



How children travel to school Teachers' Notes



This activity is designed to help learners to understand the importance of:

- stating clearly the purpose of an investigation;
- planning how to collect data;
- designing clear, unbiased questions, open and closed;
- selecting a representative sample;
- tabulating results systematically;
- taking random samples;
- plotting the appropriate graph or chart;
- reporting accurately on your findings.

Timing: two, one hour lessons.

This resource is based on results from the 2010/11 *CensusAtSchool* Questionnaire, www.censusatschool.org.uk Take Part/Questionnaires 10/11.

Tasks 1 and 6 are completed on the worksheet.

Task 3 can be completed on paper or in Excel.

Tasks 4, 5, 7 and 8 need to be completed **online** using the *CensusAtSchool* DataTool. All the instructions for this are included in the worksheet.

The learners need to work in groups of 4 or 5 with one lesson pack per group.

Task 1 asks learners to discuss the design of a question 'How do you usually travel to school?' and to guess the results.

Task 2 asks learners to answer the question about how they usually travel to school, to plot the results for their group and to discuss the size of this sample.

Task 3 gives the real data for four groups and asks learners to plot this data and to comment on the graph and the sample size.

Task 4 (needs to be completed online) gives clear instructions on how to use the DataTool and asks learners to take random samples of different sizes and to tabulate the results along with the results from their group and the four groups from Task 3.

Task 5 gives instructions how to take samples of 200 girls and 200 boys and asks learners to tabulate these and to draw some conclusions.

Task 6 asks learners to reflect on their thoughts/guesses in Task 1.

Task 7 asks learners to use results from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website to consider the number of extra cars on the road during the beginning and the end of the school day.

Task 8 gives learners the opportunity to compare *CensusAtSchool* data with data from the ONS website.

Task 9 asks learners to look at the way South African children travel to school.