

Teaching News Is Elementary

October 16, 2015

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Materials you will need for this lesson: The Seattle Times e-Edition, Internet/library for research.

Article: Link Light Rail and You: Be Smart. Be Safe

Page: A8

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

Look at the title and the photographs. Have you seen the Link light rail before? What parts of Seattle does it travel to? Why might riding the Link light rail be a better idea than driving, taking a taxi cab or bus?

Vocabulary:

Read the following quotes and determine the meaning of the word based on how it's used in the sentence:

"Trespassing on the tracks may result in a \$136 fine."

(Going on or into an area that is prohibited by law)

"Being smart is also important when you're waiting on the **platform**."

(a flat area next to railroad tracks where people wait for a train or subway)

"The **crossbuck** sign means you are at a crossing"

(A sign showing two lines making an X which indicates a railway crossing and prevents traffic from crossing the tracks.)

"I only cross tracks at **designated** crossings."
(Officially chosen for a particular role or purpose)

Journal Writing Prompts:

“It’s not okay to play on the tracks, take shortcuts across the tracks or be distracted near the tracks. Be sure to look both ways and listen before crossing. A train can come from any direction at any time. It’s smart to take out your earbuds, keep your head up and be alert.”

Write a short story about you and your friends’ behavior around link light rail tracks. Describe your safe behavior in detail incorporating the five senses in your descriptions. What specific safe behaviors should you exhibit around train tracks?

Discussion Questions:

Review the excerpt and discuss the following questions:

“DID YOU KNOW?

- **Light rail trains run on electricity and are very quiet**
- **Light rail trains travel between 35 and 55 m.p.h.**
- **For a light rail train traveling at 55 m.p.h., it can take the distance of up to three football fields to stop**
- **Trespassing on the tracks may result in a \$136 fine.”**

Which of the above facts surprised you? Why? Learn more about Link light rail at: <http://www.zaponboard.com>. Use your library and the internet to learn the difference between link light rail and bus fares, power, speed, and distance required to stop.

Small group discussion and activity:

“TEST YOUR TRAIN KNOWLEDGE!

- 1. What kinds of things might distract you around the tracks?**

Headphones, Games, Cell phone or Playing

- 2. It takes the distance of for a Link light rail train to stop.**

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. One foot | c. One football field |
| b. One yard | d. Three football fields” |

Answer the above question and the seven that follow using what you learned from the article. Check your answers at Besmartbesafe.org. What concepts do you need to review?