



# ALWAYS WEAR A LIFEJACKET

A MULTI-LEVEL HEALTH AND PERSONAL SAFETY UNIT FROM



## Curriculum Links:

Health & Personal Safety

- Responsible decision making
- Taking positive actions to promote personal well-being

Links to English and Social Sciences, The Arts

**YEARS 1-3**

## TEACHER NOTES

The following activities for years 1-3 are designed to develop safe boating ideas in your classroom.

- *boating is a popular activity enjoyed by thousands of Kiwis every year on our lakes, seas, and rivers*
- *there are many things we can do to help keep ourselves safe when we are boating and the most important of these is to always wear the correct lifejacket*
- *we can play an important part to get safety messages out to our friends and parents.*

## TUNING IN TO BOATS AND BOATING

- How many different types of boats can the students think of? Brainstorm and make a 'big' list. Can they think of any special boating words they could add to their list such as sails, motor, oars ... ? Make the boats and boating words into reading flash cards.
- Find out how many students have been out on a boat. Have them share their experiences with the class, **eg**
  - *what sort of boat was it and where did they go?*
  - *what did you do when you were out on the boat?*
  - *what did you like most about being out on the boat?*
  - *who went out on the boat with you?*
  - *did the skipper/captain give any special instructions to help you keep safe before you went out on the boat and while you were out on the boat?*
- Have students search through magazines to find pictures of people out in boats. Can they find pictures that show safe behaviour and unsafe behaviour, **eg** with and without lifejackets? Make these pictures into a class mural and have students add captions.

## WEARING OUR LIFE JACKET

- What do the students know about keeping themselves safe when out in boats? Do they know that they should always wear the correct lifejacket? Why should they always wear it when out on the boat? List ideas.
- Ask students why we always wear seat belts in a car, **eg** to keep us safe and save our life in a crash. Did they know that wearing a lifejacket is a lot like wearing a seat belt? How could it help save our lives? Discuss.
- Can they come up with any ideas about what could go wrong when they are out boating? How would a lifejacket help if any of these things happened?
- Have any students worn a lifejacket before?

- Can they describe how it feels when it is on? Have any students floated in the water when wearing a lifejacket. Can they describe how it feels like when they are floating and how the lifejacket helps them to float.
- Why do students think that the lifejacket they wear must be the right size and fit properly? What could happen if the lifejacket is too big? Discuss.

## FOCUS ON BOATING SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Can the class think of other equipment that a skipper should carry on the boat to help keep passengers safe? Download the Boat Safety Equipment pdf at: **[www.teachingonline.org/safeboating.pdf](http://www.teachingonline.org/safeboating.pdf)** and project or copy for students. Can the students identify any of this equipment? Discuss how having this equipment on the boat can improve our safety.

## IT'S TIME TO ASK THE EXPERTS

- Plan a boat safety day at school. Invite a local Safe Boating Advisor from Maritime New Zealand, Coastguard, or your local harbourmaster's office (or experienced local boatie and/or boat shop owner) to talk to the class about the fun of safe boating (a 'real' boat will bring the day alive!). Ask your guest to emphasise and demonstrate safety procedures we have on boats before we go out and while we are boating.
- Prior to the visit, have students prepare a list of questions on boat safety that they would like to ask, **eg**, *finding out about the weather; what we can do on the boat to keep ourselves and others safe; safety equipment on the boat; contents of first aid kit ...*
- Make the correct fitting of life-jackets a major and practical part of the day. If possible, use the school or local pool for student flotation experience.

## SHARING WHAT WE KNOW

- Have students share what they have found out about boat safety with other classes. Include mini-safety dramas, correctly fitting lifejacket demonstrations, boat-safe self portraits and captions, safety equipment display and demonstrations, read boat safety stories, quizzes ...



# AND STAY ON TOP



YEARS 4-8

## ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

- Boating is an exciting and popular recreational activity but it does have its share of dangers.
- Everyone taking part must take their share of responsibility to make their boating safe.
- Pre-trip planning, knowledge of emergency procedures, using emergency equipment and following safety rules are all necessary for safe boating.
- Lifejackets are essential for safe boating and must be worn.
- Students who know the rules will greatly assist the skipper of the boat in keeping all passengers safe.

## WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT BOATING?

- Have students share personal boating experiences, **eg**
  - *where did they go?* - *what did they do?*
  - *what type of boat?* - *most memorable?*
- Can they remember any safety instructions given by the skipper prior to and during the experience? Was the boat carrying any safety equipment? Did they wear a lifejacket and were they shown how to fit it correctly?

## DOES BOATING PRESENT ANY DANGERS?

- Are students aware that sadly about 15-25 people (including children) lose their lives in boating accidents every year. Have groups consider and list any dangers that could occur when boating? What possible situations or events could occur when boating that could be potentially life-threatening? Discuss and list.
- How many students have seen the **'Wear your lifejacket – it's that simple'** television advertisements during summer? Why do they think this message is so important? Have students refer back to their boating dangers list. In how many of these situations would boaties be safer if they were wearing a lifejacket?
- 'A lifejacket does for people in boats what a seatbelt does for car passengers'. Discuss this statement.

## LIFEJACKET WEB RESEARCH

[www.maritimenz.govt.nz](http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz) > select the Lifejacket link from the recreational menu and have students answer the following:

- *what is every boat legally required to carry?*
- *what responsibility does the skipper of the boat have, especially in boats under 6 metres?*
- *for what reasons should people always wear lifejackets?*
- *how do we choose the right type of lifejacket?*
- *as well as flotation, what else does a lifejacket provide?*

## ADDITIONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT ON BOATS

- **Safety scenario.** Each group becomes the co-owner of a 4 metre pleasure boat that they are keen to use to

enjoy a lake or salt water environment safely. At a co-owners meeting they have to consider and list all the safety equipment they will carry on board their boat.

- As well as this they should be able to state why they will carry this equipment and when they would use it.
- Have students present equipment lists to the class and justify their choices.
- [www.teachingonline.org/safeboating.pdf](http://www.teachingonline.org/safeboating.pdf) Download and project or photocopy for the students. How does their list compare?

## GETTING THE MESSAGES OUT TO OTHERS

- Now that the students know that lifejackets and safety equipment can save lives and make us safer, have them brainstorm ways they could get these safety messages out to families and other students.
- Consider planning and running a boat safety day at school, or even a local marina or boat ramp, involving the community. Invite a Safe Boating Advisor from Maritime New Zealand or Coastguard and/or an experienced local local boatie/boat shop owner to demonstrate safety procedures and equipment essential for safe boating.
  - *prepare a special safe boating section for the class or school web page*
  - *design and display boat safety posters for a local supermarket or shopping mall*
  - *film/video your own TV boat safety promotion for YouTube or produce a slide sequence DVD*
  - *have a flotation day at your school or local pool*
  - *teach younger students to fit lifejackets correctly*
  - *run a school-wide boat safe slogan competition*
  - *prepare multi-choice boat safe quizzes for students*
  - *design boat safe fridge reminder mini-posters*
  - *explore the Maritime New Zealand website at: [www.maritimenz.govt.nz](http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz)*



**Wear your lifejacket**  
– it's that simple.

Visit [www.maritimenz.govt.nz](http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz)

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