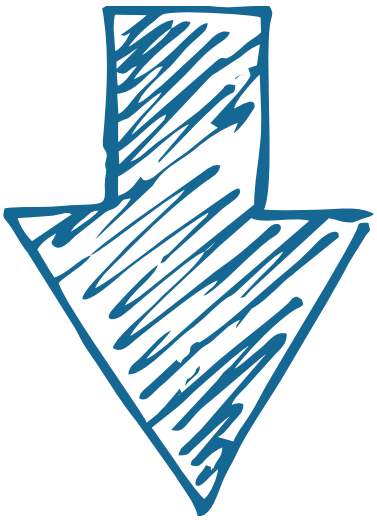
STEM Transportation Gift Guide

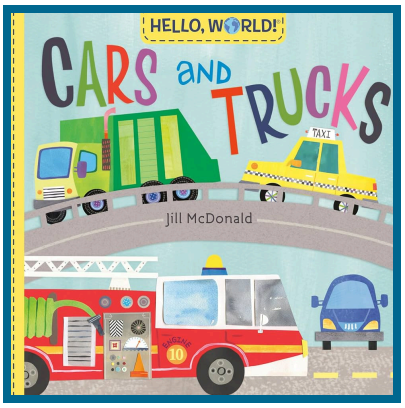
Looking for a gift that's fun to open and actually gets used? This guide highlights **transportation-themed STEM gifts for every age**, from first board books and building sets to games, engineering kits and coding projects. Each one helps kids explore how vehicles, roads, bridges and cities work while building creativity, critical thinking and a love of learning.

Prices and availability were current as of November 2026 and may change, so check the retailer before you buy.





Toddlers + Preschool



Hello, World! Cars and Trucks by Jill McDonald

Price: $8.99 | Ages 0–3 | Link

This board book gives babies and toddlers their first facts about the vehicles they see every day, with bright pictures and fun sound words like “Zap!” for an electric car. Each page has prompts that help parents talk through what’s happening. It’s sturdy, inexpensive and an easy add-on to any gift.



Ravensburger Big City Builders

Price: $24.99 | Ages 3+ | Link

This first board game has kids drive trucks along roads they build, delivering materials to construction sites. It builds color matching, turn taking and early planning skills. It can be played solo or together, so it grows with your child.

Learning Resources 1-2-3 Build It! Rocket-Train-Helicopter

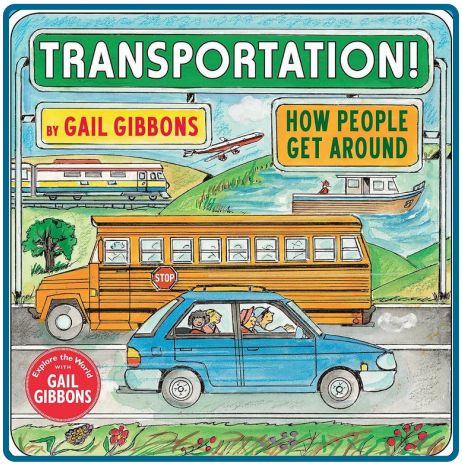
Price: $25.99 | Ages 2+ | Link





Toddlers can build a rocket, a train engine or a helicopter, all from the same 17 chunky, mix-and-match parts. A kid-sized play wrench lets them “tighten” each piece like a real mechanic, which builds fine motor skills and an early feel for tools. Because they can take it apart and rebuild it as something new, it’s an early introduction to engineering that holds their attention.

Grades K-2



Transportation! How People Get Around by Gail Gibbons

Price: $9.99 | Ages 4–8 | Link

This picture book shows young readers how people get around by land, sea and air, using Gail Gibbons' clear, colorful illustrations. It explains many kinds of vehicles and also covers ideas like carpooling and commuting, which most kids' vehicle books skip. It's a great pick for curious kids who always ask "how does that work?"

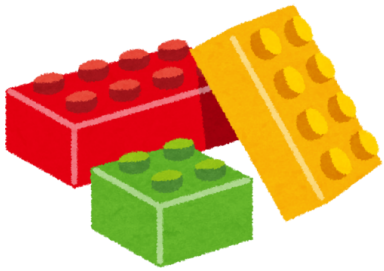


Ticket to Ride: First Journey

Price: $29.99 | Ages 6+ | Link

This kid-friendly version of the award-winning Ticket to Ride has players collect train cards, claim routes, and connect cities across a map of the United States. The routes are shorter and the rules simpler than the original, and picture icons on the map mean kids don't need to read city names. Games take 15 to 30 minutes for 2 to 4 players, which makes it a great family game night pick that teaches route planning and strategy.





Learning Resources STEM Force and Motion Activity Set

Price: $27.99 | Ages 5+ | Link

Kids race toy cars down adjustable ramps to see how gravity, friction and inertia change how fast and far a vehicle goes. The set comes with two cars, double-sided tracks (smooth and bumpy), weighted blocks, a pendulum ball, and 10 activity cards that walk kids through predicting, testing and recording results. It turns a favorite kind of play into a first real science experiment, so kids think like engineers without realizing they’re learning.

Grades 3-5



ThinkFun Rush Hour

Price: $21.99 | Ages 8+ | Link

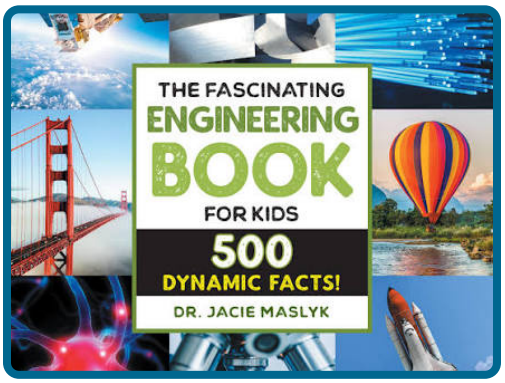
In this classic traffic jam puzzle, kids slide cars and trucks around a gridlocked board to clear a path for the red car to escape. Its 40 challenges go from beginner to expert, so the game grows with them and keeps building logic, planning and problem-solving skills. It's compact, needs no batteries, and the cards store right in the board, which makes it perfect for road trips and quiet time.

CrunchLabs Build Box by Mark Rober



Price: $32.95/month | Ages 8+ | Link

Each month, kids get a new build-it-yourself toy designed by Mark Rober and the CrunchLabs team, plus a video in which he explains the science behind it. Every box comes with everything needed to complete the build. It's a gift that keeps arriving all year, turning engineering into something kids look forward to every month.



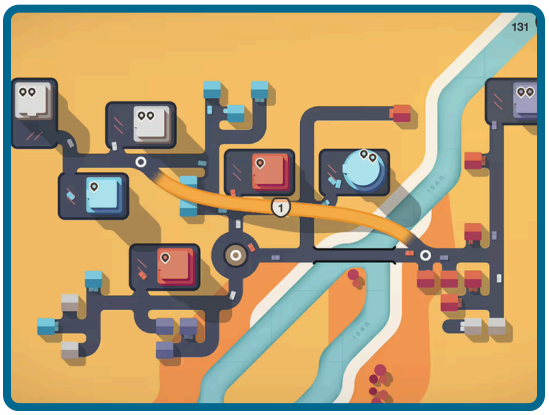
The Fascinating Engineering Book for Kids: 500 Dynamic Facts! by Dr. Jacie Maslyk



Price: $6.49 | Ages 8-12 | Link

This colorful book has 500 facts covering every branch of engineering, from the bridges and roads civil engineers design to underwater machines and spaceships. It also profiles famous engineers and shows how engineering shapes the things kids see every day. It's an easy book to pick up and flip through, and a great way to show curious kids how many directions an engineering career can go.

Grades 6-8



Mini Motorways (Nintendo Switch)

Price: $14.99 | Ages 8+ | Link

Players draw the roads for a growing city and try to keep traffic flowing as new homes and businesses appear. Upgrades like highways and roundabouts force real network design choices, and maps are inspired by cities around the world. It's easy to pick up, works on both the Switch and Switch 2, and gives kids a feel for what transportation engineers do every day.

Smithsonian Motor-Works Kit

Price: $69.99 | Ages 8+ | Link

Kids build a working, battery-powered model of a four-cylinder engine from more than 100 screw-together parts. The clear body lets them watch the pistons pump, the valves open and close, and the spark plugs fire, showing what really happens under the hood of a car. It's a hands-on way to see how the engines that power our roads work, and a great project to build together.

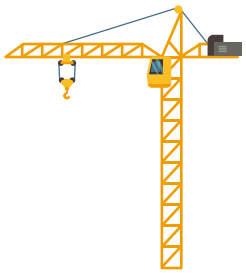




Engino Discovering STEM Structures: Buildings & Bridges

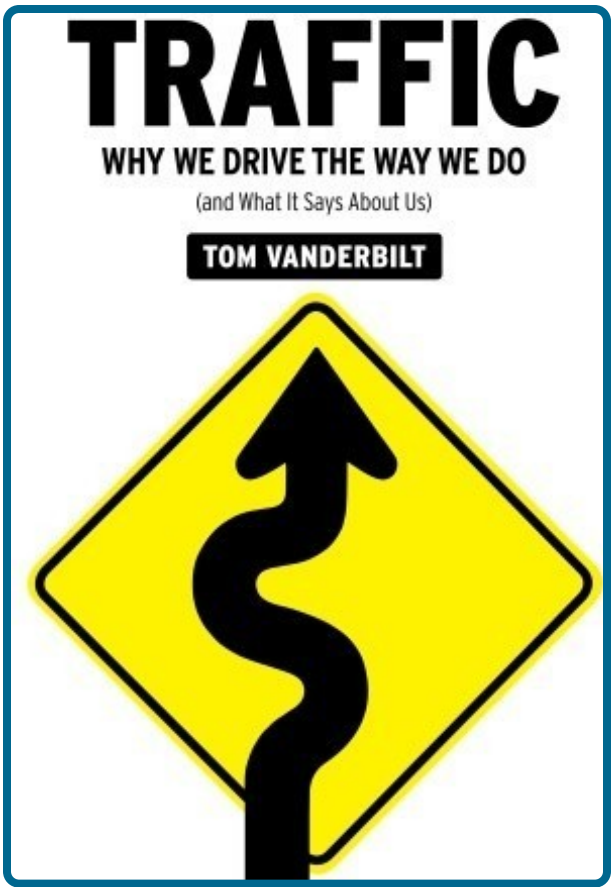
Price: $42.99 | Ages 8+ | Link

Kids build nine working models, including beam, arch, truss, cable-stayed and suspension bridges, and test how each one carries weight. The included booklet explains the forces at work, like how triangles add strength and how cable tension holds up a bridge deck, then checks what they learned with quizzes. It's a great introduction to the structural engineering behind the bridges kids cross every day.



Grades 9-12

Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do (and What It Says About Us) by Tom Vanderbilt



Price: $14.99 | Ages 14+ | Link

This New York Times Notable Book explains why traffic jams form, why the other lane always seems faster, and how driver psychology shapes safety on the road. It also covers why roundabouts, which can feel chaotic, actually make roads safer and keep traffic moving. Written for a general audience rather than engineers, it's an engaging read for a teen curious about the "why" behind the roads they're about to start driving on.



Cities: Skylines II (PC, Steam)

Price: $49.99 | Ages 8+ | Link

In this city-building game, teens lay out roads, interchanges, public transit and zoning, then watch how traffic and a growing population respond to every decision. They have to balance a budget, keep residents happy and adapt as the city changes. It's about as close as a game gets to real-world transportation planning, which makes it a great fit for teens curious about engineering or urban planning careers. Requires a gaming PC. Consider Cities: Skylines I for Xbox and PlayStation.

ELEGOO Smart Robot Car Kit V4.0

Price: $59.99 | Ages 13+ | Link

Teens build a robot car from scratch and program it to follow lines, avoid obstacles, and drive by infrared remote or a phone app. It's built on the Arduino platform, with step-by-step assembly instructions and all the code included, so the skills carry over to real-world electronics projects. It's a hands-on introduction to the sensors and logic behind self-driving vehicles.



Full List

Forty-eight transportation-themed STEM gifts from infancy through 12th grade, from $7.99 to $159.99. Most tie directly to roads, traffic, bridges, vehicles, flight or transit. Prices are list or retailer prices checked in late November 2026.

Note: Amazon links open an Amazon search for each item, since individual product listings can change or disappear. Look for the listing sold by Amazon or the brand. A few items aren't sold on Amazon (KiWiCo kits and digital games from Steam or the Nintendo eShop), so those link to the store where you can buy them.

Toddlers and Preschool (Ages 0–4)

Gift	Price (USD)	Age range	What it teaches
KiWiCo Sensory Solar System Set (KiWiCo only)	$59.95	0–12 months	Sensory and motor play with a spaceship wobbler and board book
Melissa & Doug Take-Along Town Play Mat	$32.99	6 months–2	Town and road scene with 9 soft vehicles
ABCs of Engineering,	$9.99	0–3	An engineering word for every

Chris Ferrie (board book)			letter, through Z for zoning
Hello, World! Cars and Trucks, Jill McDonald (board book)	$8.99	0–3	First facts about cars, trucks and other things that go
Hello, World! Construction Site, Jill McDonald (board book)	$8.99	0–3	What cranes, dump trucks and excavators do
MEGA BLOKS Green Town Charge & Go Bus	about $16–$18	1+	Building an electric bus with a charging bus stop
Fisher-Price Little People Helpful Neighbor's Garage	$23.99	18 months–5	Parking garage with ramp, elevator, gas pump and EV charger
LEGO DUPLO Train Bridge and Tracks (10872)	$24.99 list (resellers about $27–$35)	2–5	Track layout and a bridge for the DUPLO train
Learning Resources 1-2-3 Build It! Rocket-Train-Helicopter	$25.99	2+	Builds three vehicles from one set with a play wrench
Learning Resources	$31.99	2+	Counting, colors and shapes with

Count & Color Choo Choo			a block-loaded train
Transportation I Spy, Amelia Sealey (paperback)	$9.99	2–5	Search-and-find with vehicles
Ravensburger Big City Builders	$24.99	3+	Road-building puzzle game delivering materials by truck
The Cars, Trucks, Trains, and Planes Pre-K Workbook, Celeste Meiergerd	$12.95	3–5	Letters, numbers and counting with vehicle themes
A Treasure of Measures, Mike Downs (hardcover)	$18.99	3–5	Units of measurement, including distance on a road trip

Grades K–2

Gift	Price (USD)	Age range	What it teaches
Guidecraft Block Play Traffic Signs (13 pc)	$34.64	3+	Sign recognition and

			pedestrian/bike safety
Melissa & Doug Wooden Vehicles and Traffic Signs	$22.58	3+	Sign recognition and street layout with 6 vehicles, 9 signs
Melissa & Doug Deluxe Road Rug Play Set	$116.96	3+	Town and road network play with signs, bridge and 15 vehicles
Melissa & Doug Wooden Railway Set (130+ pc)	$159.99	3–7	Track layout, bridges and switches
The Learning Journey 4-in-1 On-the-Go Construction Set	$29.99	3+	Builds a motorized helicopter, race car, airplane or fire truck
If I Built a Car, Chris Van Dusen (paperback)	$8.99	3–5 (read-aloud through K–2)	Vehicle design and inventing
Thames & Kosmos Kids First: Automobile Engineer	$39.95	3–7	Builds 10 vehicles from a storybook
Thames & Kosmos Kids First: Aircraft Engineer	$39.95	3–7	Builds 10 aircraft, from biplane to space plane

Learning Resources Mini Motor Math Activity Set	$22.99	4+	Counting, adding and subtracting with toy cars on a track
Transportation! How People Get Around, Gail Gibbons (paperback)	$8.99	4–8	Land, sea and air travel, carpooling and commuting
Bicycle Book, Gail Gibbons (paperback)	$7.99	4–8	How bikes work, maintenance and riding safety
Learning Resources STEM Force & Motion Activity Set	$33.99	5+	Gravity, friction and inertia with cars and ramps
Learning Resources City Engineering & Design Building Set	$31.99	5–8	Designing bridges, cranes and towers
Ravensburger Rivers, Roads & Rails	$20.99	5+	Connecting road, rail and river networks tile by tile
Ticket to Ride: First Journey	$29.99	6+	Route planning across a U.S. rail map

Grades 3–5

Gift	Price (USD)	Age range	What it teaches
Thames & Kosmos Structural Engineering: Bridges & Skyscrapers	$49.95	8+	Truss, arch, cantilever and suspension bridges; tension vs. compression
Engino STEM Structures: Buildings & Bridges	$39.99	8+	Beam, arch, truss, cable-stayed and suspension bridges
Thames & Kosmos Mechanical Engineering: Machines & Vehicles	$49.95	8+	Gears, forces and energy through 20 models incl. an all-wheel-drive ATV
Smithsonian Motor-Works Kit	$55.00	8+	How a four-cylinder car engine works
Smithsonian Rocket Science Kit	$20.00	8+	Rocket propulsion with baking soda and vinegar
ThinkFun Rush Hour	about $17–$22	8+	Logic puzzles built around a traffic jam

Ticket to Ride (board game)	~$40 (list $54.99)	8+	Network building and route optimization
Tangram City	$29.99	8+	City layout and balancing buildings with green space
The Fascinating Engineering Book for Kids, Jacie Maslyk	$15.99	8–12	500 facts across every branch of engineering
KiWiCo Civil Engineer + Who Makes That? Book Bundle (KiWiCo only)	$41.95	9+	Building a bridge and tower, then testing them on a shake table
LEGO Technic Chevrolet Corvette Stingray	$59.99	9+	Steering, differential and a moving engine

Grades 6–8

Gift	Price (USD)	Age range	What it teaches
Mini Motorways (Nintendo Switch, eShop download)	$14.99	ESRB Everyone	Road networks, congestion, highways and roundabouts
Poly Bridge 3	$19.99 list	Not rated;	Physics-based

(PC/Mac, Steam download)	(often on sale)	suggested 10+	bridge design and load testing
LEGO Technic Jeep Wrangler Rubicon SUV	$64.99	10+	Working suspension and steering
fischertechnik H2 Fuel Cell Kit	$144.95	9+	Makes hydrogen and uses it to power a vehicle

Grades 9–12

Gift	Price (USD)	Age range	What it teaches
Hydrogen Fuel Cell Car Science Kit	$119.00	12+	Electrolysis and PEM fuel cells powering a model car
ELEGOO Smart Robot Car Kit V4.0	$75.99	13+ (per maker)	Arduino coding, line tracking and obstacle avoidance
Cities: Skylines II (PC, Steam download)	$49.99	ESRB Everyone	City and transportation network planning, zoning, transit
Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do, Tom Vanderbilt (paperback)	$18.00	Adult nonfiction; suggested 15+	Traffic flow, driver behavior and roadway safety