Driverless Cars

Three Sources (two articles; one video)

Source 1 “Why don’t we have self-driving cars yet?” Video by Business Insider

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SE3gXRKBNHc>

Source 2 “Domino’s will deliver pizza using autonomous vehicles this year” article by delish.com

<https://www.delish.com/food-news/a28101004/dominos-autonomous-cars-delivery/>

Source 3 “ ‘Walking car’ could aid people with disabilities and during emergencies” Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff

<https://newsela.com/read/hyundai-car-with-legs/id/48636/>

(See video of this walking car at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQ5Xib6sFp4>)

Key Points

* Driverless cars serve a variety of purposes.
  + Some day we will be able to get a lot of other things done instead of driving – sleeping, having a meeting, reading a book
  + Deliver fast food like Domino’s pizza and groceries
  + Help with labor shortages
  + Help first responders rescue people when disasters like earthquakes occur
  + Help people drive over rough ground that a car can’t drive over
* Driverless cars have several special features in addition to not needing a human driver.
  + Wireless technology that helps them know where to go and communicate with other cars where they are and where they’re going
  + Can walk, climb over rough terrain
  + Has room for lots of goods like pizzas and groceries
  + Has a special key pad for people to use to get into the car
  + May have features like legs can bend at the knee as well as wheels
  + Designed to move the way animals move so it can move in any direction
  + Could climb over a five feet wall or jump across a gap
  + Can switch from wheels that move to wheels that are locked and legs that move
* There are still obstacles we have to overcome before driverless cars become widely available.
  + Many roads have poor signs and lane markings that vehicles can clearly make out
  + Potholes are a problem
  + Need to be wirelessly connected to work
  + Can be disrupted by rain and snow (bad weather)
  + Need to be able to navigate around cars that have human drivers
  + People are scared of driverless cars
  + Technological challenges