

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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The Great Skateboard Debate

Should people be able to ride skateboards on sidewalks? Some people say, "For sure!" and others say, "Definitely not!" Today's *Kid Scoop* looks at both sides of the issue and lets you ask, think and decide for yourself.

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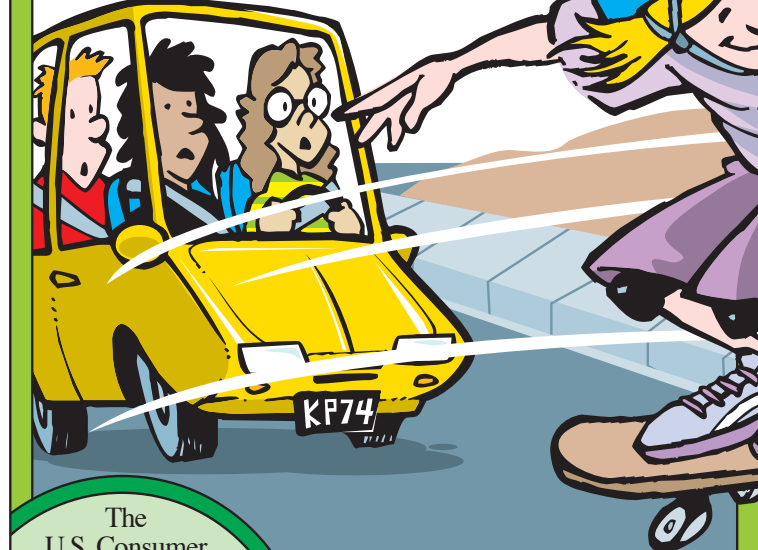
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Skateboards on sidewalks? YES!

Streets are dangerous places to ride skateboards. Riders risk being hit by a car or falling in front of one.



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests that skateboarders should never ride in the street.

Skateboards on sidewalks? NO!

Some people are afraid that skateboarders zipping along sidewalks endanger pedestrians, especially older people and small children who may have difficulty getting out of the way of a speeding skateboard.



Concerns for the safety of skateboarders and pedestrians has led to the development of skate parks in many communities.

What's YOUR opinion?
Before you answer, ask, think and then decide.

Ask! Ask friends and family members for their opinion. Write down their reasons **for** or **against** skateboarding on sidewalks on a sheet of paper.

Think! List three reasons why some people say YES to skateboards on sidewalks and three reasons why some people say NO to skateboards on sidewalks.

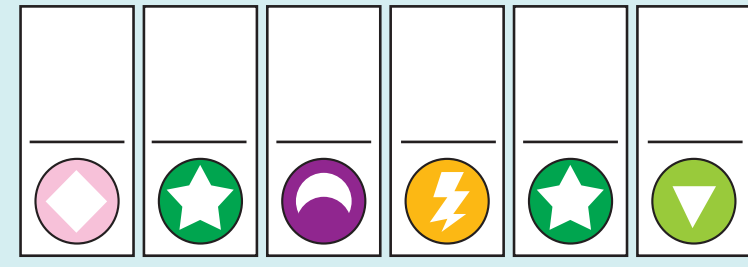
YES	NO
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Decide! You've asked questions, you've thought about what each side has to say. Now it's time for YOU to decide. Write down your opinion here:

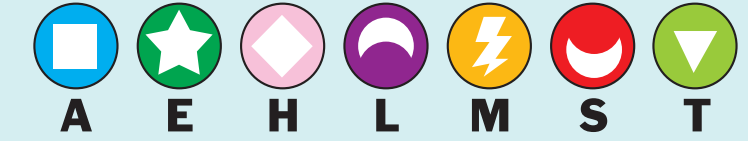
Standards Link: Research: Students compare information and draw conclusions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

The most important piece of equipment a skateboarder needs is a _____



Use the Skateboard Secret Code to find the answer.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

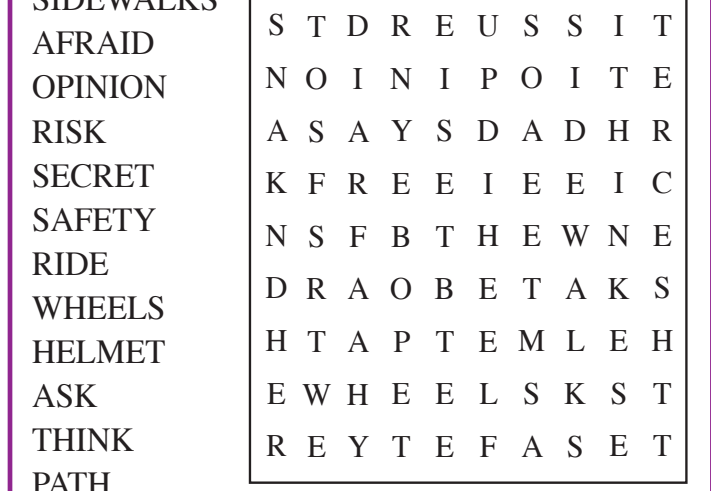
FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Having a Say
Look at the letters to the editor section of your newspaper and read a letter that interests you. Do you think the person did a good job of expressing his or her position on this debate? What could you add to their letter?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Students respond to comments (e.g., gives reasons in support of opinions, responds to others' ideas).

Double Double Word Search

SKATEBOARD DEBATE SIDEWALKS AFRAID OPINION RISK SECRET SAFETY RIDE WHEELS HELMET ASK THINK PATH ISSUE



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Why didn't the skateboarder wear his helmet?



ANSWER: Because he wasn't using his head.

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