

Helping Drivers See Safely



Photo Credit: Mailinaccier

Long ago, Mary Anderson took a ride in a streetcar. It was a rainy day. The driver could not see through the front window. He had to stop the streetcar and go outside to clean the window. When he came back, he was all wet.

Anderson thought of a way to clean the window from inside the car. She made a handle with a rubber blade at the end. The driver could move the handle from inside a car. The handle pushed the blade across the window. She called her invention the windshield wiper. Now people stay safe and dry when driving in the rain!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: For questions 1-4, circle the correct answer.

1. What kind of weather makes it hard to see through the front window of cars and streetcars?

- a) sunny weather
- b) windy weather
- c) rainy weather

2. This passage discusses Mary Anderson. She invented the windshield wiper to solve a problem that she noticed. What problem did Mary Anderson solve with her invention?

- a) People were not following the speed limit when they were driving.
- b) Streetcar drivers got wet when cleaning their front windows in the rain.
- c) Rain leaked into cars making drivers wet.

3. Driving in the rain can be dangerous. What part of the passage shows us that this is true?

- a) The driver "had to stop the streetcar and go outside to clean the window."
- b) "It was a rainy day. The driver could not see through the front window."
- c) "Now people stay safe and dry when driving in the rain."

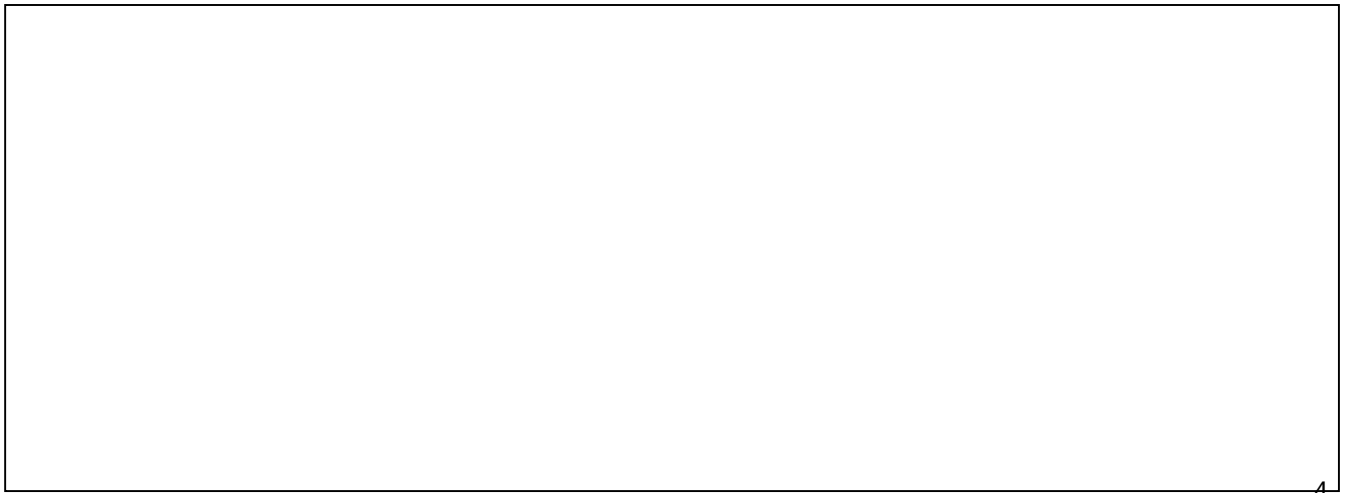
4. What is the main lesson in "Helping Drivers See Safely"?

- a) Mary Anderson invented the windshield wiper.
- b) Streetcar drivers cannot drive safely in the rain.
- c) Drivers should always wear glasses to help them see.

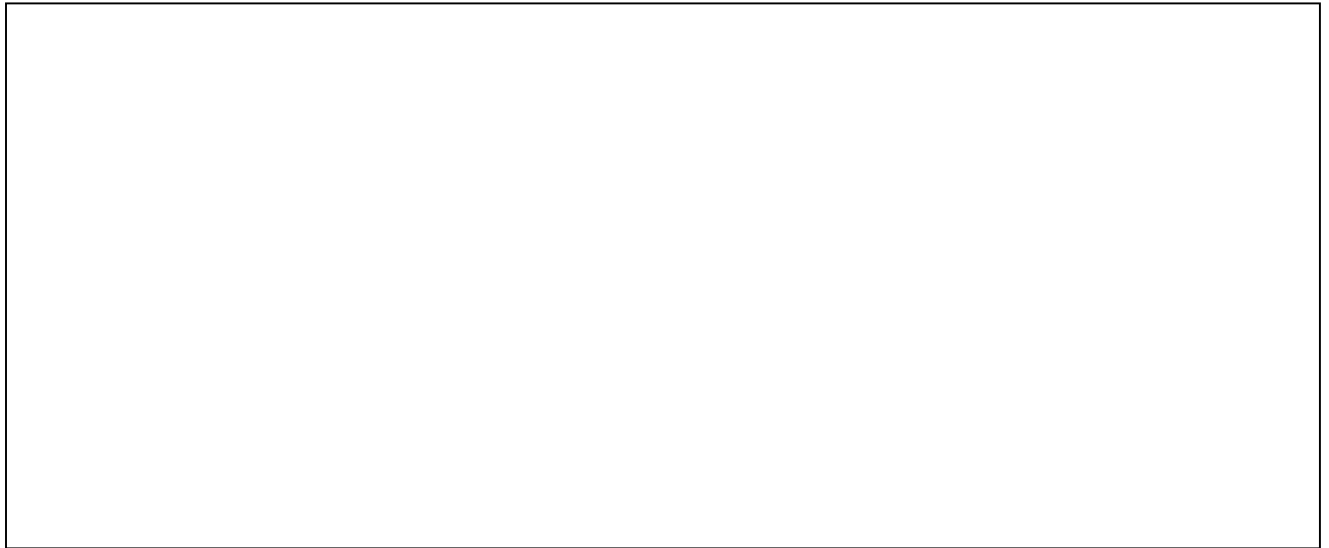
5. A) Where did Mary Anderson put the handle of her windshield wiper?

Mary Anderson put the handle of the windshield wiper

B) Draw a picture of a streetcar with a windshield wiper invented by Mary Anderson.



6. What did you learn from “Helping Drivers See Safely”?



7. Class Discussion Question: Explain how Mary Anderson’s invention solved two problems.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Note to Teacher: Read each question out loud to your students and have each student complete the worksheet independently. For questions 5 A) and 6, you can have students draw their answers, answer orally, or write their answers depending on your students' progress. If you have them write their answers, you may want to write the word(s) on the board for them to copy. Question 7 is a class discussion question.

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 510

Directions: For questions 1-4, circle the correct answer.

1. What kind of weather makes it hard to see through the front window of cars and streetcars?
 - a) sunny weather
 - b) windy weather
 - c) **rainy weather**

2. This passage discusses Mary Anderson. She invented the windshield wiper to solve a problem that she noticed. What problem did Mary Anderson solve with her invention?
 - a) People were not following the speed limit when they were driving.
 - b) **Streetcar drivers got wet when cleaning their front windows in the rain.**
 - c) Rain leaked into cars making drivers wet.

3. Driving in the rain can be dangerous. What part of the passage shows us that this is true?
 - a) The driver "had to stop the streetcar and go outside to clean the window."
 - b) **"It was a rainy day. The driver could not see through the front window."**
 - c) "Now people stay safe and dry when driving in the rain."

4. What is the main lesson in "Helping Drivers See Safely"?
 - a) **Mary Anderson invented the windshield wiper.**
 - b) Streetcar drivers cannot drive safely in the rain.
 - c) Drivers should always wear glasses to help them see.

5. A) *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

Where did Mary Anderson put the handle of her windshield wiper?

Suggested answer: Mary Anderson put the handle of the windshield wiper *inside the car*.

- B) Draw a picture of a streetcar with a windshield wiper invented by Mary Anderson.

Suggested answer: Students' pictures may vary but should include a streetcar (tell your students that streetcars are like buses if they don't know how to draw them) with a handle that has a rubber blade on it. The handle should be inside the streetcar and the blade outside of the car so that the driver can clean the window from inside the car. Advanced pictures might also show that it is raining.

6. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

What did you learn from "Helping Drivers See Safely"?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage.

7. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

Class Discussion Question: Explain how Mary Anderson's invention solved two problems.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary but students should explain that Mary Anderson's invention solved two problems. First, it was dangerous to drive in the rain because you could not see through the front window. It is very dangerous to drive when you cannot see where you are going. You might crash. Drivers had to make sure that their windows stayed clean, even in the rain, but that meant getting out of their car in the rain to wash the window. They came back wet. Anderson's windshield wiper solved both problems because the blade kept windshields clean and drivers stayed dry since they could move it from inside their car.