

Objectives

1b. 2b. 4a: To compare places using the observations and recordings from road traffic surveys.

Resources

Selection of toy vehicles, paper and pencils, clipboards, timers, Resource Sheet 14 copied onto A4 acetate sheets, Resource Sheet 15. ***This lesson also involves fieldwork investigation outside the classroom and may require additional adults.***

Introduction

Tell the children that they are going to find out how busy the school road is. Ask them how this could be done. Explain what a traffic survey is. Decide with the children all that they will need to do for their own survey and how this will be done safely. Ask the children which type of vehicles they think they may see using the school road and which type of vehicle they think will be most common. Use the toy cars as a visual reminder of which vehicles they may see.

Activity 1

Using Resource Sheet 14, remind the children of how to make a block graph. In pairs or individually, ask the children to draw a block graph of what they think they will see. Select some children to record their graphs on A4 acetates. Use an OHP to show and compare some predictions.

Activity 2

Put the children into small groups. Each group will need clipboards, recording materials and a timer. Using Resource Sheet 15, make sure that all of the children know how to record their observations changing the tally chart to a pictogram. Assign the timer to one child in each group and explain to everyone how long the survey will last. Fifteen minutes should be appropriate in most cases. Take the children outside and begin the survey. ***If at all possible, the children should survey from within the school grounds.*** Ensure that the recording is done as accurately as possible. The child with the timer should stop each group after 15 minutes and everyone will then return to the classroom. Bring the children together and ask them how things went. Identify any problems and decide why these happened e.g. a group may have seen an unexpected vehicle.

Activity 3

To make another block graph, this time to show what they saw. Let the children compare the two. Those who used an acetate for their first graph can compare by placing this over the second graph.

Plenary

Ask the children which was the most common vehicle. Compare this to their predictions. Compare your school traffic survey results with those of a contrasting UK locality by using resource Resource Sheet 14. Decide if your school road is busy or not.

Assessment and Evaluation

Know how busy their school road is in comparison to a road, in a contrasting locality.

Points to Note

1. The traffic survey should be carried out at different times of the day and the results compared.
2. Organisation of the survey will depend on such things as school location and environment.
3. Children could present their results to other children, and adults such as the Headteacher.
4. ICT software could be used to show the survey results in different forms.