

My Dream Route

Overview

Imagine and design a safer, greener route to school or another destination in your community. Propose changes that would make streets more accessible, sustainable, and welcoming for everyone.

Learning outcomes

- Understand how infrastructure design (streets, sidewalks, crossings, bike lanes, landscaping, lighting, etc.) affects mobility and safety.
- Explore solutions for safer, greener and more accessible routes.
- Communicate ideas for improving community spaces.

Curriculum Connections

- Geography: Mapping, spatial thinking, transportation networks, community design
- Social Studies / Civics: Community planning, civic engagement
- Art: Drawing, visual communication, design
- Mathematics: Distance, scale, spatial measurement
- Health & Physical Education: Safety, accessibility, wellbeing

Materials

- Paper or digital maps of local area
- Markers, pencils, or digital drawing 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 imagine and draw or map a route to school or another destination in a dream community. The route can be a simple drawing or map appropriate to the students' age and abilities. What would it look like? What features would they include? How would they make this pathway feel safer, more accessible, or more environmentally appealing?

Grades 7 to 12

Students design a "dream route" to a key destination in their community and write a short reflection or proposal explaining changes that would improve accessibility and sustainability (e.g., transit stops, shaded sidewalks, lighting, bike lanes). *Challenge Extension: As a class, write a group letter to municipal representatives with feedback or recommendations. This can help students practice civic engagement and see how their voices can influence change.*

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Optional Extension: Advocate in Your Community

As a class, write a group letter to municipal representatives with feedback or recommendations. This can help students practice civic engagement and see how their voices can influence change.

Resources for teachers

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

Discussion prompts for students

- What does safe mean for different people (kids, elders, people with disabilities, cyclists, drivers)?
- What makes a route welcoming or unwelcoming?
- Which changes would make the biggest difference in your community?
- Who benefits most from safer, greener routes?
- How could your ideas be shared with decision-makers?