

# NEWS BREAK

**Wednesday's News Break** selects an article from **Tuesday, April 26** of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

**German city looking out for walkers looking down** (Main News, **page A8**).

## Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Before you read this article, as a class discuss what you think this story will be about. Write down any keywords from the title, which you used to make your predictions. Also discuss what clues the photo accompanying the article might give you.
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| A. <b>collision</b>    | 1. to place or set (something) firmly in something else  |
| B. <b>commentators</b> | 2. to provide or be a good reason for (something); to prove or show (something) to be just, right, or reasonable   |
| C. <b>distracted</b>   | 3. a person who discusses important people and events on television, in newspapers, etc.   |
| D. <b>embedded</b>     | 4. a vehicle that runs on a track or on rails and that is usually used to carry groups of people for a short distance; streetcar                               |
| E. <b>established</b>  | 5. something that a person does often in a regular and repeated way  |
| F. <b>habit</b>        | 6. something (such as an interesting fact or event) that can be observed and studied and that typically is unusual or difficult to understand or explain fully |
| G. <b>headlines</b>    | 7. to be the only person or thing that someone thinks or talks about   |
| H. <b>justified</b>    | 8. unable to think about or pay attention to something; unable to concentrate  |
| I. <b>obsessed</b>     | 9. common over a wide area or among many people  |
| J. <b>pedestrian</b>   | 10. to repeat (something written or said by another person) exactly  |
| K. <b>phenomenon</b>   | 11. the major news stories reported in newspapers, magazines, or television news programs  |
| L. <b>quoted</b>       | 12. a crash in which two or more things or people hit each other   |
| M. <b>smartphone</b>   | 13. a person who is walking in a city, along a road, etc.  |
| N. <b>tram</b>         | 14. to make the truth or existence of (something) clear or certain; to show that (something) is true or real   |
| O. <b>widespread</b>   | 15. a device that combines a cell phone with a hand-held computer, typically offering Internet access, data storage, email capability, etc.                    |

## Comprehension

1. According to the article, typically crowds of Germans will wait for traffic lights to turn green even when there are no what?
2. Officials in the city of Augsburg, Germany became concerned when they noticed what new phenomenon?
3. What did the city of Augsburg do to try and solve the pedestrian problem?
4. What have some commentators complained that the city's project is a waste of?
5. A recent survey conducted in several European cities, found that almost what percent of pedestrians were distracted by their smartphones?
  - a) 10 percent
  - b) 20 percent
  - c) 30 percent
  - d) None of the above
6. The U.S. Department of Transportation has established a clear connection between such smartphone habits and an increase in what?
7. According to the survey, who was most likely to risk their safety for a quick look at their Facebook profile – older people or younger people?
8. A survey by the University of Washington found that 1 in 3 Americans is busy texting or working on a smartphone at dangerous road crossings – **true or false**?
9. In 2014, the Chinese city of Chongqing made headlines when it experimented with what?

## Additional Activities

1. Besides the risk to pedestrians discussed in the article, what other affects can smartphones have on our lives – especially if they become an obsession? As a class or in small groups make a list of risks that smartphones may pose. Also discuss how smartphones have improved our lives or made things easier. Do you think the benefits outweigh the risk – why or why not?
2. After reading the article, do you think that what officials are doing in the city of Augsburg and installing new traffic lights embedded in the pavement is a good idea or a waste of money? What would you do to make pedestrians on smartphones more aware of their surroundings and the potential dangers? In small groups come up with ideas/campaign to educate both pedestrians and drivers to the risks of using smartphones while walking or driving on the road. Make a poster to highlight your idea and deliver your message about safe smartphone use.

News Break is posted to the Web on Wednesday and Friday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please register on-line or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655. Copyright © 2016 The Seattle Times Company

### **Answer Key to Vocabulary**

- A. 12
- B. 3
- C. 8
- D. 1
- E. 14
- F. 5
- G. 11
- H. 2
- I. 7
- J. 13
- K. 6
- L. 10
- M. 15
- N. 4
- O. 9

### **Answer Key to Comprehension Questions**

- 1. Even when there are no cars in sight.
- 2. When they noticed that pedestrians were so busy looking at their smartphones they were ignoring traffic lights.
- 3. They tried to solve the problem by installing new traffic lights that were embedded in the pavement so that pedestrians would see them when looking down.
- 4. Taxpayer money.
- 5. b) 20 percent
- 6. An increase in pedestrian deaths.
- 7. Younger people were most likely to risk their safety.
- 8. True
- 9. It experimented with a stretch of pavement where pedestrians had to choose between walking in a normal lane or one reserved for people walking and staring at their smartphones (or smombies).