



Photo courtesy Governor's Council on Physical Fitness

Collecting Community Information

Bicycle Safety Lesson 4

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn to collect information they need in order to map safe bicycling routes.

PREPARATION:

- Gather the needed materials.
- Ask colleagues and administrators to bring loaner phone books to school, labeled with their names for ease in returning them—request enough copies so the class divided into groups of four or five can have one.
- Review children's home addresses for grouping children from the same neighborhoods for letter writing activity.
- Obtain addresses of local county road commissions, AAA offices or city halls for requesting road maps of local area.

MATERIALS

- Local map
- Multiple loaner phone books of local area for looking up addresses
- Writing paper
- Pens or pencils
- Envelopes for mailing letters

TIME: 30 MINUTES

Collecting Community Information

Bicycle Safety Lesson 4, cont.

INTRODUCTION

Time: 2 minutes

When you have your parents' permission and have a safe route to follow, you might be able to bike to place you'd like to go. Biking is fun and healthy when you follow safety rules and have a safe route.

Today you will decide what information you need and you will write a letter to request it. Remember, always get your parents' permission before riding your bike somewhere.

Show a local map to the class. Tell them that they are going to work in groups and write a group letter to request another map.

They will use the phone books to find the location of the local government office to which they are making their request. Show them the office on your map.

ACTIVITY 1: REQUESTING MAPS

Time: 26 Minutes

Tell the class that letters have different parts.

Ask the students what the parts of a letter are.

- The correct mailing address on the envelope
- The return address on the envelope
- The date of the letter
- The greeting or salutation
- The body of the letter
- The thank you
- The close of the letter and the signature

Stress the importance of being polite in the letter and thanking the agency staff for sending them the map. Make sure enough are requested so that each student gets one.

Divide children into groups of four or five, preferably with children from the same neighborhood grouped together.

Ask one child to look up the appropriate traffic agency or city hall in the phone book and copy address down on paper.

Ask another student to write the agency address and the school's return address neatly on the envelope.

Ask another student in the group to write the letter with assistance from the other students in the group. The letter should say that the class is learning about bike safety and navigation and needs the maps for the lessons.

Ask all four or five students in each group to sign the letters with their names printed, signed and their ages by their signature.



Collecting Community Information

Bicycle Safety Lesson 4, cont.

CLOSURE

Time: 2 Minutes

We've learned how to use a phone book to get information about our community. We've also learned how to write a letter to get information from our local government that will help us learn more about traffic safety when we ride our bikes.

Ask a student from each group to read his or her letter to the class.