

What's the Speed Limit?

LESSON PLAN OVERVIEW

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SUGGESTED TIME	varies								
SETTING	auditorium	classroom	gymnasium	outside					
LEARNING STYLE ACCESS	auditory		kinesthetic			visual			

OVERVIEW

Students will learn about the importance of speed limits in our communities and investigate the area around the school to see if cars are speeding. Using data sheets, students will collect speeds and analyze the results to determine the driving behaviors of drivers in the school zone.

MATERIALS

Copies of How Fast are Cars Going? (grades 2-3)

Copies of Are Cars Speeding? and Speeds and the School Zone (grades 4-5)

Speed Detector Device. The recommended device is typically used for baseball pitch readings - a Bushnell Velocity Speed Detector. Many baseball and softball leagues and physical education teachers use them. Safe Routes can make this device available to you for this project.

VOCABULARY

community, velocity, radar, municipality, anecdotes

MODIFICATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Use computer to input numbers and create a graph of speeds, be in charge of the radar gun.

MODIFICATIONS FOR USE IN LOW INCOME SCHOOLS

None needed

IMPRESSIONS

Kids will love using a radar gun! This can be sourced from baseball team or local police.

SOURCE

Alameda County SR2S

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Overview

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Supplies



- Copies of *How Fast are Cars Going?* (grades 2-3)
- Copies of *Are Cars Speeding?* and *Speeds and the School Zone* (grades 4-5)
- Speed Detector Device. The recommended device is typically used for baseball pitch readings - a Bushnell Velocity Speed Detector. Many baseball and softball leagues and physical education teachers use them. Safe Routes can make this device available to you for this project.

- Establish the idea of a school zone. Ask students how speeding cars affect the area around the school. Discuss speed limits and let them know the general area speed limit and the one established in the school zone. Explain that speed limits protect people.
- Introduce the idea of a radar detector and let students know they will be using one to find out about the speed of cars in the school zone. You will want to show them the device before you go outside and let the students know they will each take a turn with the device.
- First go to the main street near the school. Ask students to line up and take speed-readings one at a time. Each student should shout out their readings so the whole class knows what number to write down. Each student should record the speeds they hear on the chart. You may also use a small white board to write down the speeds as they are read, so that students may read the number as well.
- If you are working with older students, go to a second location, preferably a side street, to get another set of readings. If there is time, each student should take at least one reading.
- Students should then look over the speeds they recorded and note the highest speed they saw. Ask them to note some common speeds that they recorded. Are people speeding in the school zone?

Activity: How Fast are Cars Going?

- Begin with a discussion about speeding cars. Ask students to list all of the ways that speeding cars affect their daily lives. Students should feel free to share anecdotes, emotional reactions, daily routines, etc.

Now What?

Letters to area officials – If you find that people are speeding in the school zone, you might want to have students write letters about the conditions in your area. Suggestions:

- Head of Transportation in your municipality
- Elected officials in your town or city
- Law enforcement

Name: _____

Are Cars Speeding?



How fast are the cars going here?

Location 1:

Location 2:
