

# STATION 10: Crossing the Street at a Traffic Light

**Recommended Age Group:** Kindergarten - Grade 3

**Mode:** Walking

## Learning Objective

Participants will learn how to properly cross the street at a traffic light.

- When to start crossing.
- When not to start crossing.
- Meaning of the different pedestrian signals.

## Planning for this Station

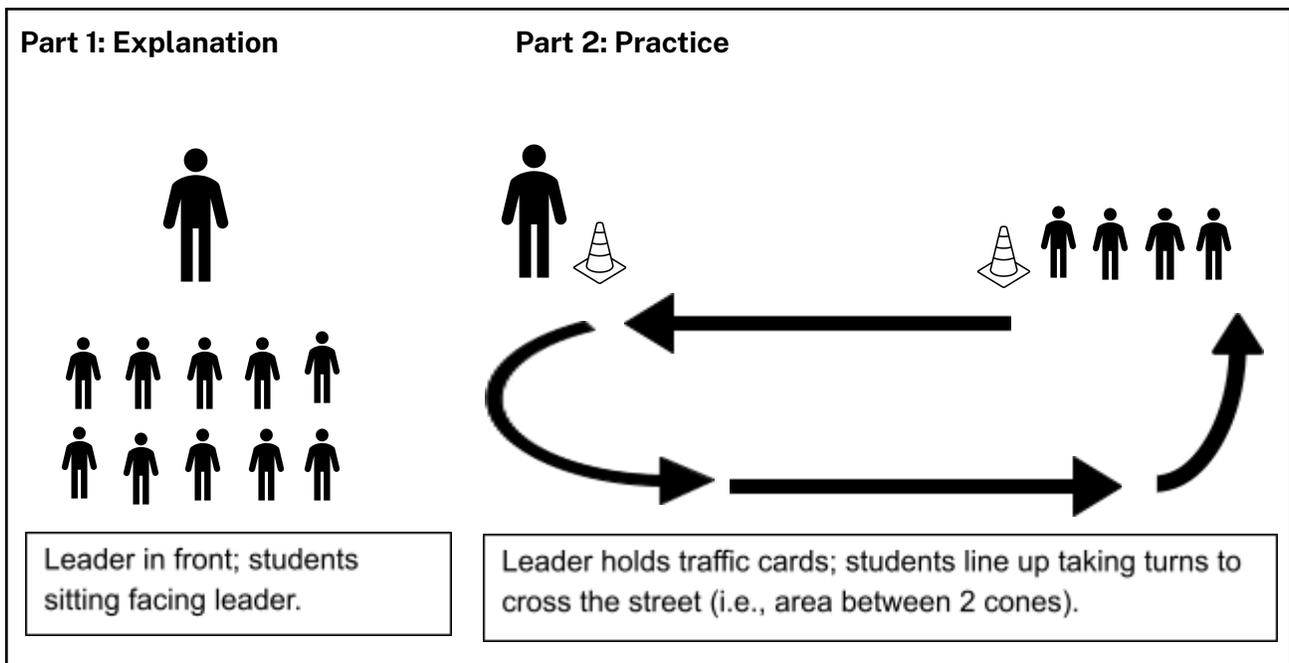
**Time:** 10 minutes

**Recommended # of students per group:** 10

**Equipment:** Printed cards with images of signals (templates on Page 3-6), cones or tape

**Number of Leaders required:** 2

## Set Up



## What You Need To Know

- The “Walk” signal (walking person) means it is your turn to cross the street.
- The “Don’t Walk” signal (flashing hand) means that you should not start crossing the street, as you may not have enough time before the traffic light turns red. If you have already started your crossing, continue across until you safely reach the other side.
- Sometimes the “Don’t Walk” signal also has a countdown timer. This helps you to know how much time you have to finish your crossing.
- The solid red “Don’t Walk” signal means you cannot cross.
- At some intersections, you have to press a button to activate the “Walk” signal. Press this button to make sure the “Walk” signal shows when the light turns green.

## Instructions

1. Have students sit in 1-2 rows, facing you. Explain the meaning of the different pedestrian signals while showing the cards (see “What you need to know” section above).
2. Ask questions to check for comprehension. For example:
  - “Walk” signal: Should you start crossing the street if you see this signal? (Answer: Yes)
  - Flashing hand “Don’t Walk” signal:
    - o Should you start crossing the street if you see this signal? (Answer: No)
    - o Should you turn around and go back to the start if you see this signal while you’re already crossing? (Answer: No)
    - o Should you finish crossing the street if you see this signal while you’re already crossing? (Answer: Yes)
  - Solid hand “Don’t Walk” signal: Should you start crossing the street if you see this signal? (Answer: No)
  - Flashing hand “Don’t Walk” signal with countdown signal:
    - o Should you start crossing the street if you see this signal? (Answer: No)
    - o What if it’s a really big number? (Answer: No)
    - o Should you finish crossing the street if you see this signal while you’re already crossing? (Answer: Yes)
    - o Should you run across the street if you see this signal while you’re already crossing? (Answer: No. Never run while crossing the street. Continue walking across the street until you safely reach the other side)
3. Set out two cones or mark two spots on the floor with tape to indicate a crossing. Have students line up behind one of the two cones/spots.
4. Stand at one end of the cones and hold up different cards, similar to the way students might see the signals in real life (i.e., start with the solid red hand, then move to the walk signal, then the flashing hand signal). Students practice following the signals to cross when it is safe to do so. Students take turns crossing and returning to the back of the line to cross again.

Template for Printing: Walk Signal



Template for Printing: Don't Walk Signal



Template for Printing: Don't Walk Signal with Countdown Timer



**Template for Printing: Pedestrian Must Push Button to Receive Walk Signal**

