

**Class:** Year 5

**Subject:** Water Safety (Canals and General Waterways)

**National Curriculum Reference:** PSHE: 1a,1c,2a,2b,2e,3a,3e,3f,3g,4a,4b,5a,5d,5g,5h

En 1:1a,2a,2c,3a,4a,4b,4c,8d,10c,11a 11b Geography: 1b,1c,1d,2a,2c,2d,2f,3a

Design and Technology: 1a, 1b,1c,1d Art: 1c,2c,3a,3b

**Learning Objective:**

- Children to be made aware of the possible dangers near canals or inland waterways.
- Children to be made aware of what to do in case of an emergency near a canal or inland waterway.

**Success Criteria:**

- Children will know what the possible dangers are near canals and inland waterways.
- Children will know what to do in case of an emergency near a canal or inland waterway.

**Introduction:**

- Inform the children that a visit to a canal or an inland waterway with an adult can be great fun. (At this point you could inform the children that an inland waterway could mean a river, lake or reservoir.) However, every year approximately **400-600** people drown in the UK.
- Encourage children to think about any possible dangers in the water or by the bank. (These ideas could be written on the board, flip chart or on individual pieces of paper.

**Teacher Led Activity 1: (General Waterways)**

- Provide the children with a picture of an inland waterway.
- Can the children identify the hazards in the picture? Hazards could include:
  - A child walking off because its parents have become distracted.
  - Children playing with their backs to the water's edge
  - Children swimming in the canal.
  - A fisherman has a long fishing pole which can be tripped over easily.
  - A cyclist is very close to the water's edge.
  - Objects protruding from the water which may be sharp or could trap you.
- Check that the class has identified all of the hazards correctly. You may need to clarify any misunderstandings. Also, it may be necessary to discuss why some situations may not be hazards.
- Ask the children to explain what would need to be done to make hazards safe? (Share ideas with the whole class.)

**Teacher Led Activity 2: (Canals)**

- Inform children about the fact that canals are a series of waterways which were originally used for travel and for barges to carry cargo in. (Show image of a barge).
- Canals are still used today but mainly for leisure activities and for people to live on.
- Canals don't flow like rivers as they are more level. If a boat needs to go up a hill they use a series of "LOCKS" (show an image) which is like a staircase of water. Locks can be extremely dangerous:
  - They are very deep with long straight sides that you cannot climb out of.
  - When they are in use the power of the water flow would drag you under.
- We must not jump or swim in a canal as there are many hazards:
  - We don't know how deep the water is.
  - Weil's Disease, is rat's urine which has contaminated the water. This can cause illness or even death.
  - The water could be polluted with deadly chemicals.
  - Rubbish that has been dumped in the canal maybe hidden and could badly hurt you.
  - It could also be too cold to swim. When the water is very cold it can affect your breathing and it slows your muscles down, making it harder to swim.

**Teacher Led Activity 3 (In case of an emergency)**

- Ask the children to suggest what they would do in case of an emergency such as someone getting in trouble in the water? Share suggestions with whole of the class. (You could show a picture as an example). Inform the class that first and foremost they must always remain **SAFE!**

**GET HELP**

- Shout for help and send someone to ring 999.

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## THINK

- Always put your own safety first; do not put yourself in danger.
- Never jump in.
- Leave the rescue to the emergency services.

## REACH

- If it is safe to help, try to reach the person with a stick, scarf or any other object.
- Crouch or lie down to avoid being pulled in.

## THROW

- If a rope is available this is the best thing to do.
- Otherwise throw something in that will float such as a ball, plastic bottle or lifebuoy. This will keep the person afloat until assistance arrives.

## REMEMBER WHEN YOU CALL 999 GIVE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS YOU CAN SUCH AS:

- Where you are.
- Any landmarks
- Any signs you can see.

### Independent Activity 1:

- Create a Safety Game which raises awareness of the appropriate behaviour near canals and inland waterways.

### Independent Activity 2:

- Ask children to design a poster to highlight the dangers and/or the leisure and pleasure benefits of canals and waterways.

### Independent Activity 3:

- This is a role playing activity which places the children in groups of 3 or 4.
- They are in the position of finding someone has fallen in the canal and rescuing them. (The children could write their own story if they wanted to show how the person ended up in the water.)
- You can provide the children with a selection of props out of the following, rope, ball, plastic bottle, scarf, mobile phone, chocolate bar, money, whistle, and pair of trainers, umbrella, and a plastic bag. (You can add to the list if you want to!)
- The children can create their own scenarios as to how the person is rescued.
  - How are they going to raise the alarm?
  - How are they going to keep the person afloat?
  - How are they going to get the person to the bank?
- Remember at all times they **MUST STAY AWAY FROM the EDGE!**
- They will have 10 minutes to prepare their role plays

### Plenary/Review:

Allow the children to perform their role plays. Let each group perform for each other. Use the suggested answers and key points for discussion.

### Resources:

- Pens
- Paper
- Images of Canals, Barges, Locks and Waterways
- Design Template for Safety Game
- Design Template for Poster
- Props for Role Play Activity
- Scenarios for Role play Activity

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