

Rail safety

Keeping safe around trains
and railway tracks

Education resource for
Years 5-10



Rail safety rules

What do we need to do to keep ourselves safe when crossing railway tracks?

A level crossing is the only safe and legal place that you are allowed to cross a railway.



Always look up and down the track to check for trains.





Look both ways when crossing the tracks. Remember trains may come from either direction – even on a particular single railway line.

This is called bi-directional running, meaning trains may run in either direction on the same railway line.



Listen carefully for trains when crossing the tracks.

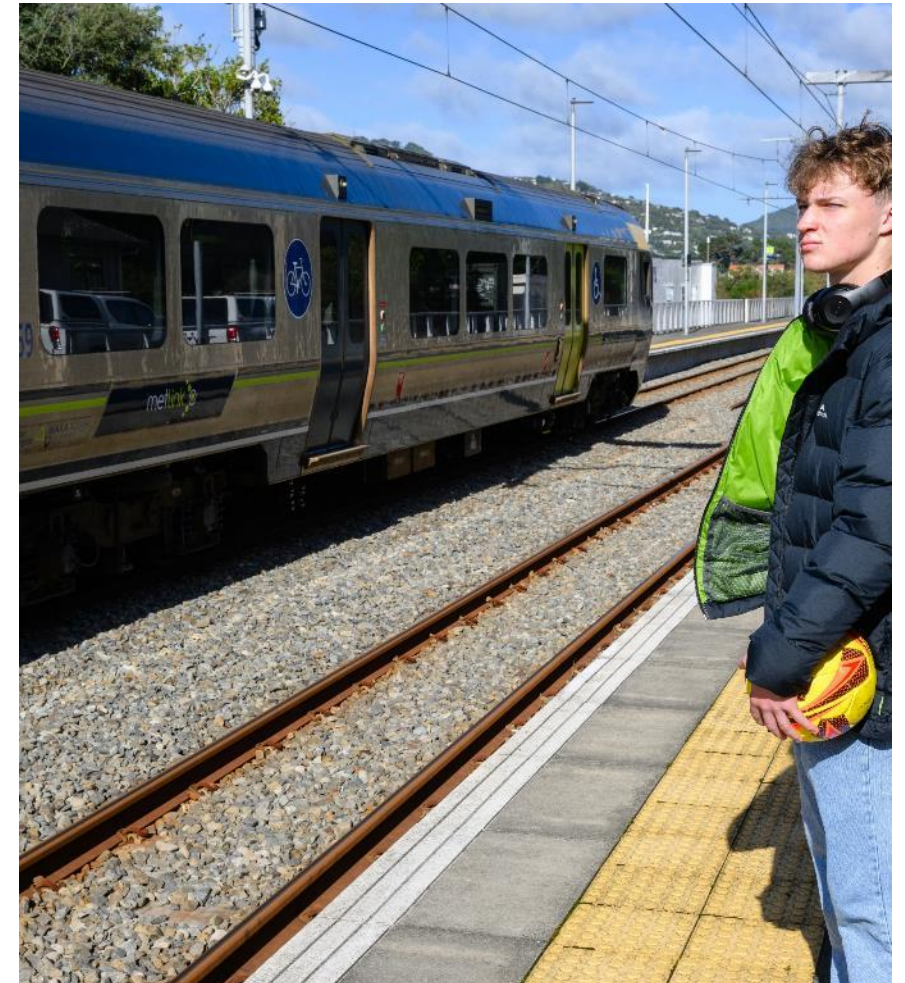
Electric trains in Auckland and Wellington are very quiet.



Always take off your headphones and make sure you're not being distracted by your phone, before crossing the tracks.



Stand back from the yellow line while you're waiting on the platform for the train.



If a level crossing has automatic gates, stay behind them when they close because it means a train is coming.



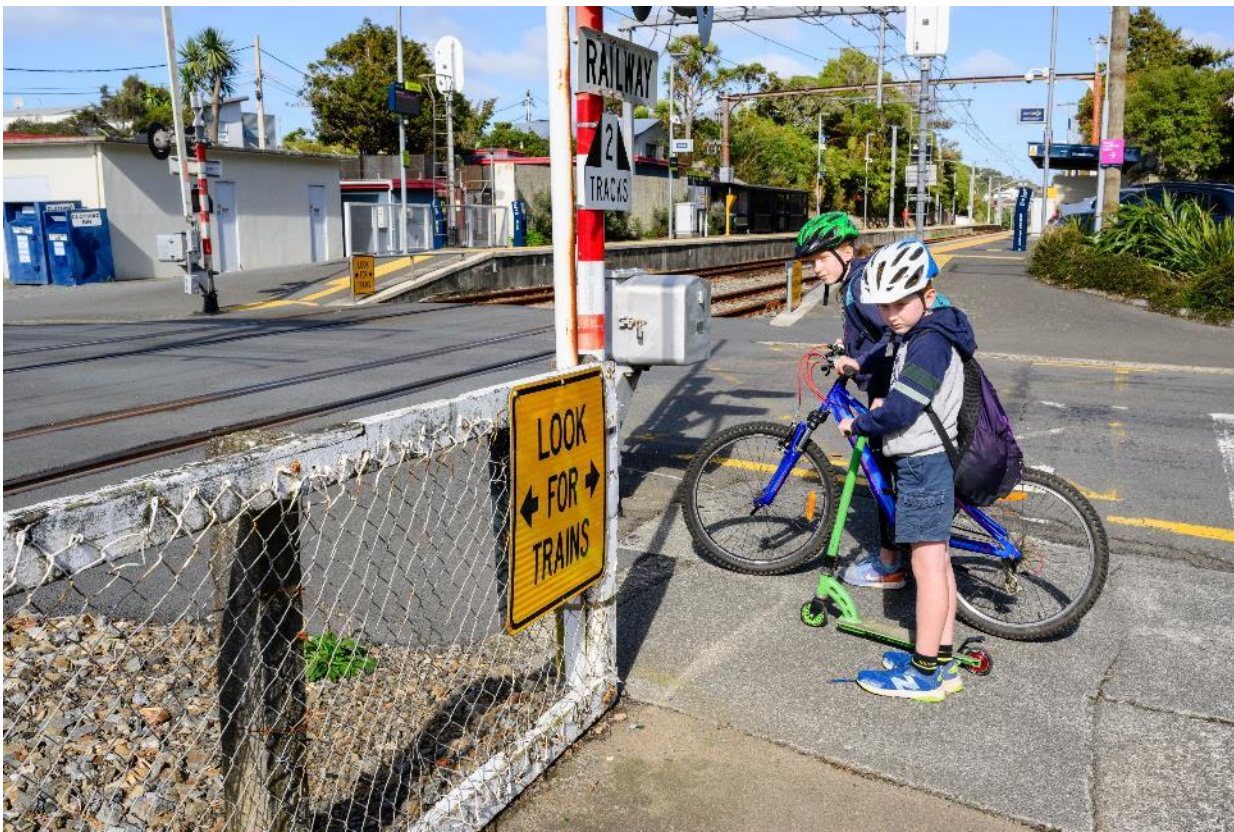
At a level crossing with automatic gates, only cross when they have opened and there are no trains in sight.



If one train has passed, take a second look both ways, in case another train is coming from the same or opposite direction.



Get off your bike or scooter when waiting for a train to pass. Walk your bike across the tracks.



Keep your bike or scooter straight when walking across the track so that the wheels don't get stuck in the rails.



If the railway crossing has flashing lights and ringing bells, wait for them to stop before crossing.

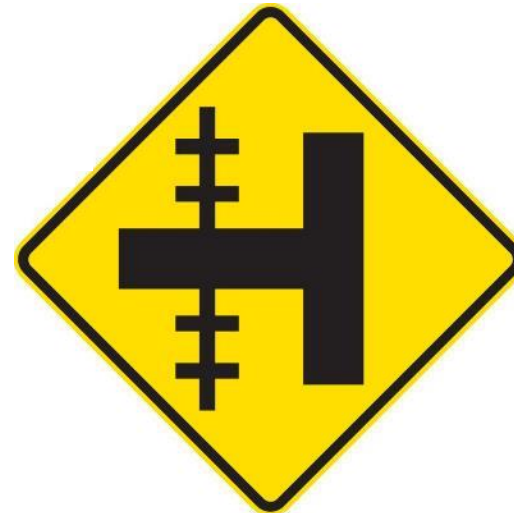
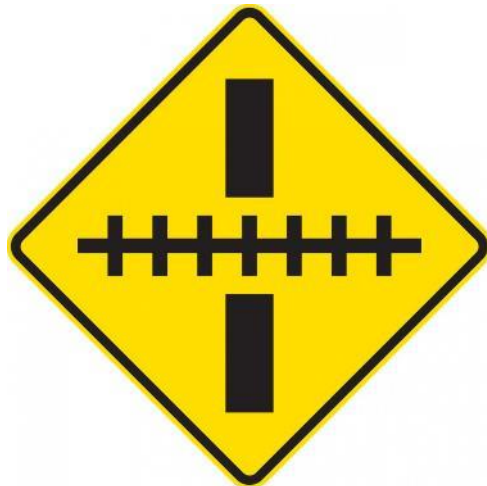


Always stay behind the yellow line when waiting to cross the tracks.



Activity 1 Identifying signs

What do these signs mean?



Activity 1 Identifying signs

What do these signs mean? Answers



Look for trains – arrows show you which direction the train comes from.



Railway level crossing sign – must be installed at all level crossings.



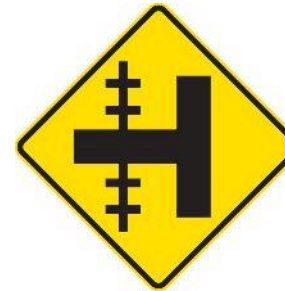
Stop, railway crossing ahead.



A level crossing ahead – warning sign.



Railway level crossing ahead – road crosses a railway line (right angle).



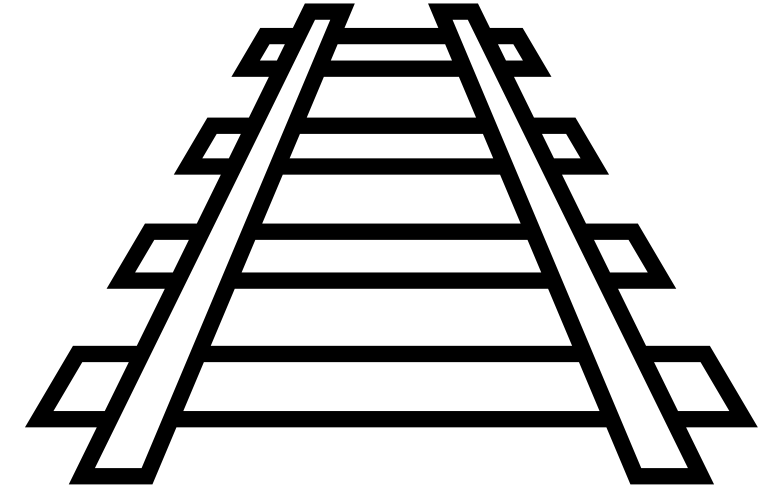
Level crossing on an uncontrolled side road.



Give way, railway crossing ahead.

Activity 2 Train facts

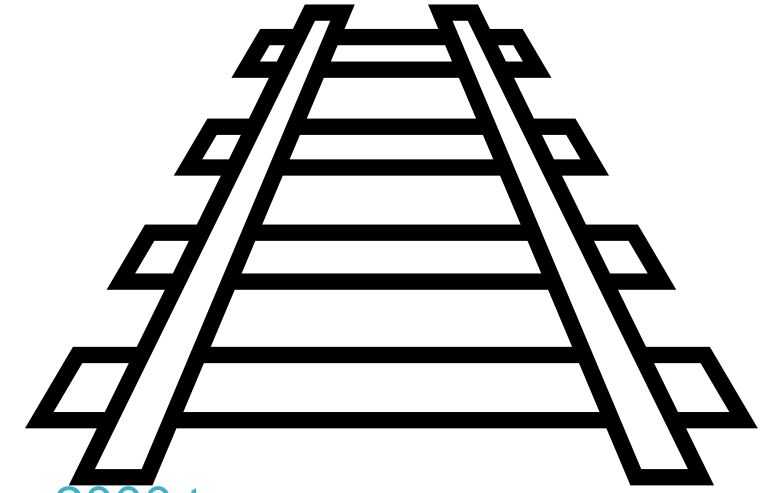
Train facts - questions



- 1. How much does an average passenger train weigh?
- 2. How heavy can a fully loaded freight train be?
- 3. How far would a fully loaded freight train travel when it is trying to stop?
- 4. How many metres can electricity jump?
- 5. What is the top speed for a train in NZ?
- 6. When is the right time to cross a level crossing after a train has gone?

Activity 2 Train facts

Train facts - answers

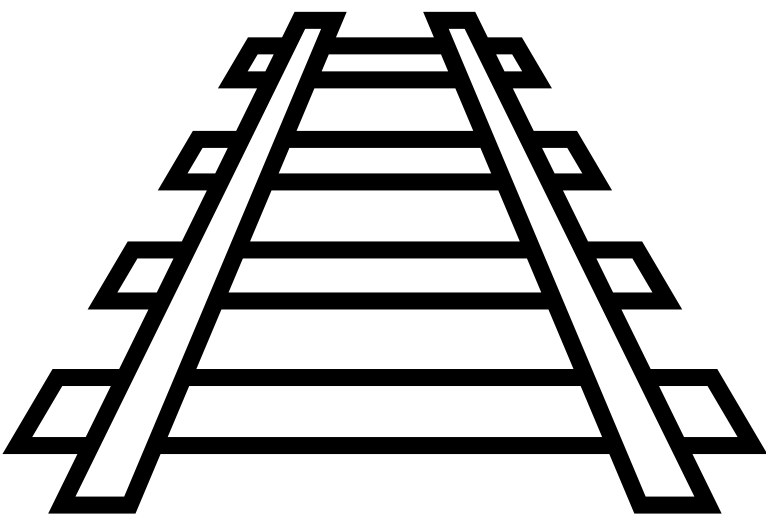


- 1. How much does an average passenger train weigh?
15 to 17 tonnes (15,000 to 17,000 kilograms).
- 2. How heavy can a fully loaded freight train be?
A fully laden freight train is extremely heavy and can weigh over 2000 tonnes.
- 3. How far would a fully loaded freight train travel when it is trying to stop?
Up to 1 kilometre.
- 4. How many metres can electricity jump?
Up to 3 metres.
- 5. What is the top speed for a train in NZ?
The fastest train in NZ can run at 110km per hour.
- 6. When is the right time to cross a level crossing after a train has gone?
When the lights and alarms have stopped and the barriers are up right.

Activity 3 Wordsearch

Rail Safety Week

T	C	P	N	A	U	R	E	D	T	X	O	T	O	E
X	H	F	H	L	Z	C	I	O	C	R	H	L	W	S
B	E	N	Z	R	I	R	D	Z	O	G	A	T	V	E
C	C	P	T	Y	E	R	Y	H	I	U	Y	I	W	N
R	K	M	S	C	P	Y	O	E	H	T	D	C	N	O
S	A	P	T	M	R	K	R	Q	U	O	Q	O	B	H
Q	X	I	X	K	R	F	N	E	T	S	I	L	S	P
A	O	Y	L	K	J	S	F	Z	I	Q	B	D	N	D
N	D	Z	O	W	H	U	R	J	A	E	U	O	R	A
B	N	B	C	Z	A	G	B	E	W	V	I	J	K	E
S	A	F	E	T	Y	Y	X	N	I	T	P	M	Q	H
Y	H	O	Q	U	H	D	N	Y	A	R	J	O	L	H
B	T	I	X	X	C	G	E	T	N	A	R	O	T	H
F	W	D	A	I	C	Y	S	K	U	C	O	A	D	S
P	A	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	J	K	P	R	B	E



Find the word in the puzzle

Words can go in any direction.

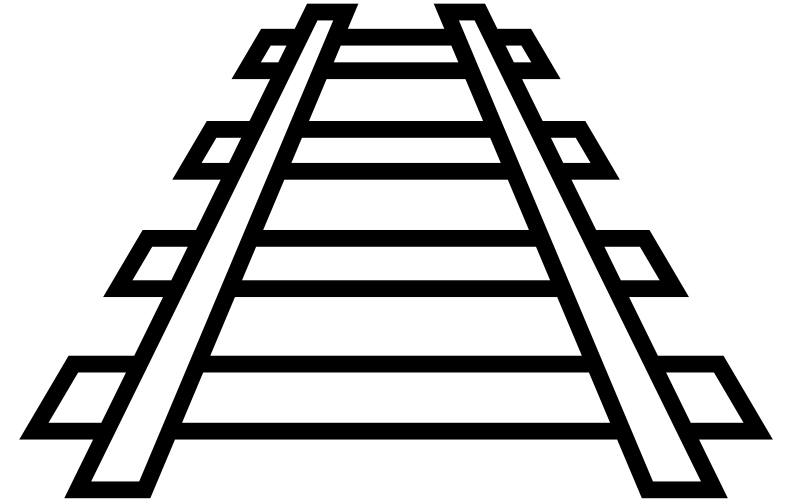
Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

- barriers
- freight
- look
- safety
- track
- check
- headphones
- passenger
- station
- train
- direction
- listen
- railway
- stop
- wait

Activity 4 Wordsearch

Make your own wordsearch using words relating to railways. You need at least 10 words, depending on the size of your grid.

- Rule up a grid of at least 10cm x 10cm.
- Put your words in the grid, some going forwards, backwards, diagonally etc.
- Fill in the empty boxes with random letters of the alphabet.
- List the words that are to be found on the sheet.
- Swap your sheet with a friend and see if you can find all of their words.



Activity 5 Safety risks



What are the safety risks shown in these photos?
Are they high or low risk? Justify your answer.
What could be done to mitigate the risks?



Activity 5 Safety risks Answers



What are the safety risks shown in these photos?

- Standing too close to the incoming train
- Not standing behind the yellow line
- The ball.

Are they high or low risk? Justify your answer.

Class discussion.

What could be done to mitigate the risks?

Class discussion

What are the safety risks shown in these photos?

- Bells and lights are on
- Barrier arm is coming down
- There is no physical barrier to stop them walking across the tracks before the train gets there.

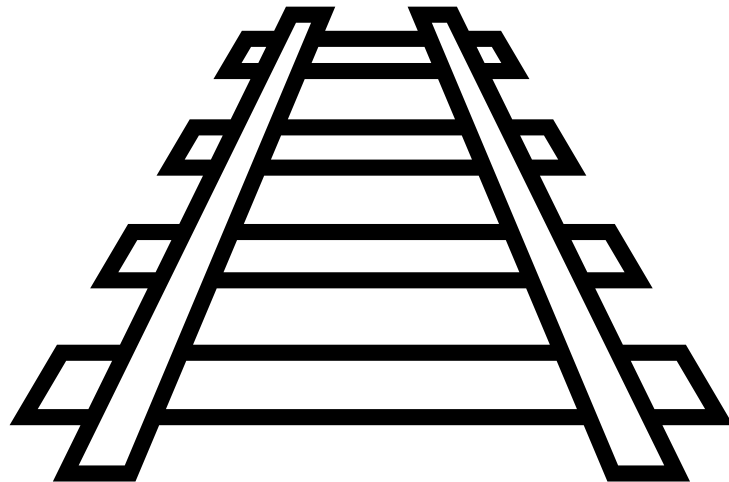
Are they high or low risk? Justify your answer.

Class discussion

What could be done to mitigate the risks?

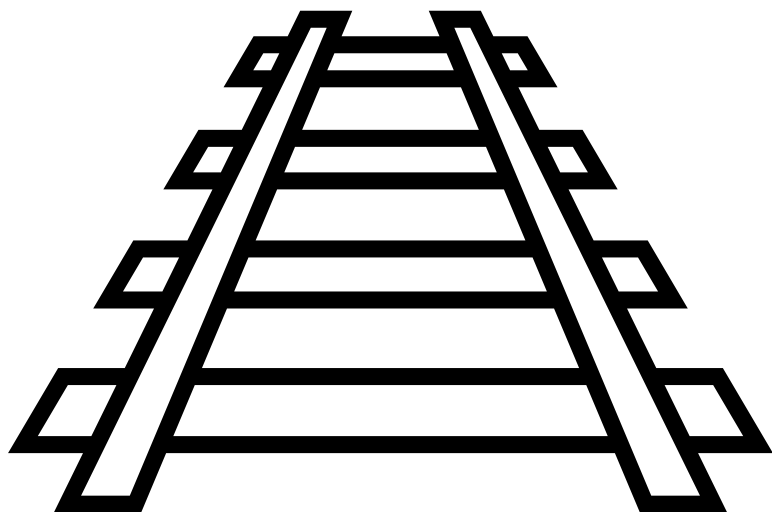
Class discussion

NZ Transport Agency



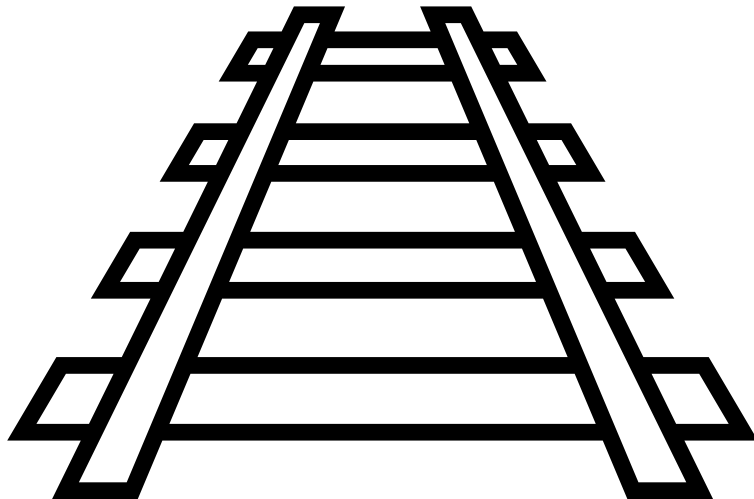
Activity 7 Poster

- Design a poster focused on a rail safety rule.
- Think about placement of pictures and words.
- Simple and clear is often best.

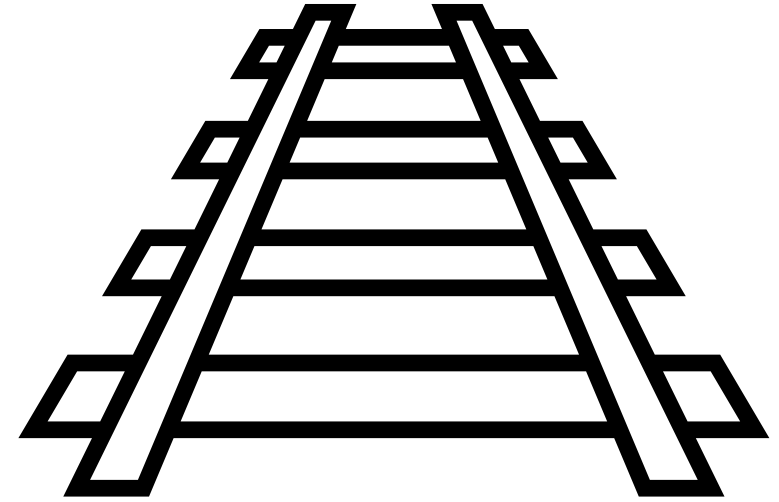


Activity 8 Information report

- Write an information report about rail safety and the reasons that people need to take care around railway tracks.
- Think about the safety rules you know. Include the ones you feel are most important and discuss why they are so important.



Other rail safety resources



- [Tracksafe](#)
- [Education Portal rail safety resource](#)
- [Stop Look Listen and Think the rail safety song 2023](#)
- [Kaitiaki o Ara/Sadd rail safety video: Stop look & listen! \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Digital innovation: transforming rail safety 2022](#)
- [TranzAlpine: a STEM-learning journey with a view 2021](#)
- [Virtual field trip: rail safety 2020](#)