

Head Over Wheels

Teacher Notes

Description

Sweet alloys and top-of-the-range paint job – what does your dream bike, car or scooter look like? We'll give you the cash, you come up with the design. The catch is, will it keep you safe on the road?

Time to complete

Interactive game: About 20 minutes

Paper alternative: 20 minutes

How to use

- Design your dream vehicle by customising every single part it.
- Do a safety test on your vehicle to see how well prepared it would be on the road.
- If individual computer access is not available complete the game on interactive whiteboards in teams or individually.
- The paper alternative can be used if no computer equipment is available. These can be downloaded from the “Your Call” website.

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Discussion points

The idea is to build a vehicle that not only looks great, but is safe too.

1. When you were designing your vehicle, what was most important to you?

Answers may include its sleek/aerodynamic shape, the colour, great-looking wheels, comfort. Was there a difference in priorities between genders?

2. What about safety?

- Pupils may wish to research safety features in vehicles eg. *impact zones/crumple zones, airbags, ABS, driver visibility, restraints, GPS.*
- Pupils can use **www.safermotoring.co.uk** to look at car safety features/gadget safety or **www.eroncap.com** to look at the safety features of individual cars.

3. What safety features would you want in your car?

- Would your decision to buy a car be influenced by safety in the future?
- Would you pay more for extra safety features?
- What features do you think families want in a car?
- Do you think safety features lull drivers into a false sense of security?
- How could we shift the car advertising focus to safety?

4. Seatbelt use

People travelling in vehicles may give excuses for not wearing a seatbelt despite the fact that it is law to wear one. Ask pupils to suggest excuses that people make for not wearing a seatbelt eg. *doesn't fit, uncomfortable, only travelling a short distance, want to sleep.* Pupils may want to design a poster or pamphlet to promote seatbelt use.

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Additional exercises:



1. Ask them to write an 'expert' review based on the car they or a fellow classmate has designed.

If you want to pursue the topic further the class could create their own *Car Review magazine* (with their own title, of course) which features car reviews, car ads (based on their design) and editorial based on the topics discussed.

2. Now that they know about different types of safety features ask them to design the ultimate 'safe' car, with features of their own creation.