

Setting the Nations Homework – Who was Mary Ward?

Lesson:	When will we see the last fatality in Ireland?
Audience:	Junior Cycle Second Level Education
Integration:	Wellbeing / CSPE / SPHE / General Knowledge / English
Timing:	1 Hour

Resources

By teacher:

Whiteboard
Laptop/Computer & Data projector
Mary Ward's Story
<https://youtu.be/znRgSq3Kmw>
Vulnerable Road User's Exercise
Safe & Unsafe Behaviour Exercise
Observation Sheet - Behaviours of a safe and competent Driver
Supporting links & documents sheet
Teacher Post Lesson Evaluation sheet

By students:

A4 Refill/Notes Copies
Work Folder/Worksheet
Mary Ward's Story
<https://youtu.be/znRgSq3Kmw>
Vulnerable Road User's Exercise
Safe & Unsafe Behaviour Exercise
Observation Sheet - Behaviours of a safe and competent Driver
Student Lesson Reflection Sheet

Aim

Introduce students to the story of Ireland's first fatality and ask students to look at when they think we will see the last fatality on our roads.

Learning intentions

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to....

- Read Mary Ward's story and suggest ideas on how to reduce road fatalities to Zero.
- Learn what the dangerous behaviours are & List the Dangerous Behaviours
- Learned what vulnerable means & list the Vulnerable Road Users
- Identify safe and unsafe road user behaviour while driving.
- Identify safe and unsafe road user behaviour while walking.
- Identify safe and unsafe road user behaviour while cycling.
- Identify safe and unsafe road user behaviour while using public transport.
- Identify safe and unsafe road user behaviour while being a passenger



Body of the lesson

- Student Roll
- Outline the aim, learning intentions and success criteria for today's Lesson.
- Before class begins, teacher can ask if there are any students that would not feel comfortable completing the lesson, that they should not feel compelled to take part.

Teacher Activities

Who is Mary Ward?

1. Students watch the campaign video: <https://youtu.be/znRgSq3Kmw> and then read the story of Ireland's first road fatality
2. **Discussion:** How do we bring fatalities (road deaths) on our roads to Zero? On the whiteboard, compile the students answers.

Dangerous Behaviours

1. Divide the class into small groups of 3-5 students. Ask them to list what they think are the dangerous behaviours that cause road traffic collisions. Teacher to use the list below to ensure all behaviours are covered. Further info: <https://www.rsa.ie/road-safety/road-users>
Speeding – Non use of Seatbelts – Distraction (using a mobile phone or other device) – Drink Driving – Drug Driving – Fatigue (Falling asleep) – Non-use of Child Car Seats – Unsafe Vehicles (no car test / NCT / CVRT)
2. Instruct students to present their findings to the class. This can be delivered by asking students to list them on the whiteboard, create flash cards, or reading aloud.
3. **Activity:** Observation Sheet
Option 1: Give this task to students as homework.
Option 2: As a group, in a safe place, observe traffic passing your school.
4. Compile the findings from the study. What Dangerous Behaviours were observed?



Vulnerable Road Users

1. Write heading on the top of the whiteboard- *Road Safety in Ireland* and write 4 subheadings underneath – *Pedestrians – Cyclists – Passengers – Public Transport*

2. **Hands up class survey:** How did you travel to school today?

➤ Write how many students who *walked/cycled/were passengers/used public transport* under each sub heading.

3. **Hand out the Vulnerable Road Users Exercise.** Ask students to explain what is meant or give another word for “Vulnerable”? Teacher will write correct responses on the whiteboard.

- *In danger – Exposed - More open to harm – Helpless – Defenceless - In a weak position – At risk.*

4. Inform students that the Road Safety Authority has identified categories of road users who are most at risk. These are called Vulnerable Road Users or VRU's.

1. Pedestrians
2. Cyclists
3. Motorcyclists
4. Horse Riders
5. E-Scooters
6. Older people
7. Young people (under 14 years)

Teacher to use the answer sheet to ensure that students are gaining the correct information



Closing

How will lesson be closed?

- Conclusion Question: (Verbally ask students) Do they think that Vision Zero can be achieved by changing road users' behaviours?
- Collect all completed worksheets.
- Circulate Student Lesson Reflection Sheet

Suggested Homework

- Observation Sheet - Behaviours of a Safe and Competent Driver
- When students return this homework piece – use the teacher's answer sheet to ensure all safe and unsafe behaviours are covered



Who was Mary Ward?

See the campaign here: <https://youtu.be/znRqSg3Kmw> Irish: <https://youtu.be/WQoufp-Olfw>

Ireland is a fiercely proud nation, and one that isn't afraid to rise to any challenge. When properly motivated by a just cause, we come together to do what's best for our communities. Right now, we need people to come together and join us as we work to achieve safer roads for us all. We just need something that captures their imagination and makes them feel a renewed sense of significance to bringing road deaths and serious injuries in Ireland to an end.

Every country in the world shares a history of road fatalities. But Ireland actually holds a unique place in this history. Our past holds something that no other country in the world can lay claim to. Something that we can use to motivate our nation towards participating in Vision Zero

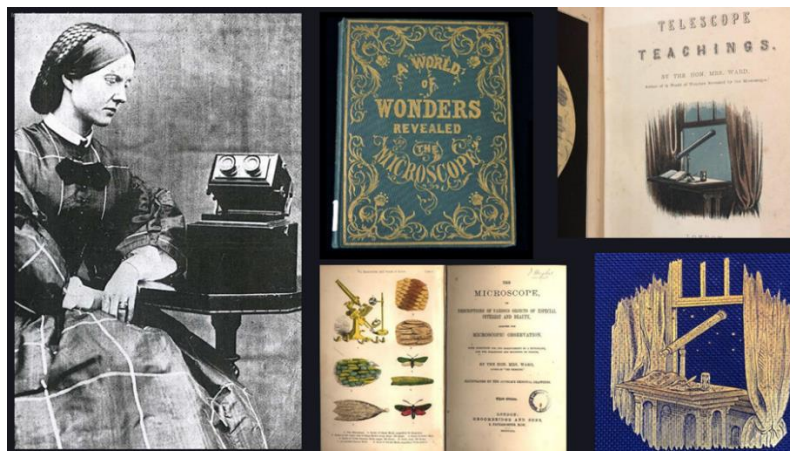
The world's first ever recorded death by car happened right here in Ireland. In 1869, a scientist, author, artist, and mother named Mary Ward was killed in a car crash in Co. Offaly — a fact that is not very well known. We're going to use this surprising and intriguing piece of history to inspire and motivate the nation on the journey to Vision Zero.

The first ever road fatality on record happened in Ireland. It's time we saw our last. Vision Zero. Zero deaths or serious injuries on our roads by 2050

Mary Ward the first road fatality in the world happened in Ireland, it's time we saw our last!

Please read an account of the collision below:

On 31 August 1869, Mary Ward (nee King) became the first person to die in a car accident in Ireland and Great Britain. The terrible accident occurred in County Offaly in Ireland. Mary Ward, along with Captain the Honourable Henry Ward, Honourable Randal and Clare Parsons, were travelling on a road locomotive steam-engine when it turned a sharp corner leading to Cumberland Street near Parsonstown. The sharp turn caused Mrs Ward to fall forward to the ground and the vehicle drove over her. Medical aid was useless as Mrs Ward was killed instantly. An inquest was held on 1 September at Birr Castle. After hearing the results of Dr Woods and other witnesses, the jury returned a verdict of an accidental death, and no individual was to blame for Mary Ward's death.



Vulnerable Road User's Exercise

Q1. Use other words/phrases to describe the word "Vulnerable".

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

Q2. What is meant by the term "Vulnerable Road Users" or VRU's?

<hr/>
<hr/>
<hr/>

Q3. The Road Safety Authority has identified certain groups of road users who are most at risk. These are called 'Vulnerable Road User's' or 'VRU's'. List the categories of VRU's below:

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>



Vulnerable Road User's Exercise

Q1. Use other words/phrases to describe the word "Vulnerable".

In Danger

Exposed

More open to harm

Helpless

In a weak position

At risk

Q2. What is meant by the term "Vulnerable Road Users" or VRU's?

A vulnerable road user is more at risk when using the road. Vulnerable road users (VRU) are road users not in a car, bus or truck, generally considered to include pedestrians, motorcycle riders, cyclists, children 7-years and under, the elderly and users of mobility devices. In the event of a crash, VRUs have little to no protection from crash forces.

Q3. The Road Safety Authority has identified certain groups of road users who are most at risk. These are called 'Vulnerable Road User's' or 'VRU's'. List the categories of VRU's below:

Pedestrians

Cyclists

Horse Riders

E-Scooters

Motorcyclists

Young Children

Older People



Safe and Unsafe Behaviour Exercise

Complete the below table to show the safe and unsafe behaviours by vulnerable road users that may put them at risk on the road.

Activity	Safe Behaviours	Unsafe Behaviours
Walking		
Cycling		
Driving		
Passenger		
Public Transport		



Safe and Unsafe Behaviour Exercise

Complete the below table to show the safe and unsafe behaviours by vulnerable road users that may put them at risk on the road.

Activity	Safe Behaviours	Unsafe Behaviours
Walking	Using safe crossings Wearing Hi Vis Using footpaths Walking on the right-hand side when there are no footpaths	Crossing at corners, bends, crossroads, junctions and between parked cars Walking on the left-hand side of the road No hi vis
Cycling	Using signals Wearing a helmet and hi vis Cycling on the left Using lights Using cycle tracks Cycling in single file	No Signalling No helmet or hi vis No pre cycle check Cycling on the footpath Cycling 3 abreast Not using the tracks available
Driving	Keeping under speed limit No distractions Everyone belted Drive when not tired Don't drive under the influence Using child car seats	Speeding Distractions Drink/Drug Driving No seatbelts Driving tired – fatigue No child car seats
Passenger	Wearing a seatbelt Don't distract the driver Put luggage in the boot No overloading One seatbelt per person	No seatbelts Distracting the driver Loose luggage etc in the main are of the car Overloading Sharing seatbelts
Public Transport	Wear a seatbelt where provided Waiting in a safe place Wear hi vis and use a torch Don't distract the driver	Not using the seatbelts Standing out on the road while waiting Not wearing hi vis Distracting the driver



Observation Sheet - Behaviours of a safe and competent Driver

Complete the below table to show the safe and unsafe behaviours by drivers that may put them at risk on the road.

Behaviour	Drivers I saw that demonstrated this behaviour <i>(Write down what they did, and what impact their behaviour had on other road users)</i>
Concentrate fully while driving	
Respectful, patient, considerate towards other road users	
Acts responsibly	
Anticipates and reacts to hazards	
Positive and considerate; shows consideration	
Signalling	



Supporting links and documents:

Vision Zero

Vision Zero is a long-term goal aimed at eventually eliminating deaths and serious injuries in road traffic crashes. It is supported by a range of safety performance targets.

These targets help different sectors to work together more effectively to achieve safety targets.

Our vision is for a Safe Systems Approach.

This approach accepts that crashes will occur but should not lead to death or serious injury.

To achieve this, we will work with all partners to reduce the risk of death and serious injuries.

This involves creating multi-sectoral shared responsibility!

For more information, visit www.rsa.ie

Read the strategy below:

https://www.rsa.ie/docs/default-source/road-safety/legislation/government-road_safety_strategy_2021_2030_13th_dec21_final.pdf?sfvrsn=cf289e63_3

Useful links

www.rsa.ie

www.seatbeltsheriff.ie

www.rulesoftheroad.ie

www.theorytest.ie

<https://roadsafetyeducation.rsa.ie/>

www.ndls.ie

www.facebook.com/RSAIreland

www.twitter.com/RSAIreland

www.youtube.com/RSAIreland

Further info on Dangerous Behaviours:

- Speeding - <https://www.rsa.ie/road-safety/campaigns/anti-speeding>
- Non use of Seatbelts – <https://www.rsa.ie/road-safety/campaigns/seatbelts>
- Distraction (using a mobile phone or other device) – <https://www.rsa.ie/road-safety/campaigns/mobile-phones-and-distractions>
- Drink Driving – <https://www.rsa.ie/road-safety/campaigns/crashed-lives>
- Drug Driving – <https://www.rsa.ie/road-safety/campaigns/anti-drug-driving>
- Fatigue (Falling asleep) – <https://www.rsa.ie/road-safety/campaigns/driver-fatigue>
- Non-use of Child Car Seats – <https://www.rsa.ie/road-safety/road-users/passengers/children/child-seats>
- Unsafe Vehicles (no car test / NCT / CVRT) - <https://www.rsa.ie/road-safety/road-users/car-drivers/car-maintenance>

