

Map My Journey: Teacher Notes



Introduction

The Mapping My Journey Activity teaches your students about choosing safer routes to and from school. Use it in class or send it home as an activity for students to complete with a parent or guardian.

The student activity sheet requires a street map of the area around your school. Once your school is registered for Movin' March you can request a map from movin-march@gw.govt.nz. Stick it to the back of the student Map My Journey sheet and photocopy.

Student Activity: Steps 1 and 2

The purpose of these first steps is to help students understand how their community relates to the map they are creating.

1. Students create a personalised map of their neighbourhood by locating their house, school, favourite parks, library, supermarket and friends' houses.
2. Then students map the route they took to school that day, and begin to create the legend for the map.

Note: For students who have been driven to school, ask them to draw the route they would normally use if they were to walk or bike to school. If their street isn't on the map, ask them to choose a different starting point, e.g. a drop-off point a few blocks from school or a friend's house.

Student Activity: Steps 3 and 4

The next steps help students identify safe and unsafe places in their neighbourhood, and identify a safe route to school and their other favourite places.

3. Discuss how students choose their safe places. Use the "safe places" listed on the activity sheet and brainstorm some additional "safe places" with the class. Add them to the blank space provided.
4. A similar brainstorming session can be carried out for "unsafe places".

Numbers (in GREEN circles) and letters (in RED triangles) correspond to the safe and unsafe places – place these symbols on the map where appropriate.

You may want to use a larger map to:

- Demonstrate how to complete a legend on a map
- Draw a sample "safe route" that makes use of safe places and avoids unsafe places.
- Develop a wall display with all the completed maps.

Adapted from Blazing Trails Resource from Active & Safe Routes to School, A Programme of Green Communities Canada.

Curriculum Links:

Key Competencies: Managing Self

Learning Area: Health and Physical Education L2

Achievement objectives: Safety Management

Identify risk and use safe practices in a range of contexts.

