

Staying Safe Around Trains

Grade 5

Social Studies

Canada and World Connections:

Aspects of Citizenship and Government in Canada

Learning Objective:

- ▶ Students will:
 - Learn how laws have been developed to protect children from injuries on railway tracks and property.

Length of Lesson:

45-60 minutes

Teaching Activities:

Ask the students:

- What is a law?
- What are examples of laws?
- How are laws made?
- What is trespassing on railways?

Trespassing is:

- Walking, playing or running on or beside railway tracks
- Driving a bike, a car, an ATV, a snowmobile or any other vehicle on or beside railway tracks
- Taking a shortcut across railway tracks or railway property
- Entering railway yards at any time

Discuss railway laws with the students.

Laws are created to protect people and people's property. Railway laws protect people from being injured and killed by trains and protect property that belongs to the railway companies. All railway tracks in Canada are owned by private companies, just like a house or an apartment is owned by someone. You cannot go on someone else's property without their permission. If you do, it is called trespassing. Railway police make sure that the laws are followed. They issue warnings, tickets, and fines to ensure that people follow the laws.

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Today's assignment is to learn about trespassing on railway property and also about the laws that protect the property of the railway companies and protect people from being injured and killed by trains.

Break the students into small groups. Each group will receive a copy of The Railway Laws and Enforcement Fact Sheet to review. Ask each group to do the following activities:

- Use a classroom dictionary and look up the words trespass, law and enforcement.
- Write out all the definitions.
- Have the students answer:
 - What is the trespassing law for railways in Canada?
 - How is it enforced?
 - Why is this an important law?
- Have groups share their answers.

Student Assessment and Evaluation:

Have students write a journal entry from the point of view of a fined trespasser, or create a daily log entry of a railway police officer. Have them include what their character was thinking or feeling.

Follow-Up Activities:

- 1) Invite a local railway police officer into your classroom to talk about how they enforce safety around railway tracks and property.
 - Farmers can cross over train tracks if the tracks go through their land/fields.
 - Trespassing laws are a nuisance.
- 2) Have students create a poster to show "trespassing" on the railway tracks. Have students present their posters to the school and present rail safety tips. Discuss the above statements as a class and have students circle the views on their pages that best describes their position on each statement.
- 3) Have students divide a sheet of paper in half and lists reasons for and against the following statements:
 - It's okay to trespass over a railway track if no trains are coming, in order to get to school on time.