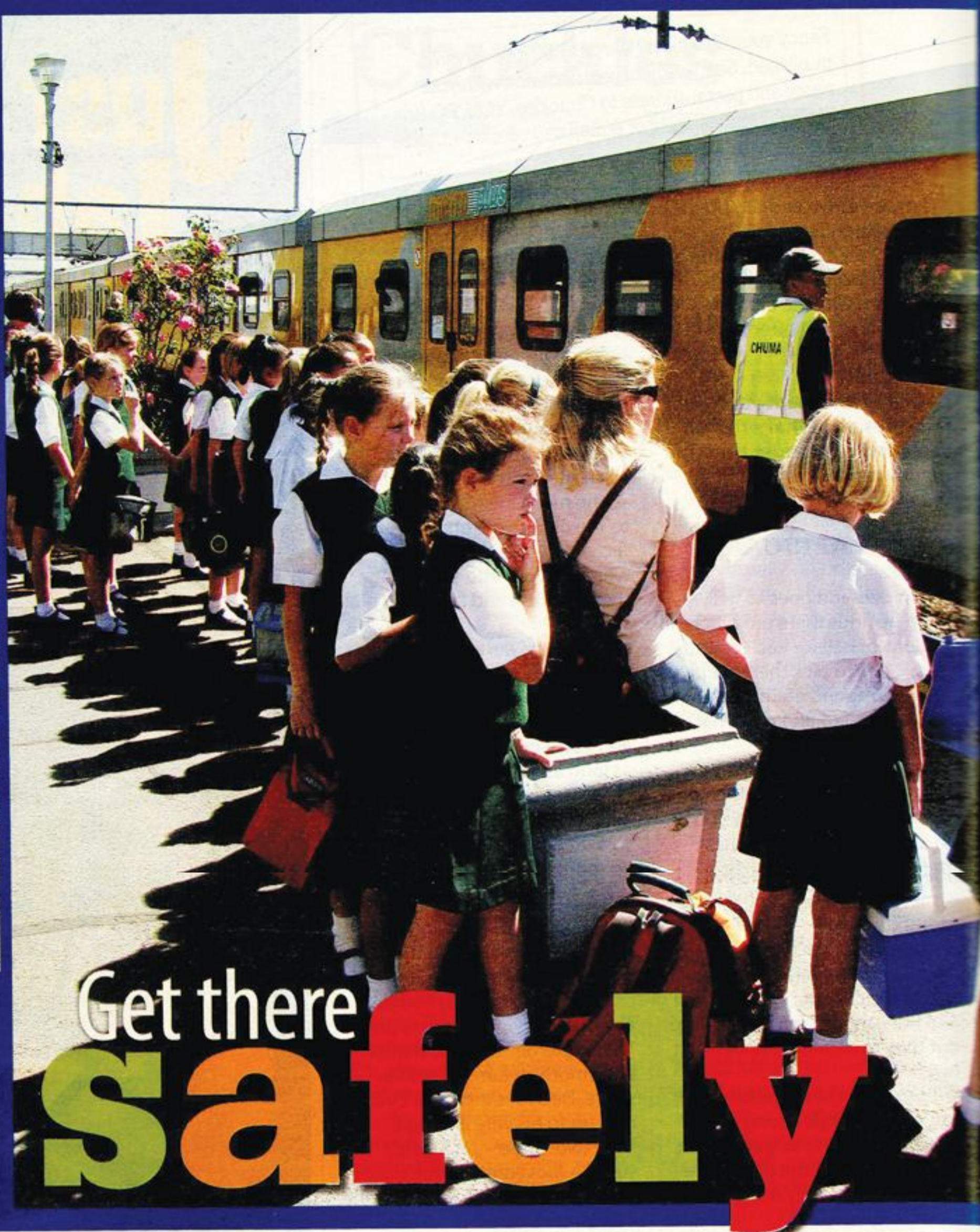


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YOU in the Classroom looks at kinds of transport we use and how to travel safely



## Get there safely

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VERY year thousands of children and adults die on South African roads. This is tragic because each casualty is one too many. It's vital all drivers obey the rules of the road and drive safely. Did you

know pedestrians and cyclists also have to adhere to traffic rules? You can do your bit to ensure South Africa has safe transport and responsible pedestrians. Read on to find out how you can start making a contribution to road safety.

Use this article as a guide for your family and class. Do the exercises and make sure you know how to cross roads safely, be visible to motorists at all times and to be a good passenger and safe cyclist. Knowledge is power and if you know how to stay safe you shouldn't find yourself in dangerous situations.

## TAXIS AND CARS

You have the **right to refuse** to travel if the driver:

- > Drives too fast.
- > Drinks and drives.
- > Drives recklessly and disregards the rules of the road.
- > Drives an unroadworthy vehicle.
- > Overloads the bus, taxi or car. (Are there more passengers than seats?)

**What to do**  
Wait for the next taxi, bus or lift. Stay in a safe area. Ask your friends to wait with you. Use a cellphone to call someone to

Passengers and drivers have rights and responsibilities in a vehicle.

arrange alternative transport. Don't risk your life by getting into a vehicle with a reckless driver. With a reliable driver you might arrive late but at least you'll be safe.

You are **responsible** for:

- > Fastening your seatbelt.
- > Sitting still and not being noisy or distracting the driver.
- > Not leaning out or sticking your limbs out of the windows.
- > Waiting for the vehicle to stop completely before disembarking.

MAIN PICTURE: Learners on a train outing to Wellington in the Western Cape. FAR RIGHT: Walking and cycling are popular ways of getting to school. Are the learners in these pictures safe? Have a class discussion on the topic.



## BUSES

When you travel on a bus take the following precautions.

- > Make sure you don't have a **loose belt**, dangling backpack belts or clothing that can become entangled with the doors or railings on the bus.
- > Be at the bus stop **on time** and don't stand or play in the road while you wait.
- > Queue with other passengers when the bus arrives – **do not stand in the road**.
- > Wait until the bus is **stationary** before getting in.
- > Get into the bus **one at a time** – don't push.
- > Find a seat **immediately** and sit down. Don't dangle your hands, head or arms from the windows and don't make too much noise because it can distract the driver.
- > Make sure you know where the **emergency exits** are.
- > Keep the **aisle clear** and don't block it with items other people could fall over.
- > Wait for the bus to **stop completely** before you get off.
- > Never stand directly **behind or in front of** a stationary bus.



## TRAINS

On railway lines trains have right of way over pedestrians and motorists.

- > A train weighs a few hundred tons and **can't stop quickly** so it's dangerous to play on train tracks or take risks near them.
- > The game of **train surfing** has become increasingly popular in South African in recent years. Youngsters stand on the roofs and cling to the sides of moving trains. This is a deadly game and has resulted in a number of gruesome deaths and many injuries.
- > It's unfortunate there is so much crime on South African trains. You have to ensure the train you take is safe and that you **travel with a group** of people you know and trust. Make sure an adult always knows when your train departs and that someone expects you at your destination. You can ask others already using the train about the service and whether it's safe.



## BICYCLES

Bicycles are part of the traffic on the road so cyclists must obey certain rules.

- > Ensure your bicycle is in good running order.
- > Wear bright colours to make it easy for motorists to see you.
- > Wear a helmet to protect your head.
- > Ride behind, not beside, fellow cyclists.
- > Keep to the left.
- > Stop at stop streets and red traffic lights.
- > Use hand signals when turning.
- > Stay alert to what's happening around you (look over your shoulder from time to time).



It's your responsibility to behave appropriately when using public transport.

### Take an opinion poll

Divide your class into the number of classes in your grade. For example five groups if there are five classes. Using the table below for this purpose each group should conduct a survey with their class. If there are too few classes in your grade you can survey classes in other grades.

Name of group .....

Date ..... Class in which poll was taken .....

Method of transport to school	How many learners use this type of transport (mark with ticks)	Total
Walking		
Bus		
Train		
Car		
Bicycle		
Taxi		
Other means		

### Hold a class discussion on the following:

- > How most learners travel to school and possible reasons for this being the most popular mode of transport.
- > Means of transport least used by learners and possible reasons for this. (Turn over)