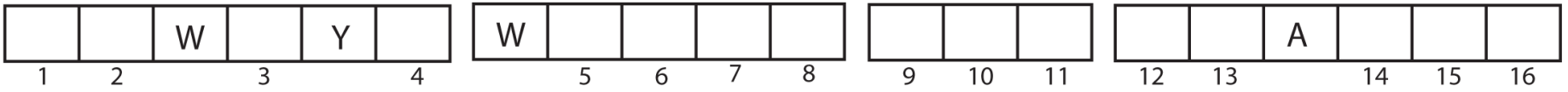


RUOBCSKSC

KARCT

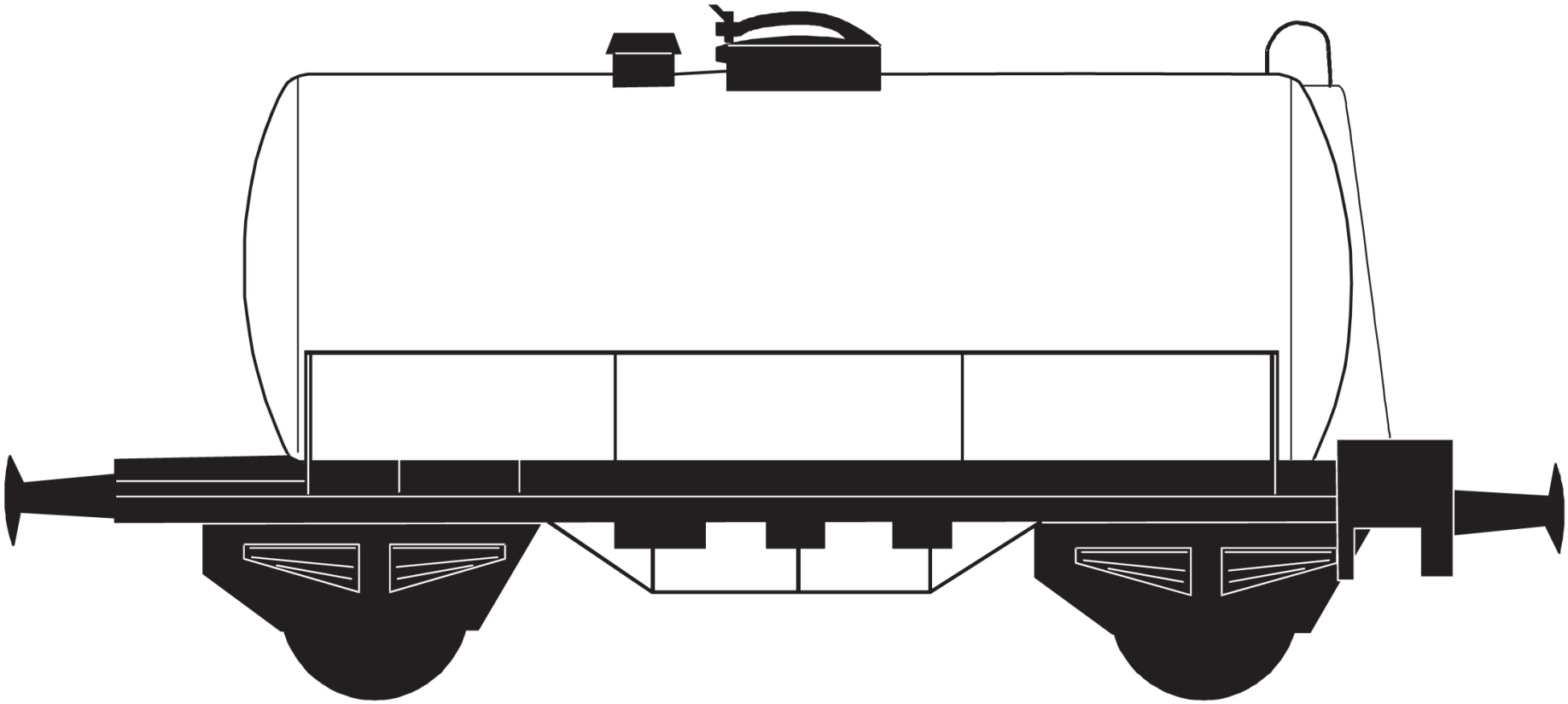
HNRO

Secret Message



This railroad car is used to haul liquids.

This car is filled with a fuel called ethanol that is made from corn. Do you know what type of rail car this is?



Fun Fact: When mixed with gasoline, ethanol reduces the air pollution from cars and trucks.

Answer: Tanker Car

Answers

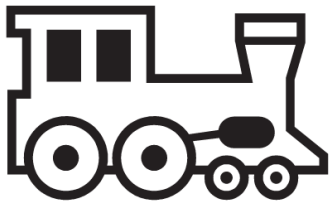
Iowa Railroad Word Find

D	A	I	R	X	C	N	I	K	K
Q	S	S	B	I	R	A	A	Z	L
U	A	J	C	G	N	A	I	H	D
C	R	M	B	R	R	P	S	P	V
Y	E	C	T	S	D	N	U	E	S
D	R	B	F	K	E	C	T	X	B
I	W	J	S	I	C	R	T	A	I
U	C	R	K	D	M	E	O	H	V
L	K	E	R	V	L	Z	O	Z	B
Z	J	Q	F	S	N	B	M	Y	W

AMTK	Amtrak
APNC	Appanoose County Community Railroad
BNSF	BNSF Railway
CEDR	Cedar River Railroad
CIC	Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railway
DAIR	D & I Railroad
DME	Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad
DWRR	D & W Railroad
IAIS	Iowa Interstate Railroad
IANR	Iowa Northern Railway
IATR	Iowa Traction Railway
ICE	Iowa, Chicago and Eastern Railroad
NS	Norfolk Southern Railway
UP	Union Pacific Railroad

Match Game

1. **D**
2. **C**
3. **B**
4. **A**



Word Scramble

CORGISNS	CROSSING (11 4 16 14 15)
SHNIGFAL TILGH	FLASHING (9 2 5) LIGHT (12)
SANGIL	SIGNAL (3)
RUOBCSKSC	CROSSBUCK (13 10 7)
KARCT	TRACK (6 1)
HNRO	HORN (8)

Secret Message

ALWAYS (1 2 3 4) WATCH (5 6 7 8) FOR (9 10 11) TRAINS (12 13 14 15 16)

Be Smart, Be Safe, Stay Alive

AT A CROSSING

Freight trains can come at any time of the day or night, so always look and listen before crossing.

Cross only at marked crossings.

Don't take a shortcut. Walk a little farther and cross at the road crossing.

STOP when the lights are flashing and the gate arm is down.

NEVER go around a gate that is down.

Don't EVER try to beat a train at a crossing. If you are wrong, you will lose.

Listen for warning bells and whistles. Turn off loud music and remove head phones.

Don't stand too close to the tracks.

Look and listen AGAIN before crossing. If one train passes, make sure another one is not coming.

AROUND RAILROAD TRACKS AND TRAINS

Never walk or play on or near railroad tracks.

Never walk out on a railroad bridge or enter a tunnel. You may not be able to get out of the way if a train comes.

Don't trespass on rail property-the tracks and nearby area are the private property of the railroad. Trespassing is illegal.

Don't climb on or crawl under a train.

Don't walk or ride your bike between the cars of a stopped train.

Don't ever try to jump inside a box car.

Don't play inside a rail car.

Don't put coins or other objects on the tracks. You could get hurt or cause a wreck.

ALWAYS expect a train!

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Please recycle.
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