# School travel lesson plans
# Car Free Day

**Car Free Day Assembly Plan**

Yr R,1,2,3,4,5,6
Duration: approx 30 mins

**Objectives**; by the end of the assembly the children should be able to

- Recognise that population is increasing
- Recognise that as a result car ownership is rising
- Understand how different cities have different strategies to reduce the number of cars
- Suggest different ways that they can help

## Introduction

Introduce yourself and explain briefly what the children are going to learn about using the objectives above

Ask children how many people there are in the World (for your reference 2006 six billion, 2050 nine billion), UK (sixty million), London (seven million)
Use facts and figures provided to predict population growth
Use facts and figures provided to predict growth in car ownership

Ask the questions
Is there enough room in the world?
What is going to happen to our roads?

Show picture of gridlock – how would this make you feel if you had to deal with this everyday just to get to school?

## Main Presentation

Show Japan on world map
In Japan a huge freeway was built to help with the level of traffic
Show picture of freeway in Japan
At first it worked and traffic could flow easily.

Does building more roads help traffic congestion?
Short term effect yes – long term no

There has been an increase in freeways/motorways all over the world.
The number of vehicles has risen to almost 800 million,: 29 per cent are in the United States, and just 2.4 per cent in Africa.

Despite the pollution and congestion in cities, the number of cars continues to grow relentlessly.

Transport is the chief emitter of greenhouse gases, and the sheer number of users renders the measures for controlling it complex. Although emissions from industry have fallen since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, emissions from transport have risen by 75 per cent.

Pick three different cities across the world – to show that this is a global problem and there are many different ways to deal with it.

## ROME, ITALY

Rome introduced a congestion charge in 2001. Motorists need an electronic device fitted in their cars in order to pay and enter a 5.5km2 zone in the centre of the city. After the first year, pollution in the historic centre had fallen by 20% and journey times downtown were 10% shorter.

There are now plans to extend the area covered by the zone.

See resources sheet for picture.

## BOGOTA, SOUTH AMERICA

Bogotá used to be one of the most polluted and gridlocked cities in the world, but today the city's transport network has improved to benefit all residents, both rich and poor. There is a 17 km route into the city designed only for bicycles and pedestrians, and cheap, reliable buses now carry more than half a million people a day. Bogotá also holds the world's largest car-free day when the entire city of seven million people is closed to cars. This event has proved so popular that city residents have since voted to keep cars out of the city in the mornings and afternoon rush hour from 2005.

## LONDON , UK

The congestion charge came into force in London in February 2002. The congestion charge is in place for the following reasons;

- London has the worst traffic congestion in the UK and amongst the worst in Europe
- Drivers in central London spent 50% of their time in queues
- Every weekday morning the equivalent of 25 busy motorway lanes of traffic try to enter central London

- It has been estimated that London loses £2-4 million every week in terms of lost time caused by congestion

Cities across the world have been watching with interest to see whether London's congestion charge succeeds. Central London's traffic has already dropped by 40% and average speeds within the zone are now at their highest since the 1960s. Meanwhile, over a million more people are using London's improved fleet of buses each day as an alternative. Nevertheless, businesses within the zone now have rising costs from deliveries, and some drivers complain of being charged unfairly.

## Summary

So what have we learnt today?
Does more roads mean fewer cars?
Why do we have car free days?
What else can we do to decrease the numbers on cars on our roads?

## Recommended Resources

Facts and figures for population growth and car ownership
Picture of freeway in Japan
Pictures of the three cities