

Name _____

Trucks

Trucks pick up raw materials, such as rice from a farm or milk from a dairy. They may also pick up things like containers of computer parts arriving by ship -- not exactly raw materials, but the needed parts for manufacturing. Different kinds of trucks pick up different things.

A tanker truck carries liquids like gasoline or milk. It's very important to keep these trucks clean and safe. Tanker trucks have round bodies.



A flatbed truck can carry big things, like containers used to transport things by ship. They have big flat surfaces. It's important to make sure loads on flatbeds are very secure so they won't fall off the truck.



A van is the rectangular part of the truck. A truck may have a cab (shown on the flatbed) that attaches to a van, or it may be all in one piece, in which case it's called a straight truck. Vans are used to carry dry goods, like boxes of cereal, books, or toys.



A truck for bulk hauling, such as carrying rice or other grains, might have a walking floor, which moves automatically to push the products out. This automatic floor can make it easier to load and unload bulk products, or very heavy things that would be hard for people to carry.

Trucks bring raw materials to a factory to be made into new products, or to a warehouse where they're put into packages. A warehouse is a big building where things are stored, and a manufacturer, factory, or store might have its own warehouse. Often a warehouse is part of what's called a "fulfillment house," where raw materials or new products are packaged and sent on to customers or to stores.

People in fulfillment houses use computers to keep track of all the things they need to store, package, and send. Students have probably seen bar codes and scanners in stores. These are the tools warehouse and fulfillment house workers use to make sure all the items in the warehouse get to the right place.

Once the products are all packaged, they're packed into more trucks -- usually vans -- to go to stores. The workers use computers to make sure everything goes into the right trucks and to the right stores.

Truck drivers might make short hauls, like driving products from the warehouse to a store in a nearby city, or they might make long hauls across several states. Long haul drivers have beds in the cabs of their trucks, and they take showers and eat at special places called truck stops, where they can rest and get diesel fuel for their trucks. Most truck drivers have computers in their cabs, too, which they can use for communication and entertainment.

When the trucks arrive at the store, workers unpack the truck and put the products onto the shelves. They may use the barcodes on the packages, and they may also put new labels onto the packages. Sometimes a small store will use a different computer system, so the barcodes put on the boxes in the warehouse or on the products by the manufacturers don't work with their computers. Bigger stores usually use the same system from start to finish.

Comprehension Questions

1) Write the name of each type of truck under its picture:



2) Describe these places:

a) Truck stop

b) Warehouse

c) Fulfillment house

d) Store