

BEING SAFE IN BOATS

Health and Physical Education unit for Years 1-4 from



TEACHER NOTES: Key Ideas to Develop

- Boating is a popular recreational activity enjoyed by thousands of New Zealanders every year on our seas, lakes and rivers.
- Sadly approximately 20-25 people (including children) lose their lives every year in boating accidents.
- Many of these people would be alive today if they had been wearing life jackets.
- Carrying the correct safety equipment on boats would have helped skippers keep their passengers safe.
- There are many things that young children can do to help the skipper of the boat keep them safe.
- Getting an up-to-date weather forecast before going out is an essential part of safe boating.
- School children of all ages can play an important part in getting safe boating messages out to parents and the wider community.
- This unit is specifically designed for Years 1-4 students but the messages and activities can easily be adapted for older students.

NB: Maritime NZ has over 250 trained and volunteer Safe Boating Advisers throughout New Zealand who will be pleased to talk to your class and assist with Safe Boating education.

TUNING IN TO BOATS AND BOATING

- As a class or in groups have students brainstorm and list the names of as many different types of boats that they can think of such as:
 - kayaks
 - motor boats
 - fishing boats
 - yachts
 - dinghies
 - ferries
- Challenge the class to come up with a 'huge list' of special boating words, eg
 - life jackets
 - oars
 - sails
 - ropes
 - fishing rods
 - boat ramp ...
 Make into flash cards and use as a reading activity.
- Encourage class members to share their boating experiences with the class, eg
 - who has been on a boat?
 - tell us what sort of a boat it was
 - where did you go and what did you do when on the boat?
 - what did you like most about being on the boat?
 - what did the skipper (may need an explanation) do or tell you to do to help keep yourself safe, before you went out on the boat and when you were on the boat?

Curriculum Details: Health & Physical Education

- Personal Health & Physical Development
- Healthy Communities and Environments

Key Understandings

- Boating is an enjoyable and exciting activity but it can be dangerous if we don't take care.
- There are many things we need to learn to do to keep ourselves safe when we are out in boats
- We must always wear our life jackets when out in boats.



Links to: English: – writing, listening speaking, presenting
Visual Arts: – developing visual ideas

BOATING MURALS & MOBILE

- Have students search through magazines and newspapers to find pictures of different types of boats and people demonstrating both safe and unsafe boating behaviour, **eg** with and without life jackets.
- Make into a group or class wall mural with captions added by the students.
- Have students think about different places that people can go and enjoy when they are out boating, **eg** bays, harbours, beaches, river banks etc. Make words into classroom mobiles.

BEING SAFE IN BOATS

- Find out just what the students know already about keeping themselves safe in boats, **eg** do they know that they should wear a life jacket that fits properly at all times? Why should they always wear it? Record ideas on a wall chart.
- Can they come up with any ideas about what could go wrong when they were out boating?
- Have students imagine they are a skipper of a boat. Tell them that the skipper's job is to make sure that everyone who comes boating with them is kept as safe as possible.
- Tell the students that a good skipper carries many things (equipment) on the boat to help make it safe for the passengers. Challenge the class to come up with a preliminary list of equipment that a good skipper would carry to help keep passengers safe.



KNOWING WHAT TO DO

LEARNING ABOUT BOATING SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Download the Boating Safety Equipment pictures pdf of all safety equipment that should be carried on boats at: www.teachingonline.org/boating.html
- Distribute the Essential Boating Equipment pdf to students for viewing and discussion. How many items can they identify and name?
- Compare the class list with the pictured items.
- Can they say what each item would be used for? Work through each item with the class explaining what each item would be used for and when it would be used, **eg**
 - we need a first aid kit and book in case we have an accident on the boat
 - we need the oars to help paddle back to shore if the motor breaks down
 - every person on board should always wear a life jacket at all times
 - a radio is used to call the coast guard if we get into trouble (or cellphone - should be wrapped in waterproof bag)
 - we use the bucket to remove (bail) water from inside the boat
 - the fire extinguisher is very important in case we have a fire on our boat etc.
 - we carry extra rope for throwing to other boats in case we need to be towed to safety
 - a compass can help us find our way back if the weather becomes bad and we lose sight of the land
 - a sharp knife in case a line or rope gets caught around a propeller.
- Have students write co-operative sentences for each item in their own words and place them on the class boating wall mural.



REMINDING OURSELVES AND TELLING OTHERS

- Tell the students that now they have found out about safe boating, there are many things that they can do to help others learn to keep safe. Try some of the following suggestions:
- **A SAFE BOATING DRAMA.** To help consolidate the learnings, have groups prepare and act out to other classes or at assembly, a Safe Boating mini-drama that covers...
 - planning the trip safely
 - checking the equipment
 - putting on our life jackets
 - a fun but safe day boating
- Have students interview (ask questions) parents, family members and family friends who have boats about the things that they do to help keep themselves (and others) safe when boating.
- Paint pictures of themselves with their life jackets on enjoying a safe day boating. Display in the school corridor or hall for everyone to see.
- If possible, involve the class in planning and running a Safe Boating Day at school where:
 - students can share their knowledge with other classes
 - local boat owners/marine shop can display and demonstrate safety equipment
 - Invite a local Safe Boating Adviser from Coastguard, Maritime NZ or the Regional Council Harbourmaster office to visit the school and talk to the students about safe boating. The Safe Boating Adviser can show how to correctly fit life jackets.

ASKING THE EXPERTS

- Invite a local Safe Boating Adviser from Coastguard, Maritime NZ or the Regional Council Harbourmaster office to talk to the students about the fun of safe boating (If a boat can be brought along, this is even better as it brings it alive for the students)
- Ask the visitor to emphasise:
 - the safety procedures we have on boats before we go out and while we are boating
 - the safety equipment that is carried and why
- Before the visit, help the class prepare a list of questions they can ask the boatie at the finish of the talk to the class, **eg**
 - what weather is best for boating?
 - how do we find out about the weather before we go boating?
 - why should we not go boating if the weather is bad?
 - what are the things that we can do on the boat to help keep ourselves and others safe?
 - what special safety equipment do you have on the boat, where do you keep it on the boat, and how is it used?
 - why is it so important to always wear our life jackets?
 - why is it so important to have a life jacket that fits us correctly and how will we know if it is a correct fit?
 - what do you carry in your first aid kit? Why?

SAFE BOATING RESOURCES FOR YEARS 5-8



FREE TEACHER RESOURCES

The above programmes have been specifically designed for students of years 5-8. Both programmes are curriculum linked to the Health & Physical Education curriculum with further links to Science, Technology and English curricula containing:

- curriculum strands
- activities overview
- key messages
- worksheets
- learning intentions
- extensive teacher notes
- student activities
- evaluations

DOWNLOAD AT: www.cbcs.org.nz/safe-boating.php

PLUS 2 starters&strategies UNITS

- Marine Weather
 - All About Safety
- DOWNLOAD AT:** www.maritimenz.govt.nz > select schools