

Aim of lesson:	To hold a class debate
Travel Awareness Message:	Using alternative transport methods can reduce congestion
Resources:	Activity Sheet: Class Debate Agenda Prompt Sheet: Ideas for school travel Flipchart / Board to record information

ACTIVITIES:

- Ask the children what percentage of British school children cycle to school. Tell them the answer is only 1%, even though many children own bikes. This contrasts with Denmark where half of primary age children cycle to school.
- Why do the children think that most British youngsters do not cycle to school? (Speeding/heavy traffic / lack of cycle lanes / storage for bikes etc)
- Explain that the amount of traffic in our country has nearly doubled in the past 20 years. More and more children are being driven to school. All this traffic means congestion, pollution and accidents.
- Explain that Denmark had all these problems 30 years ago, along with the highest rates of child deaths on the roads in Western Europe. They solved the problem by introducing schemes so that people could safely walk or cycle to school.
- Explain that we need to do the same - make traffic slow down; have more safe places to cross roads and encourage people to walk, cycle or use public transport. The children are going to debate possible suggestions for the school locality
- Remind the class of the rules for class debates.
- Display the agenda and explain the issue to be debated. The chairperson needs to work to the agenda, and keep the class on-task. The minute-taker should record the main points and any decisions reached.
- Distribute the prompt sheet. The children should arrange the suggestions in rank order.
- After the class have agreed their three proposals, the chairperson should formally close the debate.

PLENARY Reflect on how well the debate went. Explain that the 3 proposals are based on the children's own opinions and that before they can campaign for changes they need evidence of how people travel to school and why they choose certain types of transport. In the next lesson they will plan a survey to obtain this information.