

8. GENERAL AWARENESS

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

While going to school you must have seen several vehicles like bicycles, rickshaws, scooters, motorcycles, cars, buses, and trucks on the road. In the cities there are too many vehicles which often bring the traffic to a halt.

You must have also read slogans like these on the road side.

'Better Late Than Never', 'Walk on the left', 'Someone is waiting for you at home,' 'Limited Speed, Safe life', 'Traffic is yours, Safety is yours'. Have you ever been to the busiest road of your city or market? You must have seen that to reach certain places one has to wait for a long time in the crowd - there is a lot of traffic, vehicles are not parked properly, building materials are piled up on the road and stray animals roam on the roads. People drive rashly and take shortcuts even if they are on the wrong side in order to reach early. This can lead to serious accidents.



Pic. 8.1 Crowded square

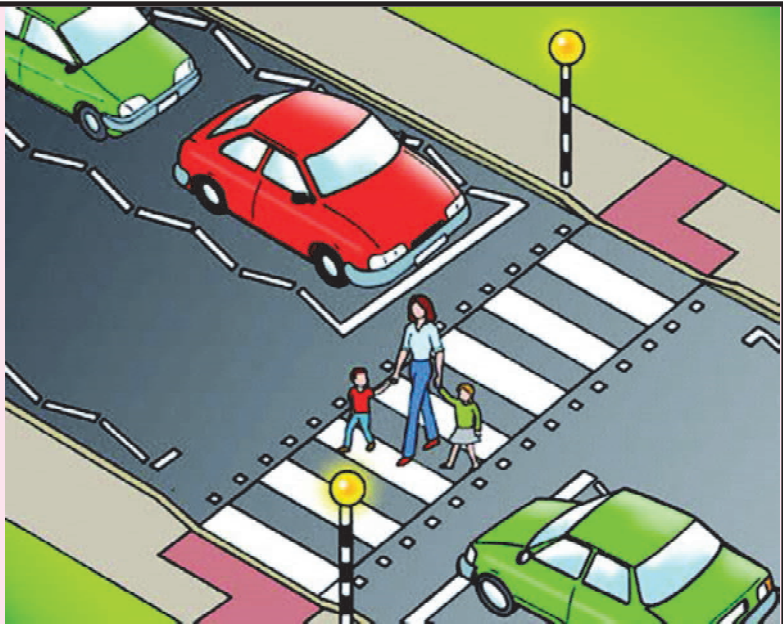
To reduce the pressure of the traffic and to walk safely on the roads, certain rules have been made. For example, we should walk on the left side of the road. If you walk on the wrong side, you will find many difficulties.



WHAT IS THE ROAD SAFETY WEEK ?

Road Safety week is celebrated where by information is given regarding rules of the traffic. Accidents can be avoided if these rules are followed. The smallest vehicle on the road is the two wheeler. Those who ride two wheelers are more likely to meet accidents because a two wheeler can easily get imbalanced. Therefore, while driving any vehicle, keep in mind the following -

1. Do not drive fast. Check your speed and watch the condition of the road. Otherwise the fast speed can take your life.
2. Two wheeler driver and person sitting behind should use helmet.
3. Do not race with any car. Do not overtake where not allowed.
4. At every turn, junction and slope go at a slow speed, and remember to give the indication to the traffic. Follow the indications given by the traffic police. Give indications clearly and on time.
5. If pedestrians are crossing the road, stop the car and let them cross.
6. Always walk on the left side of the road. Do not cross the centre line. If there are footpaths on the sides of the road walk on them. You will feel more comfortable and safe. Before crossing a road, look to your right and left.



Pic 8.2 zebra crossing

There are traffic signals and zebra crossings in cities to ease the traffic. Roads should be crossed at the zebra crossing when the red signal is on. Zebra crossing is for the pedestrians. Green signal with a picture of a child means that you can cross the road.

The different symbols of the traffic on the road help in making our journey safe and comfortable.



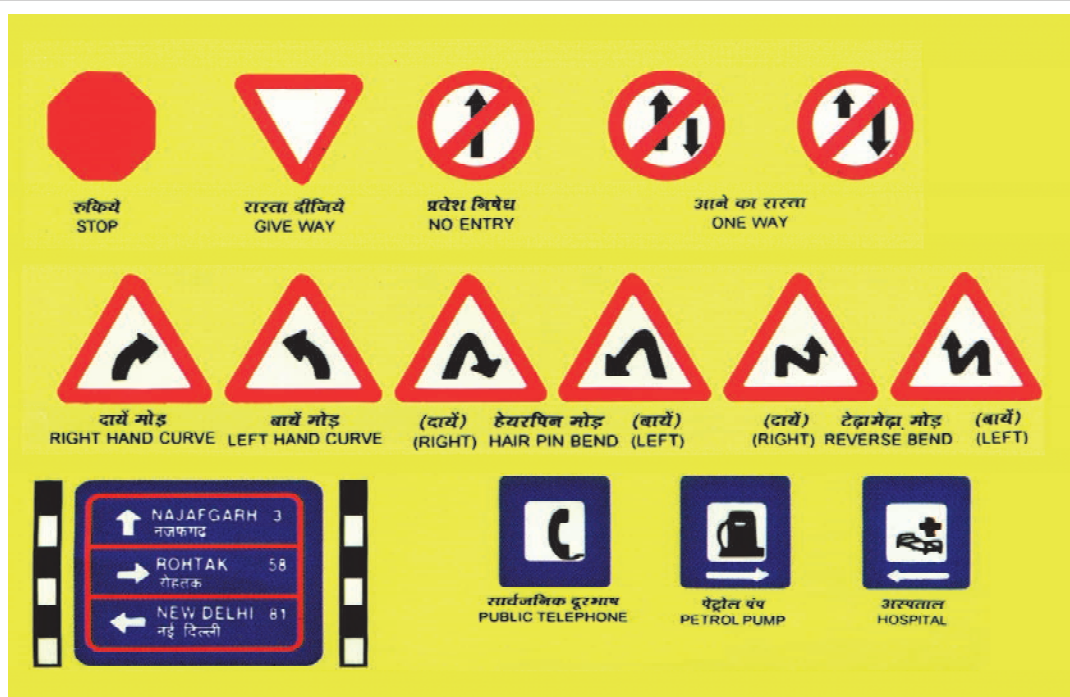
From time to time, the scouts and guides of your school help in controlling traffic. Discuss and find out how they help the traffic department.

ACTIVITY

Look at these road symbols carefully. Have you ever seen these symbols along the road? - If yes, then which ones?

Thing to remember

1. We must follow the traffic rules while driving or walking on the road.
2. A person who is 18 years old and above has the right to drive vehicles.
3. Always carry the driving license and necessary documents while driving.
4. Three people are not allowed on two wheelers.
5. Drive at the prescribed speed only.
6. Violation of traffic rules is punishable.



Pic 8.3 Traffic Symbols

Imagine and Draw: Make a sketch of Gopal's journey and also draw the road symbols he would have come across.

One day Gopal came out to visit his uncle. After walking a short distance he 'turned right'. After a distance of about 1 km, he came across a 'narrow bridge'. He came to an uneven road after one km. A short distance later he saw a school. His uncle's house is near the school.



1. What is Zebra crossing?
2. What should you remember while crossing the road?

LOANS AND SAVINGS

Kishan is greatly attached to his bullocks. Daily he bathes them and feeds them. His bullocks are also fond of him. Every morning his father takes them out. They work with him all day and return home with him. One day Kishan heard his parents talking. They were talking about the marriage of Kishan's elder sister.

Father - Kishan's mother, only a couple of days are left for our daughter's marriage. I am worried, from where will we arrange the money needed for the marriage.

Mother - Let us also get our daughter married in a simple style like our neighbour Lalji. They had performed all the essential rites very nicely.

Father - This is in vogue these days. By performing the essential rites in one day, we can stop a lot of unnecessary expenditure which occurs when we prolong the activities for three or four days.

Mother - Calculate and see how much money will be needed?

Father - I have done the calculations. We shall need about 10 to 12 thousand rupees. The loan which was taken from the Primary Credit Cooperative Society for urea, seeds & medicines, has to be repaid also.

Mother - Why do you not talk to Kishan's uncle?

Father - Kishan's uncle has arranged some money from the co-operative society. After that we need a lot of money.

Just then Kishan's brother Bishan and sister-in-law Devaki also came there. Kishan's brother said - I have saved about two to three thousand rupees.

Father - (with a heavy heart) "Bishan, you do not worry. We will arrange the remaining amount by selling our bullocks."

Kishan - (was sitting quietly & as he heard this he started crying) - No, I will not allow the bullocks to be sold. They are my dear friends.

Kishan's mother and sister-in-law told Kishan that there was no need of selling bullocks, and all started smiling.

Father - Kishan's mother you have never taken the women's group seriously.

Mother - You always asked what Devaki and I do in the meeting of the women's group.



Sis in law (Bhabi)-

Father, do you remember that we suffered great losses when the agents and the businessmen purchased our tamarind and mangoes at a very low rate?

Mother - Sometime ago we formed a co-operative society and then sold our goods. This way we earned more profit than before.



Pic. 8.4 Meeting of self help group

Sis in law (Bhabi)- We have formed a Mahila Savings Group.

All the Ladies who have a membership save some amount of money every month and deposit it in the bank. If any one of us is in need of money, she can get a loan.

Mother - Your daughter-in-law and myself both are members of the Mahila Saving Group. Both of us can get a loan of about ten thousand rupees.

Father - Then we can easily perform our daughter's marriage.

Kishan who was listening to the whole conversation was very happy to learn that his bullocks would not be sold.

Do you have any Mahila Saving Group in your village? If yes, then how does it work? Discuss with your teacher.

WATER IS LIFE

Like any other day, everyone in the family was preparing for the daily work. Priyanka studied in the nearby middle school. She was surprised reading the morning newspaper and called out to her mother.

Priyanka - Mother, there will be no water supply tomorrow.

Mother - As because the water supply has been reduced. Why there will be no water supply tomorrow, Priyanka?

Priyanka - The Pump House is being cleaned tomorrow.



Father - You are worried that there will be no water supply for a day. In the city there are several areas where people wander here and there for water.

Mother - It is the duty of the municipality to provide drinking water. The pipe near the square is broken and a lot of water is wasted.

Babuji - Municipality does the duty of providing drinking water. When ever there is problem they send water through tankers.

Mother - Another reason for less water is that people attach motor pumps to the government pipes without permission and take more water. They do not worry about others. What does the municipality do to stop such people?

Babuji - If there is a complaint then the municipality will not only confiscate the pump, but stop giving water to the family who is doing this.

The whole world is facing the problem of drinking water. The water level from the natural sources is going down day by day. The continuous lowering of the ground water level is a cause of concern. The imbalance in the environment has attracted the attention of the whole world. People should seriously think about judicious use of drinking water and about its conservation. Lakes or dams must be constructed to collect and stop water from draining away. The government has made schemes to stop the draining away of water as well as to collect and store water in the villages.

Discuss with your teacher and find out what is being done to stop water from draining away. To conserve water the government has started schemes like the Rajeev Gandhi water conservation mission.

Discuss and prepare a list for the use of water

1. How much water can be stored in your house?
2. Which utensils are used to store water?
3. How much water is needed to bathe and wash clothes?
4. How much water is needed for your garden?



Students can make a table depicting the quantity of water collected from different sources and the quantities use for different purposes.

Name of Student

Table

Date	Total water	Tap Well	Drinking	Bathing	Washing	Toilet	Garden
MON							
TUES							
WED							
THURS							
FRI							
SAT							
TOTAL							

On its basis find out how many litres of water was stored in a week? How much was used for drinking and bathing? How many litres were used in the toilet and garden?

EXERCISE

I. Fill in the blanks

- The zebra crossing is made for _____.
- _____ are made on both sides of the road for walking.
- Chances of _____ increase if you walk on the wrong side.
- Priyanka came to know that there would be no water supply from _____.
- It is the responsibility of the _____ to provide drinking water.
- Kishan's mother and his bhabhi could get a loan of Rs. _____.

II. Answer in Yes/No

- We should walk on the right side.
- Traffic signals are not for pedestrians.
- Those who are less than 18 years in age should not drive vehicles.



4. We can park our bicycle anywhere in our school, inside or outside.
5. Red light is the signal for pedestrians to move ahead.

III. Answer the following questions

1. What is the use of a Zebra crossing ?
2. What rules are made to reduce the pressure of traffic?
3. Why did Kishan's father need money?
4. Why was the Mahila group unable to make profits in the beginning?
5. How much loan can a member of the Mahila Group get?
6. What had disturbed Priyanka and her mother?
7. How can water be conserved?
8. Why has water conservation become important in the whole world?

