

Distraction Detectives

Students will learn how their behavior as passengers can affect a driver's focus.

Objective:

Through hands-on practice, video observation, and creative activities, students will explore how to prevent distractions and promote safer car rides.

Time Required:

45 minutes

Materials:

- Video access
- Distraction Detective Comic Strip Worksheet

Prep:

Prepare to share the video from WVRoadReady.wv.gov and print copies.

Lesson



1. Opening Discussion:

Prompt: What does it mean to be distracted?

Then ask: Have you ever distracted a driver without meaning to? What could you do instead? Make a class list of distractions and discuss safer options:

- Loud talking
- Showing videos or phones to the driver
- Arguing or playing
- Asking too many questions while they're driving

2. Get the video ready at WVRoadReady.wv.gov:

What Do Distractions Really Look Like? Students will take on the role of a Distraction Detective—someone who notices unsafe behavior during a car ride and helps address it. As you play the video, have students hold up pretend magnifying glasses and call out any distractions they see. Pause to discuss how each one affects the driver's focus and what can be done to fix the issue.

3. Guided Practice: Distraction Challenge

In pairs or small groups, students try a task (e.g., reading, stacking, writing, listening) while classmates distract them with sounds or actions. Then, repeat the task with no distractions.

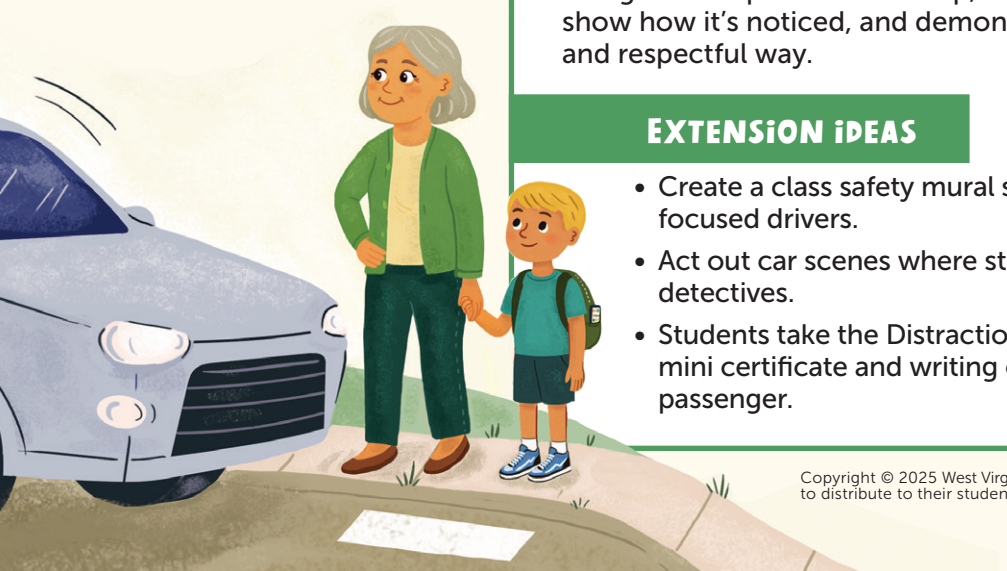
Reflection Questions: *Which scenario was easier and why? What would happen if a driver were distracted in the same way?*

4. Independent Practice: Distraction Detective Comic Strip

Using a three-panel comic strip, students will illustrate a distraction, show how it's noticed, and demonstrate how it gets resolved in a safe and respectful way.

Extension Ideas

- Create a class safety mural showing calm passengers and focused drivers.
- Act out car scenes where students spot and stop distractions as detectives.
- Students take the Distraction-Free Rider Pledge by signing a mini certificate and writing one promise they'll keep as a safe passenger.



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