



Mapping My Route to School

Grade level: 4 through 8

Subject: Geography

Objective: To create a map of each student's route to school and identify hazards along the way

Set Up: Can be a take-home assignment or done as an in-class activity. In order to model the mapping activity it is useful to have the map copied to a transparency for use with an overhead projector.

Other maps (U.S. or world) are useful for comparison

Materials:

School area map (found at mapquest.com, or use mapping grid handout with street names filled in)

Colored pens or pencils

Additional:

school area map overhead

overhead projector

colored overhead pens

other maps for comparison

Discussion:

- Ask the class how many people usually walk or roll (bike, scoot, skateboard, rollerblade, etc.) to school
- Ask how many people regularly **carpool** (check for understanding of a carpool as more than one family sharing a ride)
- Ask how many people regularly use more than one **mode** of transportation to get to school (check for understanding of the term mode as a way of doing something)

Instruction/Modeling:

- Instruct students to use the map provided to trace their route to school using a colored pen or pencil (a yellow felt pen works the best).
- Students will probably have more than one route because they rely on different modes of transportation. Many people drive some days and walk or ride other days. Use different colors for each route and create a key. For example:
 - yellow= driving route
 - red= biking route
- Instruct students to label any hazardous street crossings with circles
- Demonstrate using the overhead map and different colored pens.

Assessment: Were students able to trace a route or routes accurately and create a color key to indicate which mode of transit they were using? Were they able to identify hazards?

Closing: Ask the class to share some of the reasons they can't walk or ride to school and brainstorm possible solutions. Discuss the hazards identified and how they can take precautions (Stop, Look, and Listen before crossing, peek around parked cars, make sure drivers see you by making eye contact or waving).

courtesy Marin County Bicycle Coalition

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Name

