

Transportation Equity

Overview

Map how to reach important places in your community by foot, bike, transit, and car. Compare options and reflect on the benefits and challenges in making transportation accessible and sustainable for all.

Learning outcomes

- Know different ways to get to key places using modes such as walking, biking, or transit, and how these compare to cars.
- Understand connections between transportation, equity and access.
- Reflect on how communities are shaped by mobility options, and how different transport modes can affect wellbeing and the environment.

Curriculum Connections

- Geography: Mapping, land use, transportation networks, urban design
- Social Studies: Equity, accessibility, public policy, community planning
- Health & Physical Education: Physical activity, safety, wellbeing
- Mathematics: Comparing travel times, distances, and costs
- Science: Environmental impacts associated with different transportation

Materials

- Paper or digital maps (e.g., Google Maps)
- Markers, pencils, or digital mapping tools

Proof to submit

- Students' maps (screenshots, photos, or drawings)
- Sample reflections from the class (written, audio, or visual)

Activity

Grades K to 6

Students choose a few key places (e.g., school, park, grocery store) and compare travel times by walking, biking, transit, and car. As a class, they discuss which modes seem easiest, safest, most fun, most healthful, and most eco-friendly, and who might face barriers (e.g., younger kids, elders, people who don't drive). Students then sketch or write one idea for how their community could help more people use walking, biking, or transit as a mode of transport.

Transportation Equity

Grades 7 to 12

Students create maps showing how to reach 2–3 destinations from school or home by walking, biking, transit, and car. They compare each option for time, cost, safety, enjoyment, environmental impact, and accessibility. Students identify system gaps, such as missing infrastructure, high costs, or barriers for people with disabilities, and propose one policy, design, or community change to improve equitable access.

Resources for teachers

Visit the [Live Net Zero Classroom Challenge website](#) for additional resources and information.