

LESSON PLAN: "THE CAR CHASE SCENE"



GRADES: 11 and 12
TIME: 2–4 Class Periods
SUBJECT: Internet Search Skills for Consumer Information

DESCRIPTION:

This is a short-term project that will help students find useful information on the Internet about buying a car. Students will use the worksheet provided to search for answers using the Federal Citizen Information Center's (FCIC) website, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. The answers are found in publications, websites, and links to other resources under the topic "Cars." This fun and dynamic lesson will provide young consumers with information and tools that will be useful and helpful when they plan to purchase a vehicle and make other major purchases in the future.

OBJECTIVES:

Short Term—

To build Internet search skills and educate students about the many variables and issues around buying a car and making other major purchases

Long Term—

To build student confidence as proactive and informed consumers

MATERIALS:

1. Access to the Internet
2. Access to a telephone and a local telephone book

PROCEDURES:

1. Provide each student with a print copy of "The Car Chase Scene" worksheet and ask him or her to answer the ten questions. Instruct them to go to the FCIC website at www.pueblo.gsa.gov and click on the topic "Cars." The questions can be answered using the publications, websites, and links to other resources found in the "Cars" section.
2. Let each student choose their own car for the "What Is It Really Going To Cost?" section. The answers from the ten questions will help the students complete this section. Students will also have to use other websites such as dealerships, the [Kelley Blue Book](#), and other non-government websites for specific vehicle information.

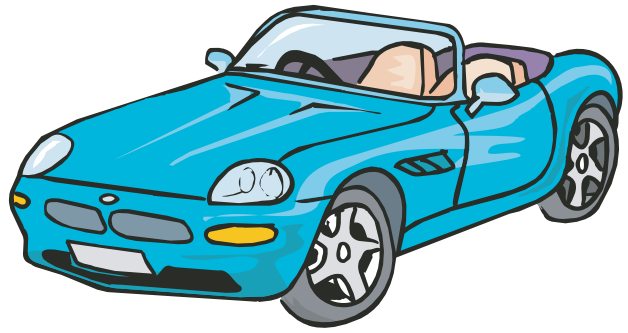
ANSWERS:

For a teacher's copy of the lesson plan and answers, please contact us at www.pueblo.gsa.gov/emailus.htm. Include your name, school, e-mail address, and "car chase" in your message.

EVALUATION:

Grade the 10 questions for individual accuracy worth 60 out of 100 possible points (20 total answers, each worth 3 points). The "What Is It Really Going To Cost?" section is worth 20 points. The "What's Your Reaction" section is worth 20 points.

The Car Chase Scene



Name: _____ **Class:** _____

Date: _____ **Score:** _____

Go to the Federal Citizen Information Center's (FCIC) website at www.pueblo.gsa.gov. Click on the topic "Cars" in one of the red boxes on the left-hand side of the screen to find publications, websites, and "links to other resources" with answers to the following 10 car and driving-related questions. This will help you complete the "What Is It Really Going To Cost?" section.

1. The time has come. You are getting ready to graduate and will head off to college in the fall. Because you're going out of state, your parents have agreed to help you buy a new car. Well, maybe not new, but new to you. You have been to several dealerships and seen a few cars that you like, but need to make sure that they are within your price range. List three organizations that can give you car invoice and list prices.

2. You have just enough money saved for this year's county fair that you can buy one raffle ticket. You have a choice between entering in the drawing for a 2009 Ferrari 599 GTB, 6-speed manual or a 2009 Honda Accord, 5-speed automatic. In the chance that you might win, you want to make sure that you can afford to keep your prize. With gas prices on the rise, you are going to start the economic comparison by researching the combined (highway and city) miles per gallon (MPG). What are the results?

3. True or False: Your monthly auto loan payment should not be more than 20% of the money you have available each month after you pay for your usual living expenses - rent or mortgage, utilities, food, etc.

4. A dealer's profit margin is usually the difference between the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) and the invoice price. Dealers are often willing to bargain on their profit margin between _____ percent and _____ percent.

5. To avoid paying mega bucks for insurance, what are three things that could lower your auto insurance rate?

6. Your older sister has leased a vehicle to get back and forth to college. She was gone one semester, came home for a visit, and the car was TRASHED! You almost didn't recognize the car when she pulled up. She just laughed it off and said that it didn't matter if she took care of it or not because she was going to "give it back" to the dealership in three years anyway. What are your two main obligations when leasing a car?

7. You just became the proud owner of a brand new 2002 Chevy Avalanche. You want to make sure that it lasts a long time. What are three things you can do to help make sure that it does?

8. You finally did it! You got that brand-new, slightly used car that you always wanted. And life is great ... at least it was for the first weeks. Then everything started falling apart. You think the problem is covered under a service contract, but the dealership is disputing it. In your own words, what is one step that you can take toward solving this problem?

9. The air conditioner went out on your classic 1973 Gremlin. Replacing the Freon system is going to be very costly, not to mention the effect that it has on the environment. What government organization provides a list of motor vehicle air conditioner substitutes?

10. You've been voted chairperson of the prom committee. Now it is up to you to plan the event of the year! What is the name and web address of the government agency that provides a link to the "Guide to Safe and Sober Event Planning?"

What Is It Really Going to Cost?



Pick a car, any car. The only qualification is that it has to be running on the day of purchase. The table below will help you calculate the real cost of owning a car. For the purpose of this project, assume that you have saved all the money that you will need to purchase the car and will be paying the retail price listed in the Kelley Blue Book (www.kbb.com), and you will be driving the car 15,000 miles a year. Then use the following simplified guide to determine what the cost of the vehicle will be for the first four-years that you own it. Use the Internet, your local telephone book, and local businesses to find the information that you need. For example, many dealerships have maintenance schedules for cars online, but you may have to call a local service site for the estimated costs.

DESCRIPTION	COST SOURCE	ANNUAL COST	TOTAL FOR 4 YEARS
Vehicle	<i>Kelley Blue Book (example)</i>		
Total cost of tax, tags, licensing and registration			
Average annual cost of full coverage insurance (obtain at least 2 quotes)			
Average annual cost of gas = $15,000 \text{ mi./year} \times \text{local gas price} \div \text{average MPG}$			
Engine oil and filter every 3,000–5,000 mi.			
Engine air filter every 30,000 mi.			
Engine coolant every 30,000 mi.			
Automatic/manual transmission fluid every 30,000 mi.			
Engine drive belts every 30,000 mi.			
Fuel filter every 30,000 mi.			
Radiator cap every 30,000 mi.			
Tires			
Tire rotation every 5,000-10,000 mi.			
Windshield wiper blades & fluid every 3-6 months			
Monthly car washes			
Annual inspections			
Fuzzy dice (once)			
Emergency roadside kit (once)			
First aid kit (once)			
TOTAL:			

