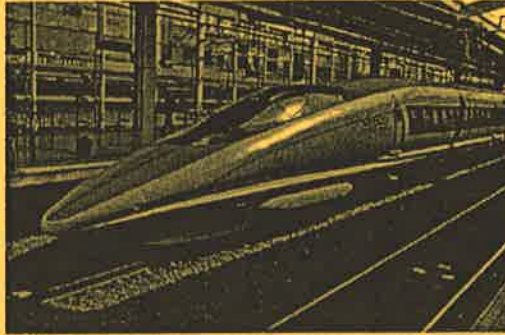


Could the Futuristic Traveling Tube Become a Reality?

By ReadWorks



Imagine a tube that people could use to travel. First, they would get inside a small pod. Then, their pod would shoot through the tube. They would get to the place they wanted to go quickly.

This tube sounds like something in a science fiction movie. But, it may soon become real.

An inventor named Elon Musk is designing the traveling tube. Before, he worked on electric cars and personal space flight. He has called the tube a fifth kind of transportation. "We have planes, trains, automobiles, and boats," he said. "What if there was a fifth mode? I have a name for it...the Hyperloop."

Musk came up with the idea for the Hyperloop while thinking about the train that goes between Los Angeles and San Francisco. It is one of the slowest trains in the country. The Hyperloop would make traveling between big cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco faster. "You would go from downtown L. A. to downtown San Francisco in under 30 minutes," Musk said.

According to Musk, the Hyperloop would be three or four times faster than a high-speed train. It would also be about twice as fast as a plane.

The Hyperloop would have other benefits as well. "This system I have in mind...can never crash," Musk said. Weather would have no effect on it. Plus it would be cheap. Musk said it would cost less than "any other mode of transport."

People using the Hyperloop would shoot around in pods. Each pod would be about six feet across. The pods would move through tubes above the ground or under water.

The Hyperloop could run all the time. It would let people travel whenever they wanted. They could just show up at a Hyperloop station and be sent on their way.

Musk also thinks the Hyperloop could get all the energy it needs from the sun. That would make it better for the environment than cars, planes, and trains.

The Hyperloop might someday be able to take people from one side of the United States to the other in less than an hour. That would make it faster than any other mode of transportation. Eventually, it might be able to take people around the world.

Musk is not the first person to try designing a tube for people to travel through. The idea has been around for some time, and not just in science fiction! People in China and other countries have been working on technology like the Hyperloop. If a traveling tube is built, it could change the way we travel forever.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What is the Hyperloop?

- A) an electric car that Elon Musk is designing
- B) a private spaceship that Elon Musk is designing
- C) a traveling tube that Elon Musk is designing
- D) a bullet train that Elon Musk is designing

2. What does this passage describe?

- A) This passage describes a traveling tube that could help people get around in the future.
- B) This passage describes the costs of building traveling tubes around the world.
- C) This passage describes the damage that cars, planes, and trains do to the environment.
- D) This passage describes the reasons that people are looking for a cheaper-than-ever way to travel.

3. If built, the Hyperloop would be faster than any other type of transportation.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A) People using the Hyperloop would travel in pods that are about six-and-a-half feet across.
- B) The Hyperloop is being designed to travel at twice the speed of an airplane.
- C) Right now people can fly, drive, or take a train to get from Los Angeles to San Francisco.
- D) Inventors in other countries are working on technology similar to the Hyperloop.

4. Based on information in the passage, what is one reason that people might want to use the Hyperloop instead of other kinds of transportation?

- A) People with motion sickness might not be able to handle the Hyperloop.
- B) People are tired of using the same four kinds of transportation over and over.
- C) The Hyperloop could take people to places where planes and trains do not go.
- D) People would not have to pay as much to use the Hyperloop.

5. What is this passage mainly about?

- A) science fiction movies and cartoons featuring futuristic traveling tubes with tiny pods
- B) the interest that inventor Elon Musk has in private space flight and electric cars
- C) why the train between Los Angeles and San Francisco is one of the slowest in the country
- D) a tube that could make travel in the future easier, faster, and cheaper

6. Read the following sentences: “Additionally, Musk believes the Hyperloop could be completely powered by the sun—making it more environmentally friendly than cars, airplanes, or train systems. Someday it could possibly move people between the East and West Coasts of the United States in less than an hour, which is faster than any other **mode** of transportation that exists.”

What does the word **mode** mean in the sentence above?

- A) ticket
- B) type
- C) train
- D) travel

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The Hyperloop would offer travelers many benefits, _____ fast trips and low prices.

- A) meanwhile
- B) finally
- C) including
- D) otherwise

8. According to the passage, what are some of the questions that remain unanswered about the Hyperloop?

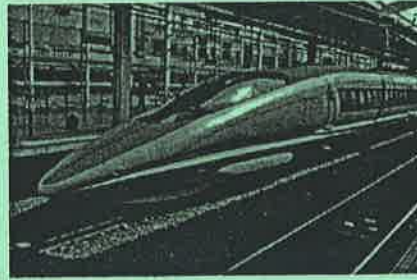
9. Is anyone besides Elon Musk working on technology similar to the Hyperloop? If so, who?

10. Based on information in the passage, is a traveling tube such as the Hyperloop likely to become a reality or not? Explain your answer with evidence from the passage.

Could the Futuristic Traveling Tube Become a Reality?

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? Mark it
up!!



Can you imagine traveling in a tiny pod, inside a tube that can quickly shoot people to wherever they want to go? It sounds like something out of a silly cartoon or a movie about the future. But this futuristic tube may soon become real. And it could be a faster, easier, and cheaper way to travel than anything we know now.

Elon Musk is a very wealthy South African-American inventor. In the past, he has worked on private space flight and electric cars. Recently, Musk has been planning this futuristic traveling tube, called the Hyperloop. This tube could forever change the way we travel the world.

Musk thinks about the new tube as a fifth kind, or mode, of transportation.

"We have planes, trains, automobiles, and boats," he said. "What if there was a fifth mode? I have a name for it, [it's] called the Hyperloop."

The Hyperloop would shorten the travel time between major cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco. The trip between these two cities is what got Musk thinking about the Hyperloop in the first place.

Musk said that he came up with the idea for the Hyperloop while thinking about the train that takes people between Los Angeles and San Francisco. That train is known for being one of the slowest trains in the country. But the Hyperloop would be much faster. In fact, it could go about twice as fast as an airplane and three or four times as fast as the fastest train in the world.

"You would go from downtown L. A. to downtown San Francisco in under 30 minutes," Musk said. "It would cost you much less than an air ticket [and less] than any other mode of transport."

Not only would this tube travel be fast, but it would also be safe, because it could never crash. Also, it would be immune to weather, so rainy or stormy weather would not affect the Hyperloop at all. And, as Musk explained, it would be cheap.

People using the Hyperloop would shoot around in pods, which are each just over six-and-a-half feet across. The pods would travel through tubes that are either above ground or under water. Musk has not shown his final design drawings to the public, so the location of the tubes is unknown.

Musk also believes his tube could get all of its power from the sun. This would make it more environmentally friendly than cars, airplanes, or trains. Someday it could move people between the East and West Coasts of the United States in less than an hour, which is faster than any other mode of transportation that exists. Eventually, the Hyperloop would be able to move people around the world.

The Hyperloop could even run all day and night, and it could let people travel on their own schedule. People could show up at the Hyperloop station whenever they want and be quickly sent on their way.

Musk is not the first person to dream up this kind of tube technology for moving people. The idea has been around for some time, and inventors in other countries are said to be working on similar technology.

6. Read the following sentences: "Additionally, Musk believes the Hyperloop could be completely powered by the sun—making it more environmentally friendly than cars, airplanes, or train systems. Someday it could possibly move people between the East and West Coasts of the United States in less than an hour, which is faster than any other **mode** of transportation that exists."

What does the word **mode** mean in the sentence above?

- A) ticket
- B) type
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7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The Hyperloop would offer travelers many benefits, _____ fast trips and low prices.

- A) meanwhile
- B) finally
- C) including
- D) otherwise

8. According to the passage, what are some of the questions that remain unanswered about the Hyperloop?

9. Is anyone besides Elon Musk working on technology similar to the Hyperloop? If so, who?

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- A) This passage describes a traveling tube that could help people get around in the future.
- B) This passage describes the costs of building traveling tubes around the world.
- C) This passage describes the damage that cars, planes, and trains do to the environment.
- D) This passage describes the reasons that people are looking for a cheaper-than-ever way to travel.

3. If built, the Hyperloop would be faster than any other type of transportation.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A) People using the Hyperloop would travel in pods that are about six-and-a-half feet across.
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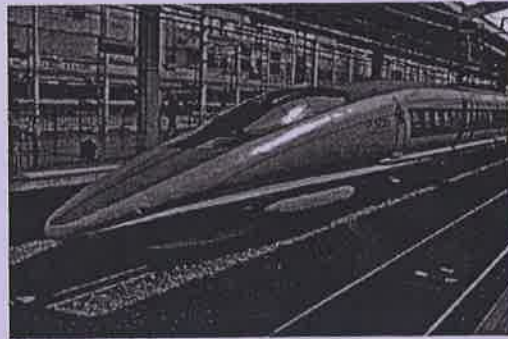
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- A) People with motion sickness might not be able to handle the Hyperloop.
- B) People are tired of using the same four kinds of transportation over and over.
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Could the Futuristic Traveling Tube Become a Reality?



It sounds like something straight out of a science fiction movie or a silly cartoon: a futuristic traveling tube that can quickly shoot people wherever they want to go, inside a tiny pod. But this may be just around the corner for people looking for a faster, easier, and cheaper-than-ever way to travel.

South African-American inventor and billionaire Elon Musk, who, in the past, has worked on both private space flight and electric cars, recently announced he has been working on the design of this traveling tube, which could forever change the way we travel the world.

In an interview, Musk described the new tube as a fifth kind of transportation.

"We have planes, trains, automobiles, and boats," he explained. "What if there was a fifth mode? I have a name for it, [it's] called the Hyperloop."

The Hyperloop would have the power to cut back on travel time between major cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco, which is what inspired Musk to design the Hyperloop in the first place.

Musk stated in an interview that he actually came up with the idea for the Hyperloop while thinking about the train that takes people between Los Angeles and San Francisco—it is known for being one of the slowest in the country.

"This system I have in mind...can never crash, is immune to weather, it goes three or four times faster than the bullet train...it goes an average speed of twice what an aircraft would do," explained Musk.

"You would go from downtown L. A. to downtown San Francisco in under 30 minutes," he added. "It would cost you much less than an air ticket [and less] than any other mode of transport."

People using the Hyperloop would shoot around in pods, which are each just over six-and-a-half feet across, and the pods would travel through tubes located either above ground or under water, though Musk has not yet released his final design drawings.

Additionally, Musk believes the Hyperloop could be completely powered by the sun—making it more environmentally friendly than cars, airplanes, or train systems. Someday it could possibly move people between the East and West Coasts of the United States in less than an hour, which is faster than any other mode of transportation that exists. Eventually, the Hyperloop would be able to move people around the world.

The Hyperloop could even run 24/7, be cheap, and allow people to travel on their own schedule. People could show up at the Hyperloop station whenever they want and be quickly sent on their way.

Musk is not the first person outside of science fiction novelists to dream up vacuum tube technology for moving people. The idea has been around for some time, and inventors in other countries, including China, are reportedly working on similar technology.

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