Think of ways various transportation modes and intermodal or multimodal transportations can be related or applied in our daily life activities.

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The 21st century gives a renewed focus on all types of freight transportation driven by the changing requirements of global supply chains. All the existing transportation modes have gone through an advanced technological revolution which previously had functioned separately under a seemingly rigid structure for most of the 20th century. This is not surprising as there were many events that hindered the industry’s development which includes The Great Depression, The World Wars and The Spanish Flu. However, eventually the passage of time continued, and lead to the development of containerization in the mid-1900s, reshaping a new focus on logistics and global supply chain requirements. After that, the stage was set for continued transportation growth which now plays a part in every Singaporean’s life.

Intermodal transportation is defined as the movement of cargo from origin to destination by several modes of transport where each of these modes have a different transport carrier responsible, each with its own independent contract. One very prominent example that is shipped using this method are luxury goods or very valuable raw materials. For example, raw materials from China are shipped all over the world and the country’s output commands billions of stocks annually. Once these raw materials are extracted, one company under a given contract will process the materials and send them out via rail to a port for shipping. At this point, once these raw materials have reached the local port, another company will take charge. One reason why the contract and service provider are changed is because at sea, there is a possibility of getting attacked by pirates. The chances increase when the entire ship may be carrying goods worth millions of dollars such as gasoline, iron ore and ivory. The materials that I have mentioned are exported from China and can be sold in the market for a high price if traded in large amounts. So instead of a contract of just transferring the goods, the contract for this new respective shipping company also discusses a duty to protect. These goods must be assigned to a trustworthy shipping company that has the official right to hire private military to ensure the ship does not get infiltrated and looted midway the journey. After the raw materials are safely imported into Singapore, for example iron ore or sand, a local service provider will transport these materials to the nearest processing plant to make cement, steel etc. which is used in the daily construction activity. These are the roots of all the buildings (Schools, Skyscrapers, Changi Airport e.g.) that Singapore is so proud of at this very moment. Uncommon examples of shipments that also require the protection from private military include nuclear weaponry (Uranium, Plutonium etc.), the most important museum artefacts (the most beautiful book ever created, Birds of America Book e.g.) and Antimatter.

Multimodal transportation is defined as the movement of cargo from origin to destination by several modes of transport where each of these modes have a different transport carrier responsible, however under a single contract or bill of lading. One commonly seen example in Singapore are our everyday groceries. For example, fish that dwell in cooler waters such as Cod belong to a single carrier during a single journey. The delicious fish native to eastern and western regions of the northern Pacific are transported via truck from the fish farm to the airport before being flown to Singapore and then back onto the truck straight to the distribution warehouse. The fish is then repackaged and sent out via truck again before finally making its way to the fish section in our local supermarkets.

**In conclusion, all types of transportations can be related or applied in our daily life activities. I have learned that it is a given that almost all our goods have been transferred via many modes of transportation. The growth of intermodal freight transportation will be driven and challenged, however, the internationalization and globalization of resources and markets will place demands on intermodal transport and multimodal transport in ways never witnessed before.**

Thank You and Have a Nice Day! :)