

## Counting Cars

<b>Subject:</b> Mathematics	<b>Topic:</b> Estimation
<b>Grades:</b> 3-5	
<b>Skills:</b> Proportional reasoning	

### Procedure:

Have students work in pairs.

Pass out the project sheet and go over the instructions with students. Talk about reasons why someone might want to know how much traffic is on a street (e.g., to decide if the street needs to be widened or how often it should be resurfaced).

Check the plans to be sure they are reasonable and safe.

One strategy is to count the number of cars that go by in a certain period (for example, 10 minutes), then multiply to find out how many go by in a day. Since there is probably relatively little traffic at night, it will be more accurate to use a 16 hour “day”. As the teams work on the project, walk around the room and assist as needed.

When all students have made their estimates, compare the answers in a class discussion.

## Counting Cars

People who run cities sometimes need to know how much traffic there is on the streets of the city.

Think of a way you could estimate the total number of cars that travel on the street in front of your school all day. Write down your plan and show it to your teacher.

Once your teacher has approved your plan, carry it out.

Then write a report on what you did and the results. If you can, include some photographs or pictures to go along with your report.

Plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What we did: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Results: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_