



## Farm and countryside safety

### Curriculum links:

- **Science** Living things  
Environmental awareness and care
- **Geography** Human environments
- **SPHE** Myself and the wider world

### Introduction

The countryside can be a fun and exciting place for students to visit and enjoy. However, it should be enjoyed safely and while being supervised by an adult. In this lesson we will examine being safe around fences, roads and water.

### Lesson objectives

To highlight the importance of staying safe on the farm and the countryside. To explore the dangers around fences, roads and water.

### Teacher guidelines:

It is suggested that the teacher introduces students to the vocabulary and the concept of the countryside before starting the lesson.

### Keywords:

animals

fences

gates

pens

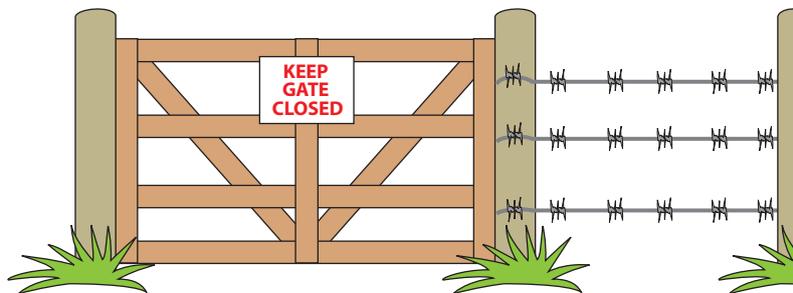
roads

safe cross code

### Safety around fences

Many farm **animals** live in fields. Sheep, cattle and other farm animals like to eat grass in the fields.

The farmer puts up **fences** to keep animals in the field. We should not climb over fences as we may be trespassing, or enter **gates** into fields where dangerous animals might be kept. Sometimes farmers put up electric fences which will give you a shock if you touch them. Fences may also contain sharp materials like barbed wire. If you have permission to enter, make sure that you close any gates after opening them.



### Staying safe around livestock in pens

Do not wander around the farm on your own or enter sheds/barns without the farmer's permission. Animals may be housed inside in **pens**. Do not try to enter the pen as you may become trapped with an animal. Do not open gates to these pens as the animal could escape.

**Remember:** The farm is not a playground. Play safe! Be safe!

## Staying safe on the road

The countryside is a great place to go for a walk or a cycle but we must be careful when we are walking or cycling on the **road**. We should walk on the right hand side of the road. We should always wear a helmet if we are cycling and we should cycle on the left hand side of the road. We should never take a lift from strangers. Always look both ways when you cross the road. If you are crossing the road, follow the '**Safe Cross Code**'.

### SAFE CROSS CODE:

1. Look for a safe place to cross
2. Don't hurry! Always STOP and WAIT
3. LOOK all around before you cross the road
4. LISTEN for any traffic
5. If traffic is coming, let it pass, then look around again
6. When there is no traffic, walk straight across the road
7. Look and listen for traffic while you cross.

### Remember:

**STOP \_ WAIT \_ LOOK \_ LISTEN**



### Suggested activities

- Photocopy the activity sheet on page 49
- Go through the safe cross code with the students
- Discuss why you should never enter a field without permission
- In art class, make a poster of 'A day on the farm' and highlight the farm safety hazards (refer to farm safety DVD for hints and safety tips)
- Talk about why you should never talk to or take a lift from strangers and what you should do if a stranger asks to give you a lift
- Discuss how to stay safe on the farm or in the countryside
- In PE class, play Traffic lights. (The teacher acts as traffic controller. When the teacher shouts red; the students must freeze, green, they must run and for amber/orange, they must walk slowly.)
- Sign your class up to participate in the "Farm Safe Schools" interactive programme. For more information on how to register your class, visit: [www.farmsafeschools.ie](http://www.farmsafeschools.ie)

### Learning outcomes:

At the end of this lesson, students should know the importance of staying safe on the farm and in the countryside. They should be aware of the 'Safe Cross Code'.

### Additional Resources:

- [www.agriaware.ie/farmsafety](http://www.agriaware.ie/farmsafety)
- Check out Agri Aware's 'Once Upon a Farm' video on YouTube
- [www.agrikids.ie](http://www.agrikids.ie)

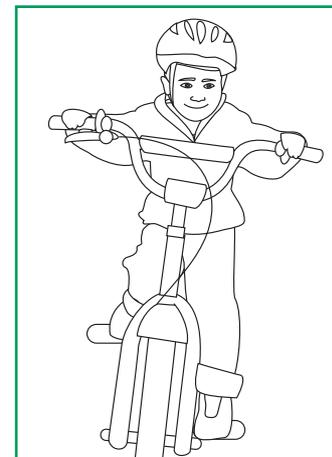
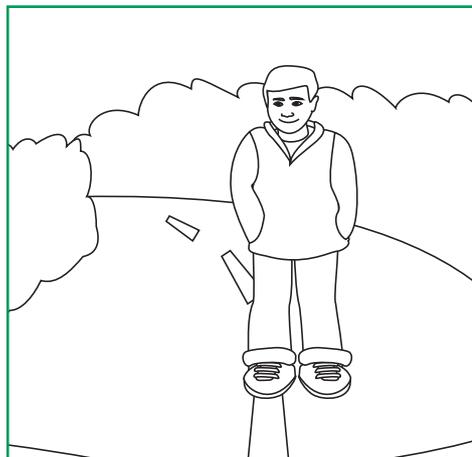
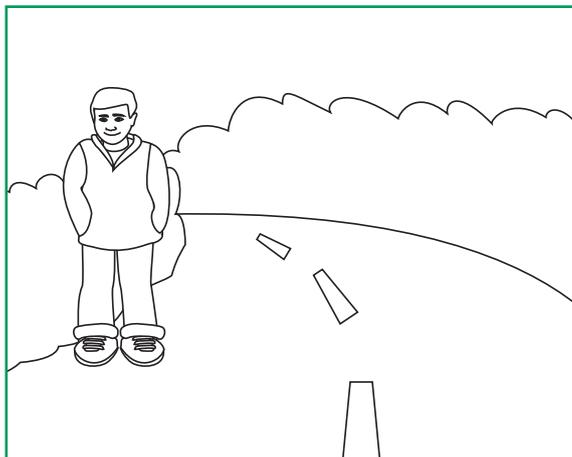
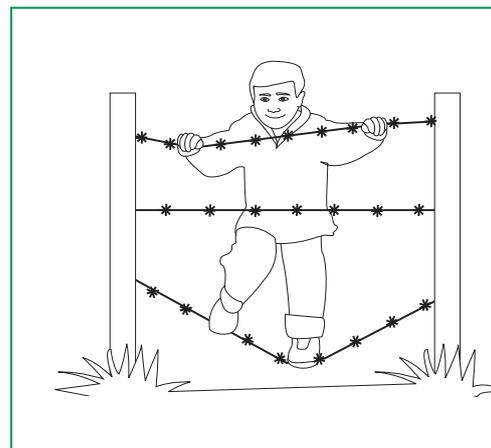
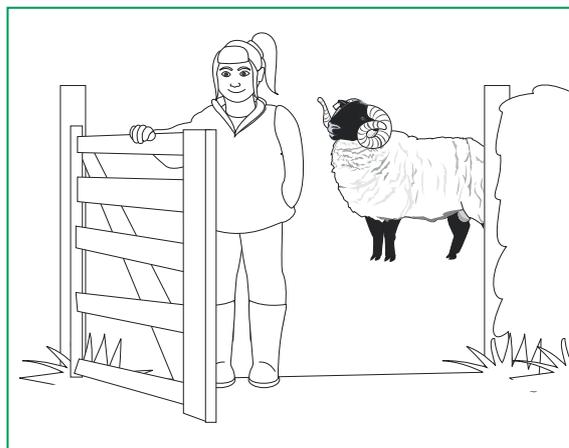
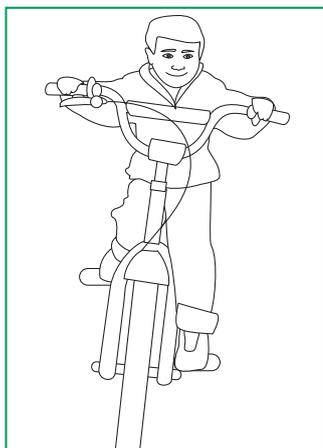


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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1** Look at the pictures below. Discuss if the children are acting in a safe or in an unsafe way. Colour the pictures which are safe.



\* To be used with teacher guidelines, page 18