Timer Inside

Sensor

Road

Read the short story and answer each question.

How Do Traffic Lights Work?

Traffic lights are used at busy roads and streets. They help keep cars and people safe.

A traffic light has three colors. Red means stop. Yellow means slow down. Green means go.

Inside the traffic light is a timer. It tells the lights when to change.

Some lights are also connected to sensors. A sensor can tell when a car is waiting. The light may turn green when it senses a car.

Traffic lights help people know when it is safe to move and when they should wait.



How Do Traffic Lights Work?

- 1. What might the illustration show that the text describes?
- A traffic light changing from red to green
- B. A car flying in the sky
- C. A person washing windows
- D. A parade going through town

- 2. What does the text tell us that the picture might not show?
- A. That sensors help lights change
- B. What color the lights are
- C. That lights are tall
- D. That drivers like green lights

3.	Fill	in the	blank:	

The text says a timer tells the traffic light when to ______

- 4. What do the words help you understand about how a traffic light works?
- 5. What does the picture help you see that the text doesn't say?

Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: H Lexile Level: 200L-350L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, Middle of the Year **Genre:** Informational Text (Technology)

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read about how traffic lights work. We'll use both the words and the picture to learn. The words tell us facts, and the picture shows what something looks like or how it works."

Vocabulary: traffic light, sensor, timer, red, green

Before Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you ever watched a traffic light change colors?
- 2. What do the colors mean?
- 3. Why do you think pictures are helpful in nonfiction?

During Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What does each color of the traffic light mean?
- 2. What makes the light change?
- 3. What might the picture show?

After Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What did you learn from the picture that the text didn't say?
- 2. What information did the text give that the picture didn't?
- 3. Why do you think the author used both?

Activity Idea

Give students a diagram of a traffic light and let them label the red, yellow, and green lights. Then, they draw arrows showing which car should go and which should stop. Ask them to write one sentence about what the picture helps them understand and one about what the words explain.

