



**Vehicle Travel Diary:** Students keep track of their family's car trips and discuss alternative modes of transportation.

### Lesson Plans For Educators

families

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design

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public safety

## Vehicle Travel Diary

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This family activity is done over the course of a week. Ask your students to keep track of their family's automobile trips. A trip is measured from one point A to point B. If the children are driven to school on the way to work, the first trip is from home to the school. The second trip is from the school to the workplace. If you go shopping on the way home from work, the first trip is from the workplace to where you shop. The second trip is from the shop to your home.

Create a chart that allows children to record the date of the trip, the origin, destination and miles for each trip. At the end of the week, count the number of trips that were made. Count the number of miles that were driven. Have a class discussion on alternatives to driving. Can any of these trips be made by transit, walking, biking, or carpooling?

### Variations

- Calculate the amount of pollution generated by the family per week (1 pound of CO<sub>2</sub> per mile).
- Have students keep a diary of their own trips.
- Create a class chart and calculate the number of trips for the whole class.
- Discuss ways to reduce the number of trips. Example—Students could walk or bike to a friend's house, arrange carpools for soccer practice, or walk or bike to school more often.
- Set a goal for the class with each student making his or her personal goal.
- Do a second diary for another week. Compare the results to the first week. How many trips were reduced? How much pollution was saved as a result?
- Use this as a classroom contest where the class that saves the most trips wins a prize