

Kids Ride the Bus

Public Transit and the Environment

Overview

This learning area helps students to understand the environmental impact of public transit. Students will learn about different types of fuel that buses use (diesel, gas, CNG, biodiesel) and where these fuels come from. They will also learn how the number of people riding the bus versus single occupant vehicles has an impact on the community and the environment.

BIG IDEAS





Social Studies 3

People from diverse cultures and societies share some common experiences and aspects of life.

Arts Education 3

Creative experiences involve an interplay between exploration, inquiry and purposeful choice.

Activities

-  **Community impact:** Students will create stories about what would happen if their community did not have transit. Identify how this would affect people in the community (students, commuters, people who don't own cars, people with disabilities) and how it would affect the overall community (roads, green space).
-  **Engagement/Activism:** The local municipality is looking at providing more bus service in the area. Students will create messages (written or posters) to encourage their classmates to take the bus.
-  **Congestion:** An area is cordoned off where a single hula hoop can fit horizontally. Five students put hoops around their waists representing single occupant vehicles. The students have 20 seconds to get from point A to point B. The students demonstrate other transportation options with the hoops (e.g., holding the hoop vertically to signify a bicycle). Again time the students from point A to point B. Three students now get into one hoop to identify a carpool or bus. Time the students from point A to point B—**See comprehensive lesson plan—Traffic Jamming.**
-  **Earth Day:** Students can promote transportation modes during international and local days such as Earth Day, Car Free Day, Bike to Work Week. Student activities include creating a cartoon on how people are helping the planet by taking the bus or creating a song to promote taking the bus while standing at a bus stop.

Resources

Sustainability and the Environment: Overall background of buses, fuels and BC Transit's green programs.

<https://bctransit.com/victoria/about/sustainability>

Shaping Our Future: BC Transit's Strategic Plan 2030

<https://bctransit.com/servlet/documents/1403640530607>