

THUMBS UP!

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Grades
4-6



STUDENT SAFETY

ACTIVITY BOOK

PRESENTED BY



BUSPATROL

REFERENCES:

NHTSA School Bus Safety

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety>

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/TrafficSafetyAndDriverTopics/pages/school-bus-safety.aspx>

PA DMV

<https://www.dmv.pa.gov/Driver-Services/School-Bus-Drivers/Pages/School%20Bus%20Safety.aspx>

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The illustrations in this book were created digitally.



BUS SAFETY QUICK TIPS

Check before you step!

Know the danger zone.

“I see the driver. The driver sees me.”

Wait for the driver's signal to cross.

Look left, right, and left again.

Use a backpack to avoid dropping things.

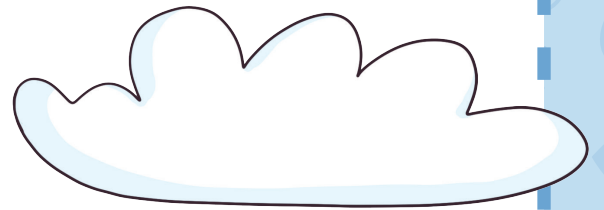
Horn means danger.



GETTING TO THE BUS STOP

- ☆ **Plan to get to the bus stop at least five minutes early.** Get a good night's sleep and wake up early. You do not want to be rushing around traffic trying to catch the bus!
- ☆ Always remember to pack all your items in your backpack before you leave home, so you do not drop anything on the road.
- ☆ If you need to cross the street to get to the bus stop, always stop where it is safe and look **LEFT, RIGHT, and LEFT again before crossing.**
- ☆ Always stay alert and listen for cars that you may not see.
- ☆ Never run toward the bus or run after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.

AT THE BUS STOP (AS THE BUS APPROACHES)



- ☆ Stay safe while waiting for the bus by staying off the street and away from cars. Wait for the bus on the sidewalk or grass (six feet away—three giant steps).
- ☆ Do not talk to strangers while waiting for the bus, and **never** get into a car with a stranger.
- ☆ As the bus approaches, the yellow lights change to red. **The red lights and red stop sign on the side of the bus tell all cars to STOP.**
- ☆ **BE AWARE: Sometimes drivers do not respect the red lights or forget to stop like they should.**
- ☆ **BE CAREFUL: Cars could pass on both the left and right side of the bus —and from the front or back direction.**
- ☆ When the bus arrives, wait for it to come to a complete stop before approaching the door.
- ☆ Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's okay, before stepping onto the bus.

GETTING ON THE BUS

- ☆ Get on the bus one at a time. Form an orderly line as the bus approaches, with the first student standing at least six feet away from traffic.
- ☆ Keep electronic devices packed away as you prepare to board. Never use an electronic device or wear earbuds when boarding.
- ☆ **Walk slowly. Always hold the handrails as you walk up the steps.**

WHILE ON THE BUS

- ☆ Pick a seat, face forward, and stay seated.
- ☆ Be sure to obey the bus driver's rules and directions.
- ☆ Talk quietly so the bus driver can focus on the road.
- ☆ Do not play, shout, or throw things while on the bus.
- ☆ Do not eat on the bus.
- ☆ If the windows are down, keep your head and arms safely inside.
- ☆ Keep your feet and backpacks out of the aisle, so no one gets hurt.
- ☆ Stay in your seat until the bus stops.
- ☆ If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions. NEVER play around on the Emergency Exit door steps.



GETTING OFF THE BUS

ARRIVING AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY

- ☆ Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's safe, before stepping off the bus.
- ☆ When exiting the bus, be careful that clothing and backpacks don't get caught on the handrails or doors.
- ☆ Wait for your turn to get off the bus. Get in line and then patiently exit one at a time—do not push the person in front of you.
- ☆ Walk (don't run) straight toward the school.
- ☆ After you get off the bus, walk at least five giant steps away (at least 10 feet) from the side of the bus to make sure you are out of the danger zone and are using the safe walking path.
- ☆ If you drop something near the bus, do not try to pick it up. The driver may not see you. Wave your hands above your head to get the driver's attention. Wait for the driver to give you instructions.
- ☆ Never walk or run between parked cars and buses.

RETURNING HOME AFTER SCHOOL

- ☆ Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's safe, before stepping off the bus.
- ☆ When exiting the bus, be careful that clothing and backpacks don't get caught on the handrails or doors.
- ☆ Wait for your turn to get off the bus. Get in line and then patiently exit one at a time—do not push the person in front of you.
- ☆ Always be alert and focused when near the school bus danger zone.
- ☆ Never walk behind the bus.
- ☆ If you drop something near the bus, do not try to pick it up. The driver may not see you. Wave your hands above your head to get the driver's attention. Wait for the driver to give you instructions.
- ☆ **NOTE:** The driver's horn signals DANGER.

AFTER GETTING OFF THE BUS

IF YOU DON'T NEED TO CROSS THE ROAD...

- ☆ After you get off the bus, walk at least five giant steps away (at least 10 feet) from the side of the bus to make sure you are out of the danger zone and are using the safe walking path.

IF YOU NEED TO CROSS THE ROAD...

- ☆ After you get off the bus, walk at least five giant steps away (at least 10 feet) from the side of the bus to make sure you are out of the danger zone and are using the safe walking path.
- ☆ “Be aware — cross with care!” Wait until the school bus has stopped all traffic before stepping out onto the road.
- ☆ Be sure that the bus driver can see you, and you can see the bus driver.
- ☆ **LISTEN** carefully to the bus driver’s crossing instructions.

LOADING AT SCHOOL

- ☆ Line up outside quietly and patiently for the bus. Form an orderly line as the bus approaches, with the first student standing at least three giant steps away (at least six feet) from the curb.
- ☆ Check with the bus driver or teacher to make sure you get on the right bus.
- ☆ Walk straight toward the bus door and be sure your driver can see you. Get on the bus one at a time.
- ☆ If you drop something near the bus, do not try to pick it up. The driver may not see you. Wave your hands above your head to get the driver's attention. Wait for the driver to give you instructions.
- ☆ Never run toward the bus or run after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.
- ☆ Never walk behind the bus.



Look and Find

SPOT THE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY LESSONS

As you travel to and from school on the big yellow bus, follow the safety guidelines to stay safe!

Look at the scene on pages 11 to 12. Find and circle the examples of people following or breaking the six school bus safety rules.

When you're finished, test your observation skills with the bonus game.

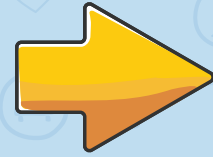
Look for these examples of school bus safety rules. Can you find all five?

☐ Turn to page 12-13 to find the examples.

1. Arrive at the bus stop five minutes early.
2. Never run to or from the bus.
3. Use the handrails to get on and off the bus safely.
4. Know the danger zone! If you need to cross the street, always take five giant steps away from the bus before crossing.
5. If you drop something, tell the bus driver. Never crawl under the bus to get something you have dropped.



Once you've circled all the safety rules, challenge your observation skills with this bonus game!

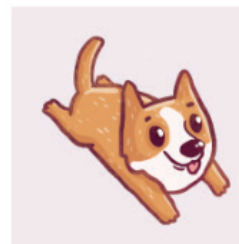
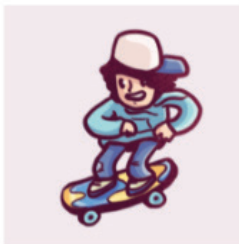
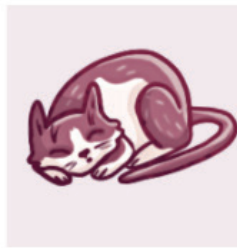
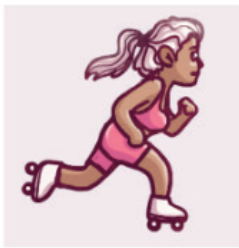


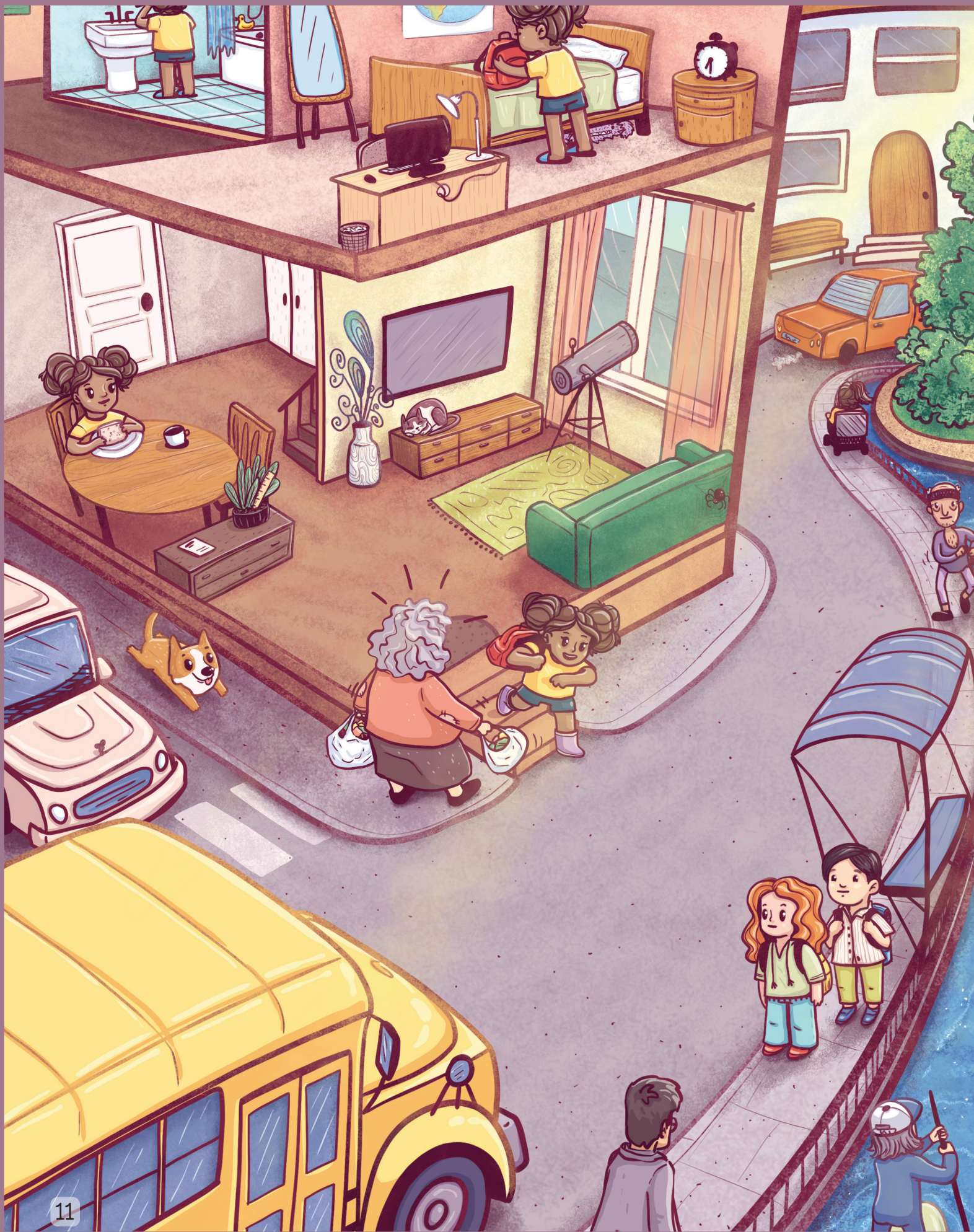
BONUS GAME

Can you find these 12 images hidden in the picture on the next page?



Draw a triangle around each of these images when you find them in the picture.

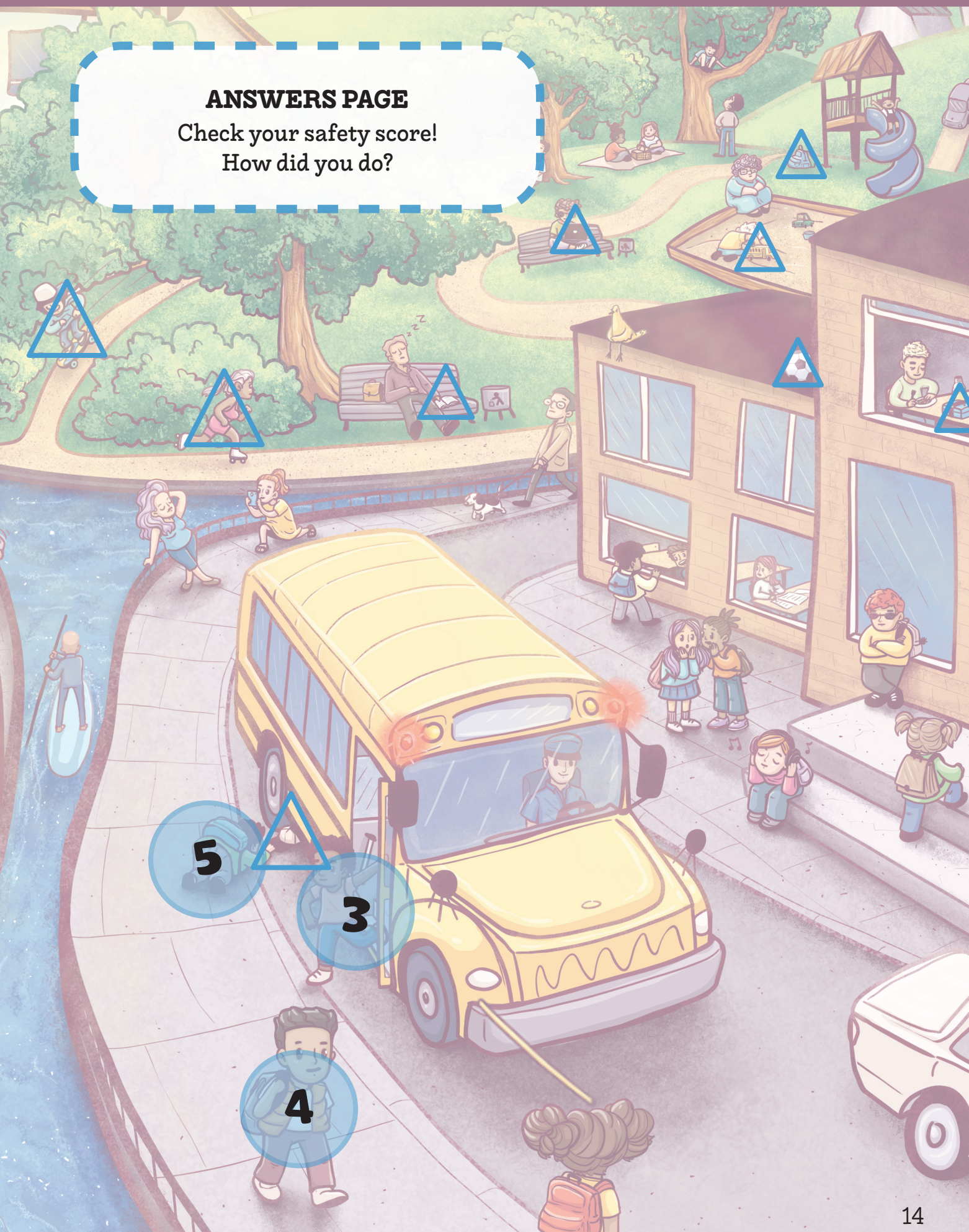






ANSWERS PAGE

Check your safety score!
How did you do?



Look and Find

UNDERSTANDING SAFE AND UNSAFE BEHAVIOR



How well do you know the school bus safety rules? Test your knowledge by analyzing the next illustration.

Find these 14 real-live situations in the picture on the next two pages. Which are examples of safe behavior? Which show unsafe behavior?

- ☐ Circle the examples of safe behavior in the picture.
- ☐ Draw a square around the examples of unsafe behavior.

1. A child puts his head and arms out of the bus window.
2. Jill runs in front of the bus without looking left or right. She doesn't see that a car is approaching.
3. A student in line at the bus stop pushes the student in front of him.
4. Jack plays with a soccer ball while waiting at the bus stop.
5. Chloe eats a sandwich while getting on the bus.
6. Michael is late for the bus. He runs after the bus and shouts and waves for the bus driver to stop.
7. A student crawls to get his hat from under the bus.
8. A student stands behind the bus talking on the phone.
9. Students wait in line for the bus, then use the handrails to climb on.
10. Laura follows the safe walking path as she gets off the bus.
11. Jason looks left, right, and left again before crossing the street. He knows the danger zone and follows the safe walking path in front of the bus.
12. A student walks on the sidewalk to the bus stop. She is on time and does not have to rush.
13. A child is quiet and alert as they wait for the bus.
14. A child sits on a bench, listening to music at the bus stop.







1

ANSWERS

What's your safety score?
Check your answers with this page.

6

9

5

3

TRUE OR FALSE?

Do you know all the school bus safety rules for inside and outside the bus? Read the statements below and decide if they are true or false. Then, turn the page and look at the picture. Can you find each safety rule?

Read the statements below and mark each either true or false. Then, turn the page and...

- ☐ Circle the examples of safe behavior.
- ☐ Draw a square around the examples of unsafe behavior.

1. I should always use the handrails when getting on or off the bus.

TRUE OR FALSE?

2. It is safe to put my hand outside the bus when it's very hot.

TRUE OR FALSE?

3. It's okay to eat my breakfast on the bus and on the way to school.

TRUE OR FALSE?

4. I'm allowed to scream and chat with my friends on the school bus.

TRUE OR FALSE?



5. I always keep my belongings in my closed backpack. If I drop something, I let the bus driver know. I never crawl under the bus to pick it up.

TRUE OR FALSE?

6. I always obey the driver and watch for the crossing signals when I need to cross the street.

TRUE OR FALSE?

7. It's safe to cross the street behind the bus.

TRUE OR FALSE?

8. I rush to the exit door before the school bus stops so that I can be first off the bus.

TRUE OR FALSE?

9. I should stay seated and keep my backpack under the seat while the bus is moving.

TRUE OR FALSE?

10. I know the danger zone! When I get off the bus, I take at least five giant steps away from the side of the bus to get out of the danger zone.

TRUE OR FALSE?

11. On the bus, the boys are allowed to play and fight.

TRUE OR FALSE?

12. My friend and I play games on my phone on the bus.

TRUE OR FALSE?

13. If my friend asks me to, I can throw him something from my seat on the bus.

TRUE OR FALSE?

14. I always look left, right, and left again when crossing the street, even when the bus driver tells me it's safe. It's better to be safe than sorry!

TRUE OR FALSE?

15. My friend and I are allowed to play soccer together at the bus stop.

TRUE OR FALSE?



DID YOU KNOW?

The most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the bus.

Accidents can happen when children hurry to get on and off the bus, don't watch out for traffic, and don't stay within the bus driver's sight.

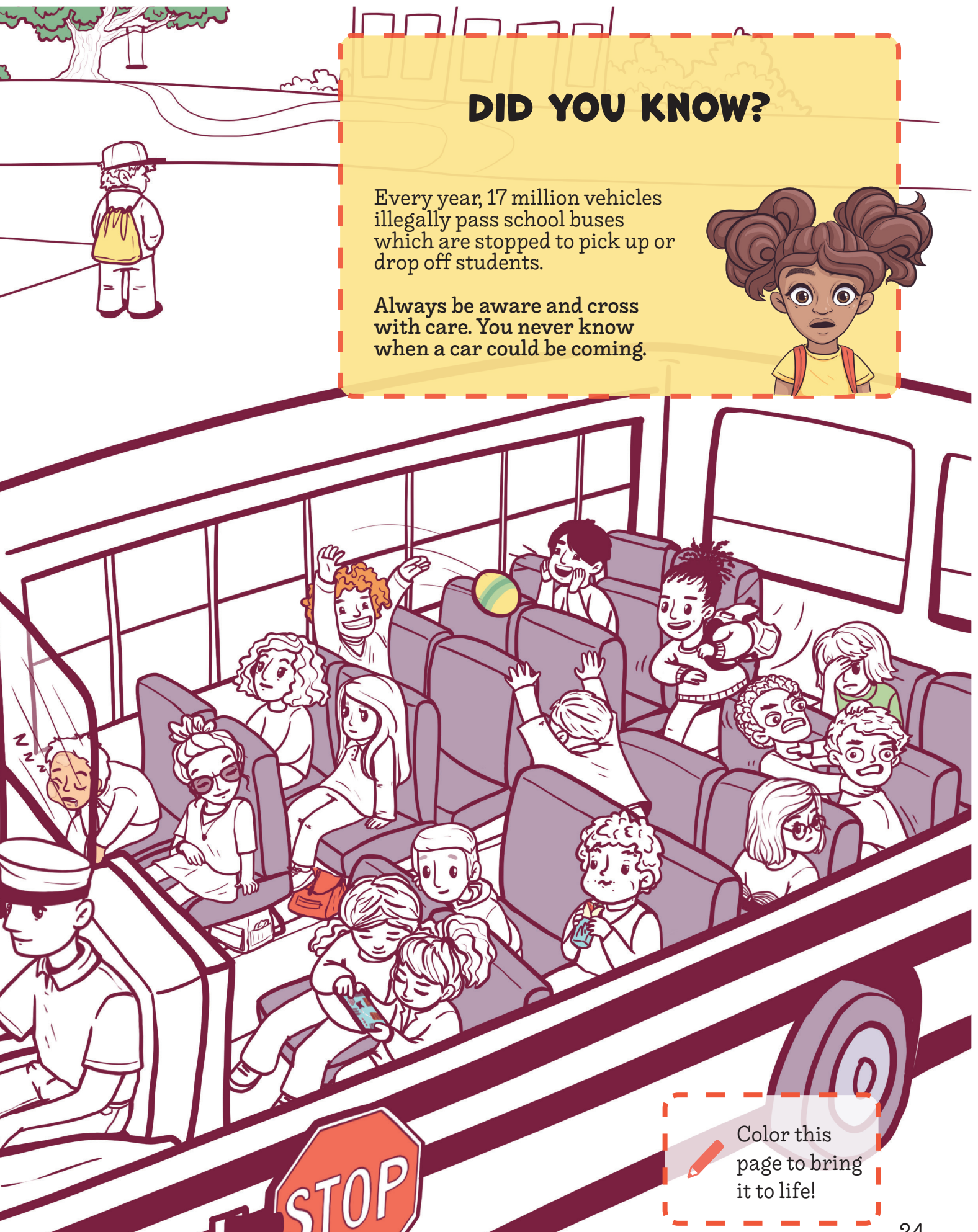
REMEMBER: I see the bus driver, the bus driver sees me.



DID YOU KNOW?

Every year, 17 million vehicles illegally pass school buses which are stopped to pick up or drop off students.

Always be aware and cross with care. You never know when a car could be coming.

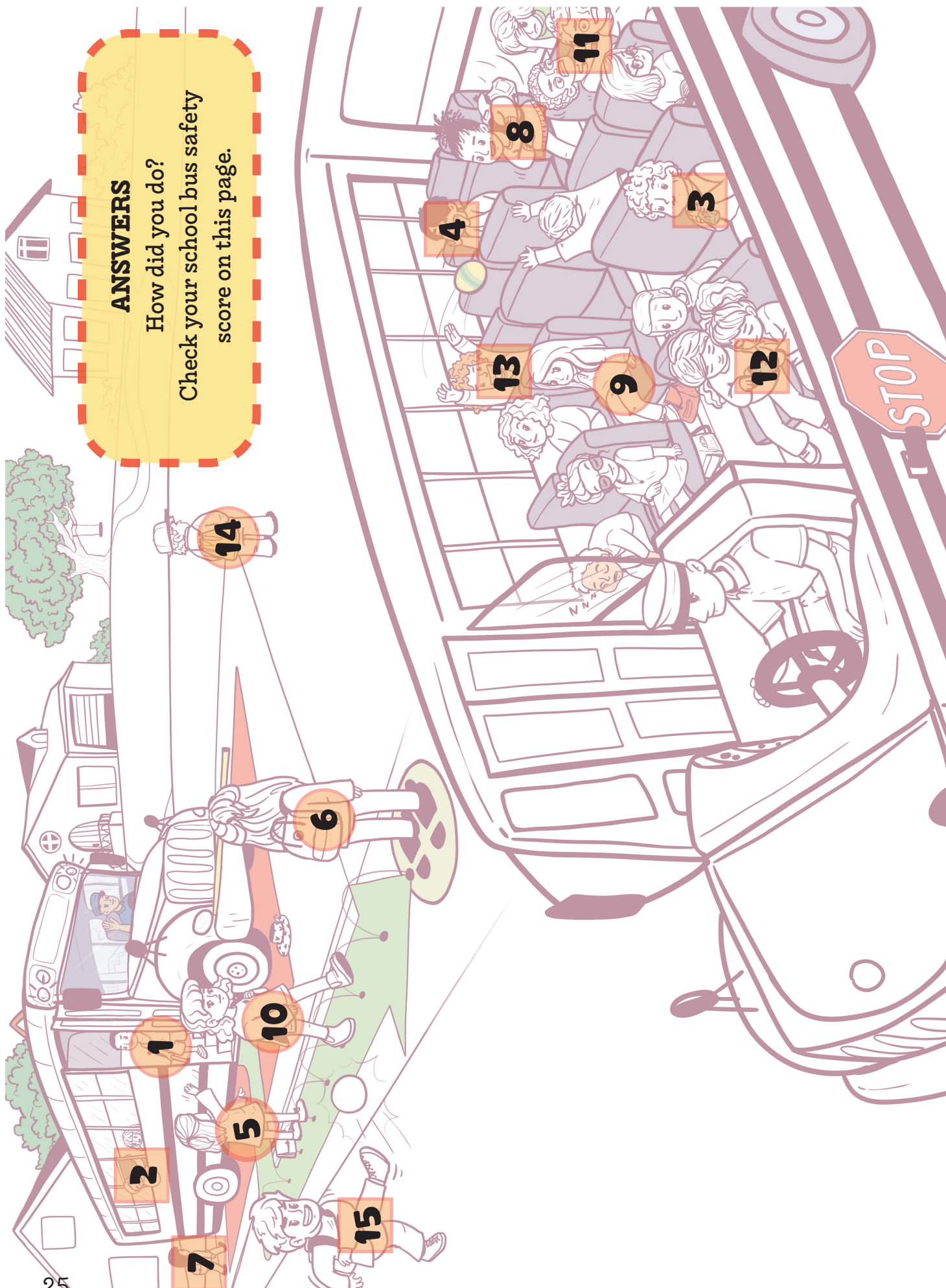


Color this page to bring it to life!

ANSWERS

How did you do?

Check your school bus safety
score on this page.





SAFETY CERTIFICATE

This certificate is presented to:



Student Name

I will follow and respect all school bus safety rules.
I will be considerate of the bus driver and my fellow students.

Date

Presented by



