

Context-Setting **Activities**

These activities are excellent ways to prepare and excite your students for the *Science, Life Skills and Innovations in American Automobile Racing* unit or for a visit to **The Henry Ford**.

Safety in Automobiles

Ask the students to list at least 5 items in their family car that ensure a safe ride. Give a prize or extra credit to the student who comes up with the least-obvious feature. Have the students write their lists on the board. Discuss when each particular safety feature was first added to a passenger car. Ask the students if they know of any safety features that are no longer used because they have been replaced by something newer or perhaps less expensive.

The Future of Automobiles

Ask the students to describe what they think will be the future of the automobile in 5, 10 or 20 years. The students should consider what size cars might be in the future, what safety features might be added, what systems such as GPS systems or guidance systems might be available and what fuel cars might use.

Safety and Car Accidents

Ask the students if they have ever been in an automobile accident. Have them think about and describe how science and technology play a role in protecting them in such accidents. Discuss what physics concepts might be involved in automobile accidents.