

# Taking a Tour of Some Sensors

Have you ever heard a car alarm go off in a parking lot or pulled a cord to signal a bus driver to stop at the next corner? Have you ever wondered why some traffic lights turn green only when cars are waiting in front of them? Try to imagine the sensors that might be in use in these systems.

Your teacher has set up various commercial devices that use sensor materials. You will have time to work with each device to determine how it responds to changes in its environment.

Think about these questions as you do the activity:

- ? How can you tell what stimulus each sensor detects?
- ? How do you think the sensors operate? What are the differences among these sensors?

**D**esign Connection How does the design of each sensor or sensor system relate to its function?

► **Make a chart with space to record:**

- the names of four or more of these devices
- the stimulus each sensor detects (input)
- your description of the processing component
- the response each sensor system creates (output)

