

Teacher Lesson Plan

Content Area(s)/Course/Grade:

5th to 8th Grade

Unit:

Virtual Reality Experience – Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

Lesson Topic:

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

Date:

Teacher:

School:

Lesson Objective(s):

By the end of this unit, students will learn the safety rules associated with parking lot safety, crosswalks safety, and bicycle safety.

Material(s):

- Computer or Virtual Reality (VR) Device (e.g., Oculus)
- Texas Transportation Code (Chapter 552. Pedestrians)
(<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/docs/tn/htm/tn.551.htm>)
- Texas Transportation Code (Chapter 552. Pedestrians)
(<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/TN/htm/TN.552.htm>)
- Level appropriate summary of Texas Transportation code

Instructions

1. Review the summary of Texas Transportation Code Section 551 and 552 associated with bicycle operation and pedestrians.
2. Discuss potential risky situations related to crossing a street
 - a. **Crossing where there's no pedestrian signal.**
Without a signal, drivers may not expect someone to cross—wait for a safe gap and make eye contact with drivers before stepping into the street.
 - b. **Crossing at a spot with no marked crosswalk.**
When there's no crosswalk, drivers may not know to slow down or stop. Always be extra careful and cross only when it's completely safe.
 - c. **Crossing the street without taking precautions.***
Never dart out into the road. Always stop, look left, right, and left again, and keep watching for traffic as you cross.
 - d. **Being distracted by a phone or device while crossing.**
Looking at a screen or wearing headphones means you might miss a car coming. Stay alert and aware of your surroundings.
 - e. **Parked cars blocking the view.**
If you step out from behind a parked car, drivers may not see you in time. Move to a clear area before crossing where both you and the driver can see each other.

NOTE: Precautions include pedestrian's behaviors 1) looking left, right and left again before crossing the street, 2) making eye contact with drivers of oncoming cars, and 3) recognizing if you or an oncoming vehicle/bicycle have the right of way.

3. Discuss potential risky situations related to operating a bicycle in a parking lot and on the road.
 - a. **Watch out for cars backing out of parking spaces — drivers may not see you right away.**
Always slow down and make eye contact if possible before riding or walking behind a parked car.
 - b. **Avoid using headphones or looking at your phone while riding or walking your bike.**
They can distract you from hearing horns, engines, or people trying to warn you of danger.
 - c. **Always wear your helmet, even in parking lots.**
A car going just a few miles per hour can still cause a serious head injury.
 - d. **Be extra careful near driveways or loading zones.**
Drivers in these areas are often focused on other vehicles—not looking out for bikes or pedestrians.
 - e. **Watch for car doors opening into your path.**
Someone might open their door without checking for a cyclist, which could cause a crash.
 - f. **Cars can come from any direction in a parking lot.**
Walk your bike and choose a path that keeps you away from moving cars whenever possible.

4. Play the VR experience using the computer/VR device

(<https://harleyandhobbitroadsafety.com/curriculum/11-14-english/pedestrian-bicycle-safety-english-5th-8th/>)

Discussion Questions

1. **Should you walk or ride your bike through a parking lot?**

Answer: You should walk your bike. Cars can come from any direction, and drivers may not see you, especially when backing out. Walking helps you stay alert and in control.

2. **What side of the road should you ride your bike on if there is no bike lane?**

Answer: You should ride on the **right side of the road**, in the same direction as traffic. Riding against traffic is dangerous because drivers won't expect you there.

3. **Does a vehicle or pedestrian have the right of way when a pedestrian is trying to cross a roadway at a place other than in a marked or unmarked crosswalk?**

Answer: In that case, the **vehicle has the right of way**. Pedestrians should only cross when it's safe and legal—drivers may not be looking for people crossing in the middle of the street.

4. **Why should you always make eye contact with a vehicle/bicycle before stepping out into the street, even if you have the right of way?**

Answer: Making eye contact helps make sure the driver or cyclist sees you and is stopping. Just having the right of way doesn't guarantee that they will stop.

5. **What problem did Hobbit have in the VR experience?**

Answer (possible answer): Hobbit was distracted and didn't check for traffic before crossing. He may have stepped into the street without making eye contact or looking both ways.

6. **What does it mean when you see white lights shining on the back of a car?**

Answer: It means the car is in **reverse and backing up**. Stay out of the way, because the driver may not be able to see you behind them.