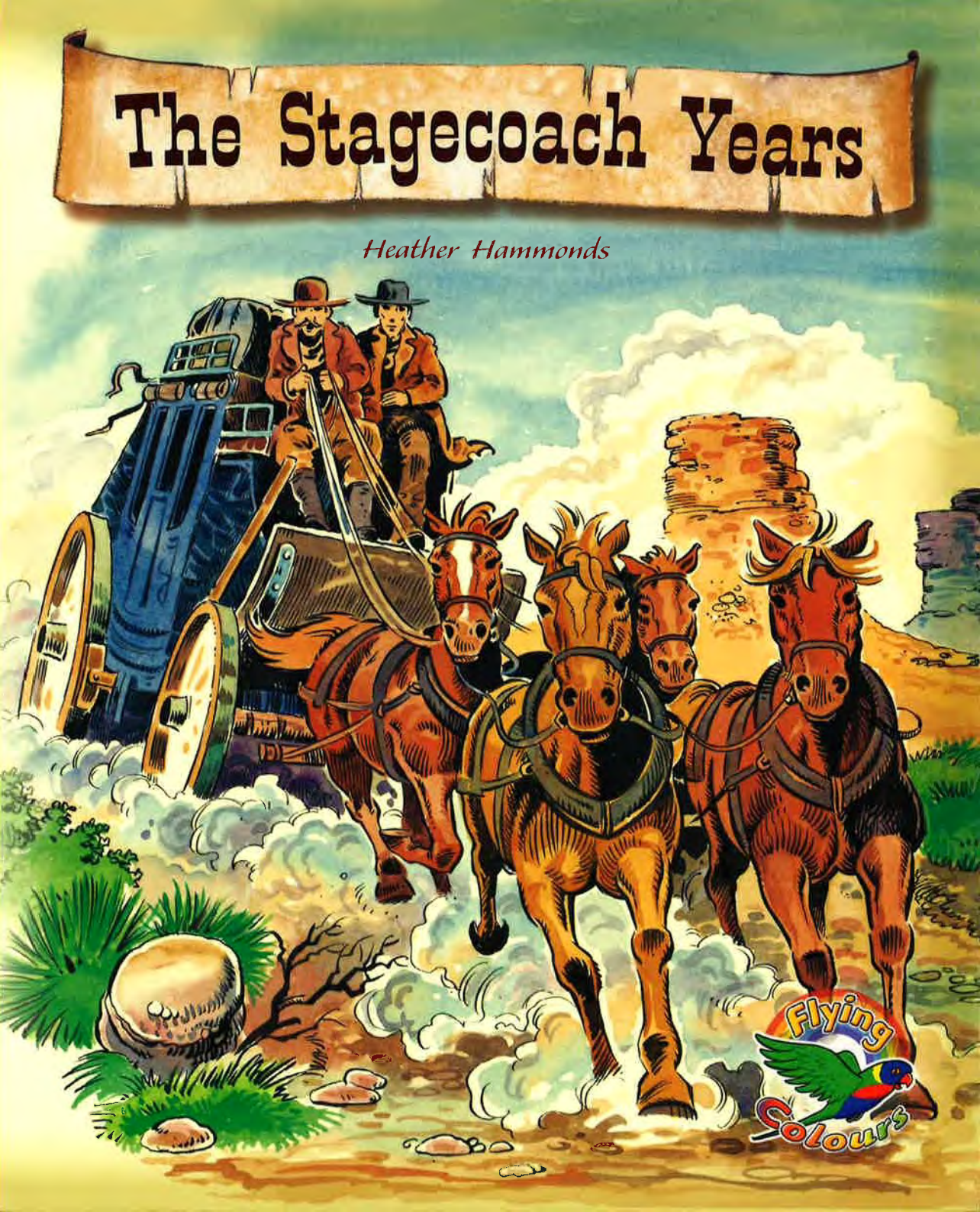
The Stagecoach Years

Heather Hammonds



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1. Transport Long Ago

Today, we travel from place to place in cars, buses and trains. Sometimes we travel in aeroplanes. These machines transport **goods** too.



Long ago, there were no cars, trucks or trains. People travelled from place to place more slowly.

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In the past, people used horses to help them get around.

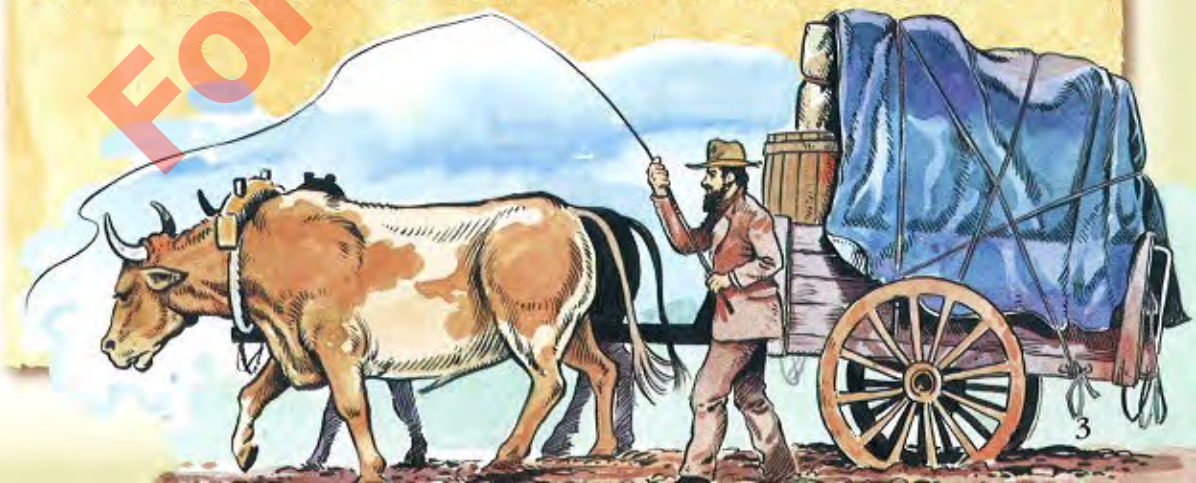
They rode horses or they travelled in **horse-drawn vehicles**. These vehicles also transported goods.

For hundreds of years,
travel was slow.
A galloping horse
was as fast as people could go!



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Other animals were also used to pull vehicles with wheels.



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2. Stagecoaches

Stagecoaches were a type of horse-drawn vehicle. Stagecoaches carried people and goods over long distances.

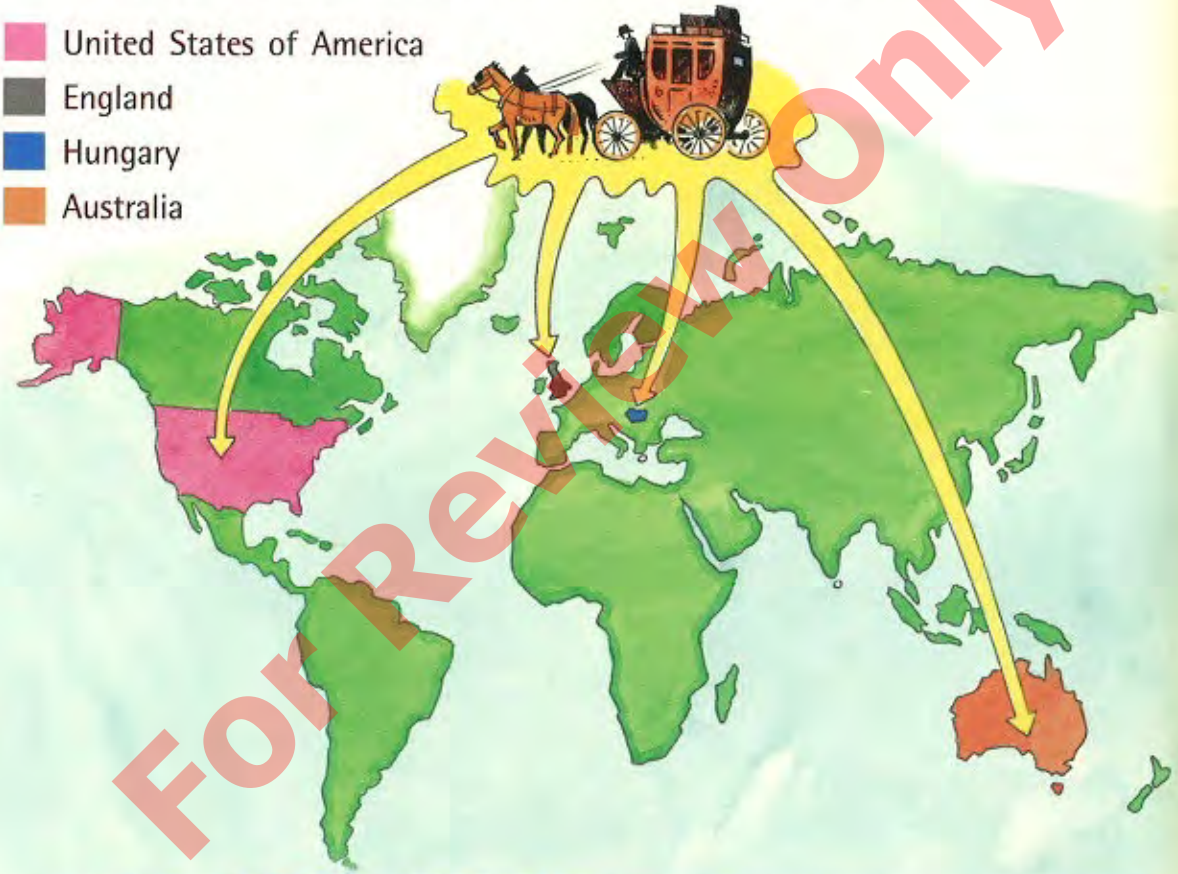
Stagecoaches travelled through night and through day. After each stop, new horses would speed them on their way.

Stagecoaches travelled in stages, or steps. At each stage or stop on a journey, the horses pulling the stagecoach were changed. A new team of horses pulled the stagecoach to the next stage.



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Stagecoaches became an important type of transport in England around 400 years ago. A few years later, they also became popular in the United States of America. Stagecoaches then came to Australia in the 1800s.



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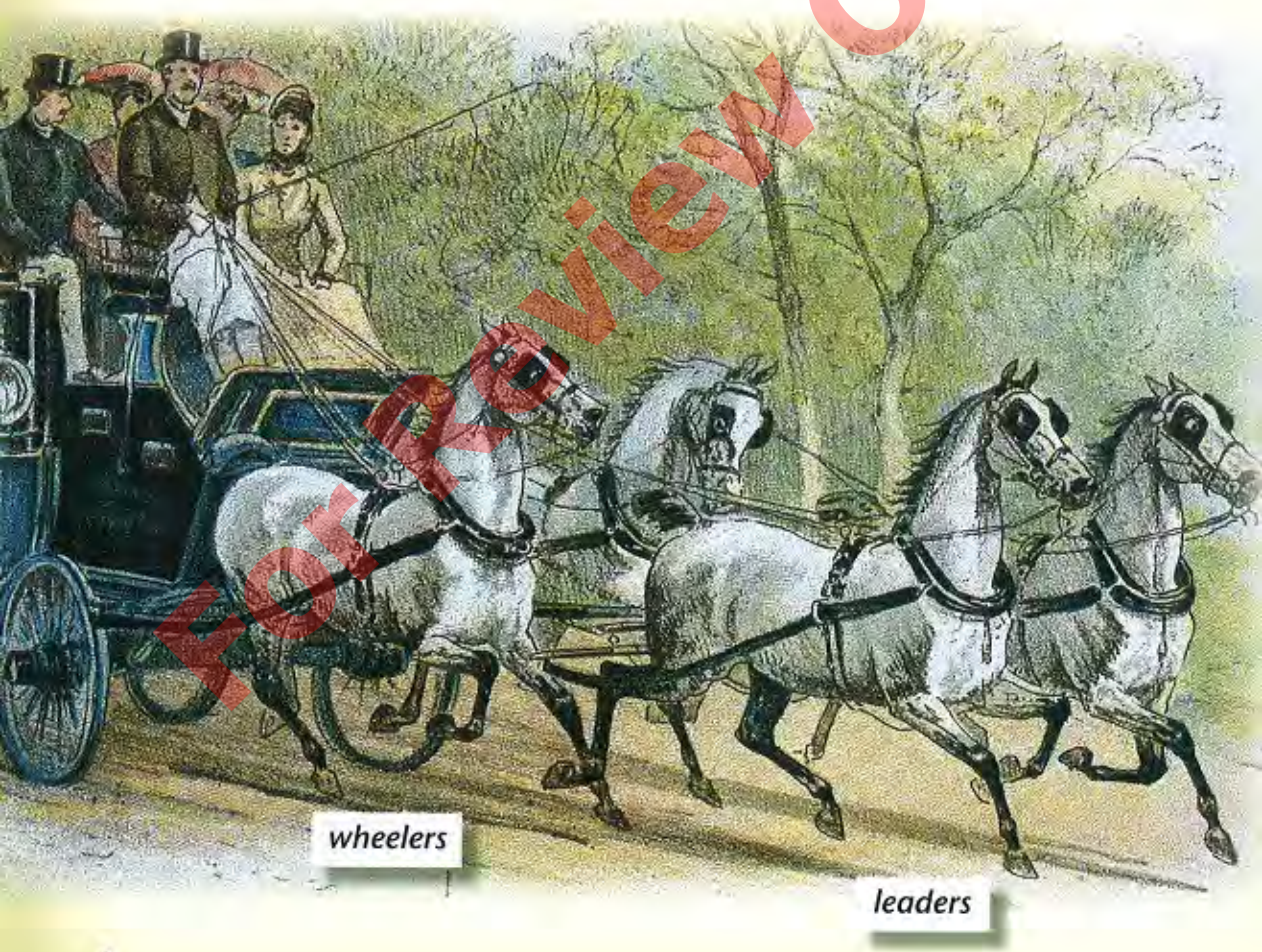
It is believed the first stagecoaches were built in Hungary, around 600 years ago.

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Stagecoach Horses

Teams of four to six horses pulled the stagecoaches. More horses were used for bigger coaches.

Each horse had its own name and its own special place in the team.



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Stagecoach horses worked very hard. They had to travel as fast as they could to get people and goods from place to place on time. But the horses were well cared for.



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The roads horses travelled
were bumpy and long.
They worked very hard,
but they were big and strong.

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Stagecoach horses were chosen for their speed and strength.