



Machinery safety

Curriculum Links:

- **Science** Energy and forces
Environmental awareness and care
- **Geography** Human environments
- **SPHE** Myself
Myself and the wider world
- **History** Stories

Lesson objectives:

To give students an insight into the importance of staying safe around machinery on the farm, looking in particular at the tractor.

Teacher guidelines

In 2016, 21 people died in farm accidents of which one was a child (HSA, Ireland). Tractors and machinery are the most common cause of farm accidents in Ireland. With that said, some children in Irish classrooms may be affected by farm and countryside accidents, and as such, this may be a sensitive subject for some children. It is suggested that the teacher introduces students to the basic concept of machinery before starting the lesson.

Keywords and concepts introduced in Module 1:

machinery farm tractor trailer plough combine harvester

All farm machinery can be dangerous and you should not go near, climb onto or touch any of these machines.

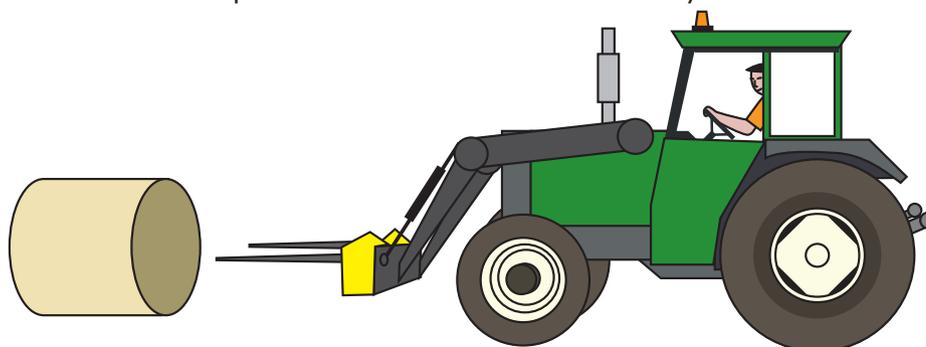
After revision of the above, teachers could discuss the more detailed information below.

Keywords for this lesson:

wheels trapped safety belt drawbar ignition handbrake

The multi-purpose modern tractor

Tractors are essential on the farm and they are the most useful machine that farmers use to carry out many of the jobs they do each day. Farmers use tractors to pull trailers, to spread fertiliser on fields and to check his/her animals. Tractors are big, powerful machines and the farmer's job is to make sure that children do not go near them. Farmers drive at a safe speed around the farm and are always on the lookout for children and adults.



Dangers of tractors and other farm machinery

Machines like tractors and trailers can be dangerous when they are moving. Your arm, leg or your clothes could very easily get **trapped** in the moving **wheels** of a tractor so stay safe. You cannot take a lift on a tractor unless it has a seat that is specially made for children with a **safety belt** to keep children from falling out. It is very dangerous to stand up on a tractor as you might fall out and under it while moving. Never ride on high loads on a trailer or on the **drawbar** of a trailer. Children under the age of 14 must not be allowed to drive or operate tractors or mechanically propelled machines such as teleporters, jeeps, ATVs etc. If you are visiting a farm, make sure that the farmer knows that you are there as they may not see or hear you. Always play in a safe place away from where tractors are parked or are working. Never stand behind a tractor as the farmer may not see you. If you are near a tractor, make sure that the farmer or an adult is with you at all times.



Precautions the farmer takes with an unoccupied tractor

When the farmer is not using the tractor he or she makes sure that people are not in danger by taking the keys out of the **ignition** and putting the **handbrake** on.

Suggested activities

- Photocopy the activity sheet on page 50
- Discuss the different types of machinery found on the farm. Why do they differ from job to job and used at different times of the year?
- Divide class into groups of three or four and get them to come up with ways to stay safe on the farm
- During computer time, get pupils to investigate photographs of old farm machinery and discuss how it has changed and evolved through the ages
- Create an acrostic poem about the 'TRACTOR'
- Watch Agri Aware's 'Once Upon a Farm' and discuss the potential dangers associated with the farm machinery scene
- For extension material, see Modules 3 and 4
- 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

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this lesson, students should know what the tractor is used for by the farmer and how to stay safe around tractors.

Additional resources:

- www.agriaware.ie
- Check out Agri Aware's 'Once Upon a Farm' video on YouTube
- www.agrikids.ie

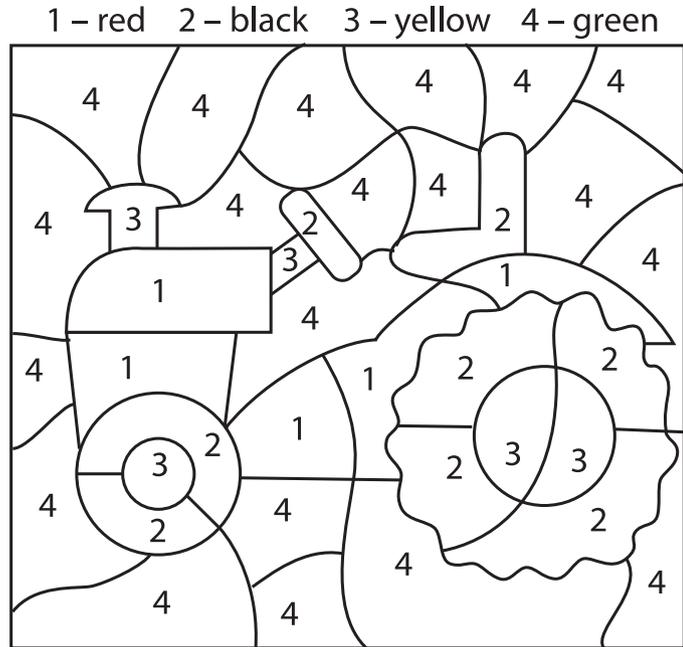


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Name: _____

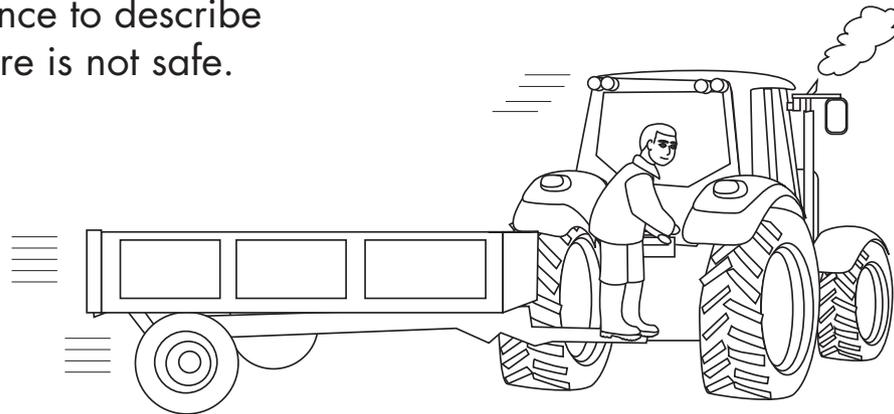
Date: _____

1 Colour in the picture to reveal a type of farm machinery



2 Tractors on farms can be dangerous

Write a sentence to describe why this picture is not safe.



***To be used with teacher guidelines, page 20 and accompanying the Farm Safety DVD at the front of the pack!**