



PROGRAMME 29: WALKING SCHOOL BUS

AIMS

The aim of this lesson is for children to participate in and appreciate the benefits of the Walking School Buses within our community. Also for the children to understand how participating in these buses has benefits for them.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will:

- understand the benefits of health and well-being for children through walking
 - know that a reduction in traffic congestion around schools is beneficial to our environment and safety
 - learn that it is a safe and convenient way for children to travel to school
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MATERIALS

- DVD 2 episode 'Walking School Bus'
 - Large piece of paper and a marker
 - Photocopies of the Eco Tree Worksheet
 - Coloured crayons or pencils
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SKILLS

- Communication
 - Co-operation
 - Self-management
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VIRTUES

- Reliability
- Patience
- Co-operation
- Awareness
- Friendship

LESSONS (Adapt for Juniors)

1. If you have a Walking School Bus operating at your school, ask the children what they think the Walking School Bus is, and how it operates (bus stops, drivers and a timetable and where it goes in the neighbourhood).

If your school does not have a Walking School Bus operating, ask the children what they know about a Walking School Bus, as above.

2. Play the episode of 'Walking School Bus' on DVD 2 to the children. See CD Rom for printable worksheets.

Re-emphasise to the children the concepts from the DVD that Bryan & Bobby discussed.

- Rush-hour traffic
 - Pollution
 - Timetables
 - Routes, bus stops etc
 - 10,000 steps to be fit
 - Environmental concepts
 - Exercise and health
 - Parent help
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3. Discuss/Mind map the benefits and advantages of coming by car or walking to school on a large piece of paper to display in the classroom.

COMING TO SCHOOL BY:	
Car	or Walking
Get to school faster	Exercise
Comfortable ride	Less pollution
Safe	Get to know people
etc	Less traffic on roads
	etc

4. Have children colour in the Eco Tree on the following worksheet. Get the children to colour a leaf green if they walked to school; yellow if they cycled to school; blue if they took a bus or red if they came by car. Each day have the children colour and paste their coloured leaves onto branches. At the end of the week hand out a sticker or certificate to those children who walked the most and/or have the most carbon-friendly footprint in the class.
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ECO TREE

Name:

Date:

How did you come to school and go home?

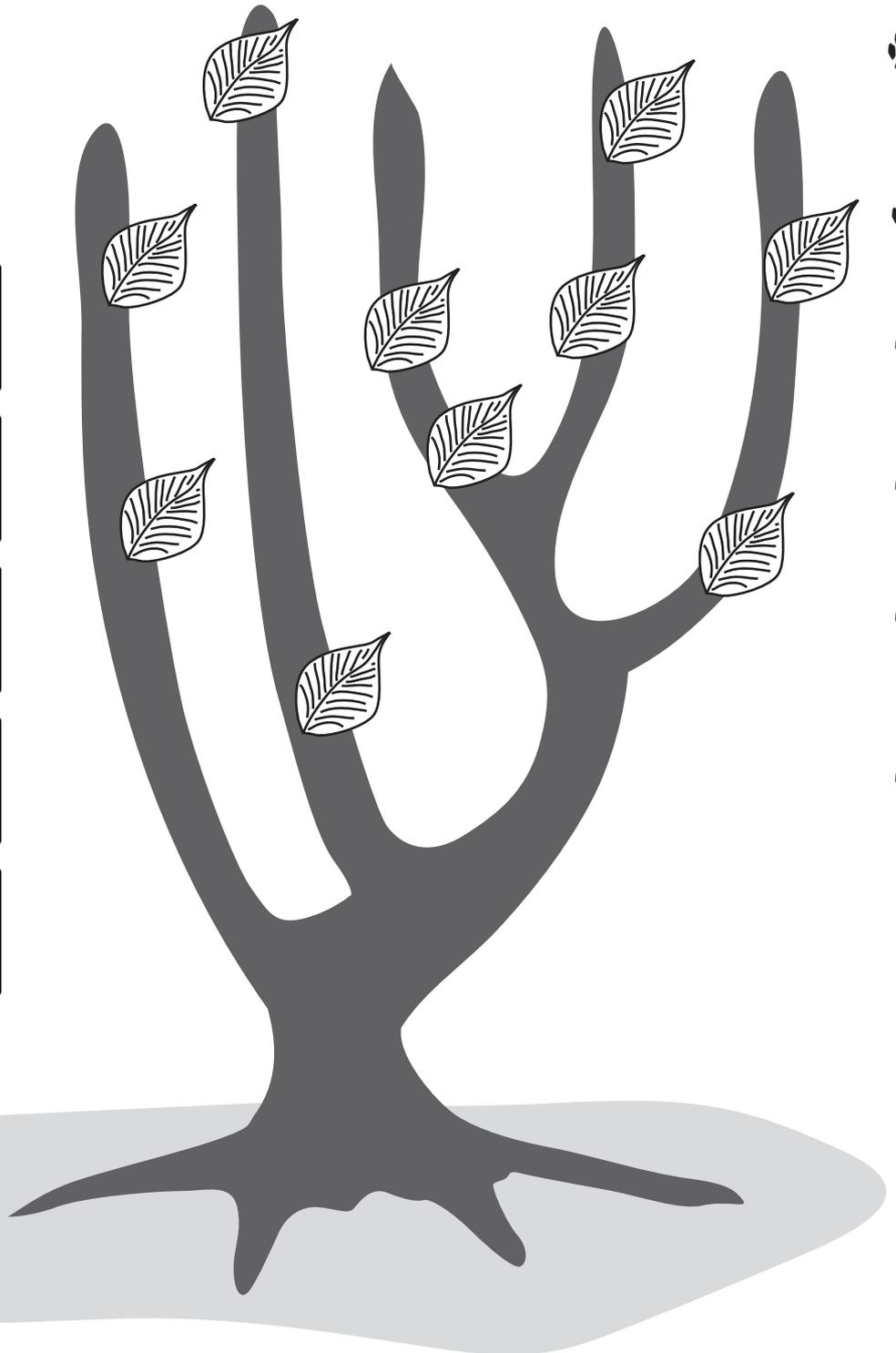
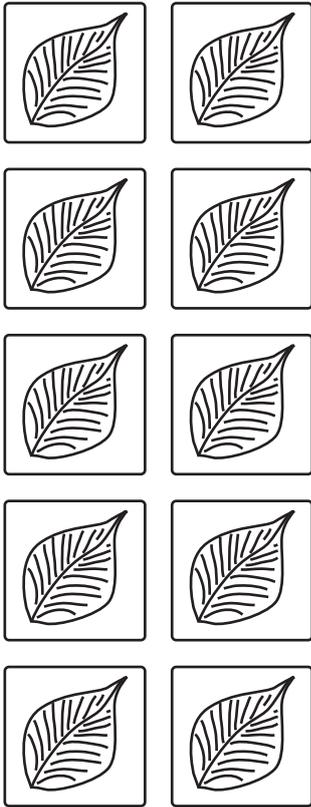
Each day this week, colour two leaves indicating how you travelled (morning and afternoon).

CAR=RED

BUS=ORANGE

BICYCLE=YELLOW

WALKING=GREEN



SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Environmental Studies/Art

Discuss the effects our footprints have on the Earth and how it will affect our present and our future. Dependent on the grade, create lessons to encourage students to reduce their footprints on Earth. The Walking School Bus is only one of many ways to be kinder to the Earth. Students may choose to have parents walk them to classmates' birthday parties or engage in sports close to home.

Health

Take the children on an excursion around their neighbourhood and find out where the Walking School Bus stops are. Focus on the correct way of crossing the roads; stop, think, look and listen, then discuss other hazards that children may face travelling to and from school. This is a good way for children to enjoy walking while looking out for possible hazards.

Maths

Have the children survey other children in their class or in other classes in the school, to find out how they came to school; by car, train, bicycle, bus, walking or Walking School Bus. Graph the results and discuss the findings with the class. Discuss who would have the most carbon footprints and contribute most to global warming etc.

Have the children survey the number of cars that visit the school during one morning and note the number of people in each car. Have the children present to and discuss the findings with the class. This is a good way of having children become aware of the ways that parents can improve their carbon footprints; by car pooling more than one child to and from school, or finding cheaper, more environmentally friendly ways to get their children to school.

Oral Language

Have a debate on the benefits of using motorised transport over a Walking School Bus. This is a good way to get children thinking of the impact that cars have on the environment in regard to carbon footprints and emphasising health and social benefits.

Topic

Encourage enthusiasm by running competitions through the school for students to name their 'bus' or even design 'bus' mascots. Creating artworks such as these will provide great photo opportunities to promote the Walking School Bus in your local newspaper.

Take part in the Walking Wednesdays held each year in March.
