

Public Transportation Poll

Grades 3-4. 50 minutes. Classroom and home.

Task

Students collect information individually, then pool their data and use it to identify the frequency of and barriers to public transit use.

Big Ideas

- ❗ Cities and towns offer many services to their citizens, including public transportation services.
- ❗ Public transportation is an alternative to the personal vehicle.
- ❗ Public transportation benefits the community and the environment.
- ❗ There are both benefits and barriers to using public transportation.

Materials

'Public Transportation Use' data sheet

Lesson Outline

Before Main Lesson

Hand out the Public Transportation Data Sheet and review with your class. Students will take the sheet home with the goal of interviewing about 5 people (e.g. parents, caregivers, older siblings, coaches, neighbors, etc.).

Minds On

Have students share the results of their poll with their elbow partner. Prompt them to share a couple numbers as well as something they found interesting or difficult about the poll.

Main

Explain that you will be pooling the data, so we have a larger sample size to analyze. Work with your class to add up all the numbers and fill in the 'class total' boxes on the Data Sheet.

Make a plan with your students, deciding how the information will be presented (e.g. chart, vertical or horizontal bar graph, pictures, text), and to whom it will be presented (e.g. parents, another class, Active and Safe Routes to School Committee). Students work to create and display the presentation materials.

Consolidation

Discuss the poll findings as a class. What made the most sense? What was an unexpected result? Based on your findings, what suggestions would you make to increase public transit use?

Extension

Make some predictions as a class about the outcome of the poll (e.g. We think most people use public transit once a week. We think the most common reason people don't use transit is because they have a personal vehicle).

Extension

Share this information with the Active and Safe Routes to School Committee! Invite us in for a presentation or mail us your findings. We are very interested in what you find!

Name: _____



Public Transportation Use

Interview 5 people. Ask them about how they use public transportation. Collect your data and then bring the sheet back to class for a group investigation.

Q1: Do you ride public transportation (bus or handivan)?

YES

NO

Q2: How often?

	Tally	Total	Class Total
Several times a week			
Once a week			
Once a month			
Less that once a month			

Q2: Why not?

Q3: What type of trip do you take most often?

	Tally	Total	Class Total
Work			
School			
Shopping			
Other			

Q3: What can be done to get more people on public transportation?