

Overview

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) has developed an educational investigative game (www.vicses.com.au/floodsafe-game) which encourages the identification and learning about hazardous objects which can be found in floodwater and cause harm.

The following lesson plan can be conducted before or after the game has been played and assists in consolidating students' learning and understanding.

It is suggested that any observations, student work or comments recorded during this lesson be displayed in your classroom, under the heading '**Keeping safe during floods**', for others to see and learn from.

Outline	Materials	Time	Conclusion
To introduce the dangers of swimming, walking and playing in floodwater.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pencils/textas Support material #1: Flood examples Support material #2: Pictures of hazardous objects Worksheet #1: FloodSafe poster Optional - Worksheet #2: Stay safe Support material #3: Floodwater chant 	Approx 45–60 minutes	Students will participate in discussions about safety in floodwater and create a classroom display to consolidate their understanding.

Introduction:

10 minutes

- Using images from **Support material #1**, ask students if they know what has happened in each of the pictures (if necessary explain that flooding has occurred).
- Discuss flooding with students. How does flooding happen? Where do you think it happens? Does it happen all the time?
- Explain that floodwater is not like the water at a swimming pool or the beach. Water at a swimming pool or beach is safe to walk in, play around and swim in, but floodwater is dangerous.
- Discuss the following points (to assist use **Support material #2**)
 - Floodwater can move quickly, so it is easy to get swept away. (Show gushing water images from **Support material #1**.)
 - There can be things in the water that are dangerous and hurt people who go into it, like tree branches. (Show images from **Support material #2**.)
 - The water is dirty and you can't be sure what is in it because you can't see through. (Show images from **Support material #2**.)

It is important to emphasise that flooding is something that doesn't occur all the time, but just in case it does, it's important to know how to stay safe.

Activity

20–30 minutes

- 5 Ask students if floodwater is a safe place to swim, walk or play in. After the previous discussion, the response should be no.
- 6 Distribute a copy of **Worksheet #1** to students. Discuss the message on the poster and request students colour in Paddy the Platypus.

Extension activity

Distribute a copy of **Worksheet #2** to all students. Ask them to trace over the dotted words and draw a picture of floodwater that looks dirty or contains a hazardous object, i.e. tree branch.

Conclusion

10–15 minutes

- 7 Display work and ask each student to share what they have created.
- 8 Using **Support material #3** introduce the following chant and actions.

Floodwater everywhere

(Spread arms wide)

Swim, walk or play in it?

I do not dare!

(Shake head and finger gesturing 'No!')

Everyone listen and prepare

(Cup ear with hand as if listening)

Please take care, take care.

(Put hand on your heart)

- 9 Encourage everyone to say and act out the chant together.
- 10 In conclusion, ask everyone to share one thing they have learnt about floodwater and why they should not swim, walk or play in it.



Flood examples



Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/01/16/3113796.htm?site=westernvic>



Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-01-16/historic-floodwaters-swamp-victorian-towns/1907276>

Riverine flooding

Flood examples



Source: <http://www.barraba.com.au/manilla-river-rises-in-barraba-73.cfm>



Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Werribee_River_in_flood_over_cottrell_street_in_Werribee.jpg

Riverine flooding

Flood examples



Source: http://www.3aw.com.au/listener_images_of_victorian_floods?selectedImage=35



Source: http://www.3aw.com.au/listener_images_of_victorian_floods?selectedImage=35

Flash flooding

Flood examples



Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Driving_through_flash_flood.jpg



Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/image/1907294-3x2-340x227.jpg>

Flash flooding

Flood examples



Source: http://web.mst.edu/~rogersda/teton_dam/

Dam failure



Source: <http://www.acus.org/content/hurricane-sandy-storm-surge>

Storm surge

Hazardous objects



Dead animals	
Barbed wire	
Broken glass	
Chemical can	
Rusty can	
Syringe	
Wooden plank with rusty nails	
Dirt nappy	
Poo	
Twigs and branches	

FloodSafe poster



Paddy says...



**Never swim,
walk or play in
floodwater.**

**You don't know
what you're
getting into.**

Stay safe



Stay Safe

Stay away
from
floodwater

Floodwater chant



Floodwater everywhere

(Spread arms wide)

*Swim, walk or play in it?
I do not dare!*

(Shake head and finger gesturing 'No!')

Everyone listen and prepare

(Cup ear with hand as if listening)

Please take care, take care.

(Put hand on your heart)

