



Kid Scoop

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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.

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.

Find the two identical skateboarders.



Extra! Extra!

Skateboard Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper to find:

- A picture of a street or sidewalk
- Something with wheels
- A person who might ride a skateboard
- The letters that spell pedestrian

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Together: History of Skateboards

Below are some **TRUE** facts about skateboarding history as well as a few that are **FALSE**. Do the math under each statement. If the answer is **EVEN**, that statement is **TRUE**. If the answer is **ODD**, it’s **FALSE**.

- 1958:** The skateboard is made from roller skates attached to a board. It is a way to surf when there are no waves—*sidewalk surfing*.

12 + 14 - 8 =
- 1963:** The first skateboard contest is held in California.

27 + 19 - 4 =
- 1969:** Tony Hawk wins the stunt competition at the first X Games.

21 + 11 - 9 =
- 1973:** The invention of urethane wheels turns a formerly noisy, bumpy ride smooth and silent. Because the urethane wheels grip concrete better, curbs, ditches and other terrain become skating courses.

27 + 15 - 3 =
- 1976-78:** The California drought forces homeowners to drain their pools. Empty pools become mini-skate parks. New tricks are invented.

19 + 19 - 8 =
- 1977:** President Jimmy Carter makes history by skateboarding to his inauguration ceremony.

27 + 19 - 5 =
- 1985:** Scientists in Norway discover an ancient skateboard dating back to the year 535 A.D.

17 + 13 - 7 =
- 2000s:** Many cities have built skate parks and provide camps and lessons that are available to young people.

22 + 8 - 4 =

Standards Link: History/Social Studies: Students know how to interpret timelines.

Kid Scoo-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word **SKATER** in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

R	S				K
	K		A		T
S	A	T		K	
K	T	E	S		
	E	K		R	S
T	R		K		A

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week’s word: PEDESTRIAN

The noun **pedestrian** means someone who travels by walking.

Pedestrians should always use crosswalks when crossing the street.

Try to use the word **pedestrian** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

The most important piece of equipment a skateboarder needs is a

Use the Skateboard Secret Code to find the answer.

A E H L M S T

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

S	T	D	R	E	U	S	S	I	T
N	O	I	N	I	P	O	I	T	E
A	S	A	Y	S	D	A	D	H	R
K	F	R	E	E	I	E	E	I	C
N	S	F	B	T	H	E	W	N	E
D	R	A	O	B	E	T	A	K	S
H	T	A	P	T	E	M	L	E	H
E	W	H	E	E	L	S	K	S	T
R	E	Y	T	E	F	A	S	E	T

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

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).

Why didn’t the skateboarder wear his helmet?



ANSWER: Because he wasn’t using his head.

Write On! Brain Builders

List three to five ways you can think of to exercise your brain.