



01

Playing in Floodwater



Lesson Number: 1B - Safe and Unsafe

Year Level:
3-5

5Es:
Elaborate

Curriculum Links:
English: listing, sorting

Lesson Number: 1B**Safe and Unsafe****Theme: Playing in Floodwater**

The key message of this story is that playing in floodwater is dangerous. Jimmy is under the misconception that playing in floodwater is not dangerous and that he is a strong swimmer. Trev dispels this myth by explaining the dangers of floodwater and pointing to the debris in the creek bed. While Jimmy may be a strong swimmer - that is not the issue, even the strongest swimmers should not swim in floodwater. Playing and swimming in floodwater is dangerous and Jimmy (or anyone) might get hurt. Jimmy accepts that it is more dangerous than he first considered.

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What students will 'Know and Do':

Students will discuss the information and show their understanding of the dangers of playing in floodwater by describing why areas are unsafe.

1. View the *Li'L Safety Club Natural Disasters* advertisement – **Playing in Floodwater**
2. As a class, brainstorm types of waterways where water would accumulate when it rains e.g. rivers, pools, creeks, drains. **Background Information: Rain, Storms and Floods.**
3. Discuss with students:
 - What would be 'safe' and 'unsafe' water places to play, for example, a supervised pool or beach is safe, flooded areas would be unsafe, and
 - Why it is unsafe to play in floodwater.
4. Ask students to choose one area which would be unsafe and write a sentence about why it would be unsafe e.g. *Creeks are unsafe because water flows quickly and you can't see what is under the water.*
5. Students work independently to list the unsafe places to swim and explain why they are unsafe. Refer to **Student Activity Sheet 1B**. Students find pictures of safe (pools, patrolled beach) and unsafe places (flooded creeks, drains).
6. Students bring their lists back to the whole group and reflect on what they have learned by comparing each.
7. Invite students to take home their lists and images to share with the family.

Responses to use

Areas where flooding may occur: creeks, rivers, dams, drains, across roads. It is unsafe to play in flooded areas because:

- floating debris - sticks, logs, rubbish
- water could be contaminated or dirty
- unseen holes or loose rocks
- unknown and inconsistent depth
- unpredictable currents
- danger of flash flooding
- danger of being washed into trees, concrete piers and other objects
- drains may change sizes - danger of becoming stuck

Useful resources:

- Refer for information to: FloodSafe program at SES websites in NT, WA, SA, Tasmania, Victoria, NSW, ACT & Qld, especially:
www.pfes.nt.gov.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&p=484&m=45&sm=144&ssm=42
www.ses.sa.gov.au/site/community_safety/floodsafe.jsp
www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq/css/flood.asp
- Get Ready Kidnas:
www.emergency.qld.gov.au/kids/kidnas/default.htm
- Red Alert 'Flood Stories':
www.emergency.qld.gov.au/redalert.asp

Student Activity Sheet: 1B	Safe & Unsafe	Years 3-5
Theme: <u>Playing in Floodwater</u>		
Name:		
Class:		

- Think about where water flows after it has rained. Fill in the columns below to show unsafe places to play after a storm or flood and list the reasons why it would be unsafe to play in these places. There may be more than one reason for each.
- Take the page home and discuss what you have learned with parents, carers or guardians.

When it is flooding these are.....

Unsafe places to play	Why?