



TOPIC: Car Care and Basic Maintenance

GRADES: 9 - 12

OBJECTIVE

- Understand the importance of proper vehicle maintenance to reduce the risk of breakdowns.

PROCEDURE

- Assign students to review **Car Care and Basic Maintenance** PowerPoint presentation (including the Notes section).
- Assign students to watch [Tested: How Much Tread Depth Do You Need?](#) (*Tire Rack*) video. Students will learn the importance of maintaining tire tread and how it relates to safety.
- Assign students to review four informational handouts:
 - Useful Items to Keep in Your Vehicle
 - Vehicle Maintenance Checklist
 - Work Zone Safety Awareness
 - What to Do If Your Vehicle Breaks Down
- Assign students the **Jeopardy!**[™] review game (*make sure PowerPoint is in “Slide Show” mode to play game*).

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Have students find the recommended pressure on the placard located on the door jamb.
- Using a quarter, have students check the tire tread on all four tires.
- Have students peruse the vehicle’s owner’s manual to get a better understanding of how the vehicle operates.
- With a parent’s help, have students pop the hood and identify location of fluid containers (oil, coolant, windshield washer).
- Have students perform a walk-around the vehicle to conduct a visual inspection and check that all lights are operational (headlights, parking lights, brake lights, turn signals, hazard lights)

SUMMARY

Part of being a safe driver is ensuring the vehicle is “road ready.” As a driver, it is vitally important to perform regular maintenance on the vehicle, which will highly reduce the risk of serious problems occurring in the future, as well as improve the driving quality of the vehicle.