



01

Playing in Floodwater



Lesson Number: 1A - Keep Out!

Year Level:
P/K-3

5Es:
Engage

Curriculum Links:
English, Visual Arts



An Australian Government Initiative



Lesson Number: 1A**Keep Out!****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 about the dangers of playing in floodwater and show their understanding of these dangers through designing a poster to alert others of the danger.

1. View the *Li'L Safety Club Natural Disasters* advertisement – **Playing in Floodwater**
2. Initiate and lead a discussion about safe and unsafe places to swim. Ask students:
 - Why is it unsafe to swim in flooded areas?
 - Why is it unsafe to play in flooded areas?
 - As a class, list some activities that are inappropriate to do while in a flooded area? For example, riding a bike.
3. Refer to **Background Information: Rain, Storms and Floods**.
4. Brainstorm ideas for two lists – (1) Safe Places to Swim and (2) Unsafe Places to Swim
5. Ask students to:
 - a. Consider and respond to the following question in small groups:
 - How could we let others know to keep out of the floodwater?
 - b. Research more information on the SES websites, for example:
 - Riverine Business Poster: Don't Let Your Business Go Under
[www.ses.vic.gov.au/CA256AEA002EBBF1/Lookup/emergency_management_floodsafe_main_page_2010/\\$file/Business%20FloodSafe%20Poster%20Riverine%20Flooding.pdf](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/CA256AEA002EBBF1/Lookup/emergency_management_floodsafe_main_page_2010/$file/Business%20FloodSafe%20Poster%20Riverine%20Flooding.pdf)
 - NSW SES www.ses.nsw.gov.au/resources/
 - c. Design a danger sign using **Student Activity Sheet 1A** which has the key message: *Playing in Floodwater is Dangerous*. Students may work individually or in pairs to write and illustrate their own sign. Have the students come back together as a class to share their danger signs and display them in the classroom.
 - d. Reflect on what they learned: *What did we learn about swimming in floodwater? Why is it unsafe?*
 - e. Take the danger sign home to share with family.

Useful resources:

- Top 10 Sign Design Tips
<http://ezinearticles.com/?signtronix-style-design---top-10-sign-design-tips&id=577032>
- FloodSafe program at SES websites in NT, WA, SA, Tasmania, Victoria, NSW, ACT & Qld
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

Theme: Playing in Floodwater

Name:

Class:

- After you have explored the dangers of swimming and playing in floods, design a sign you could put near a river or creek to tell others it is not safe to play there.
- Make sure your danger sign has a clear message and some pictures to show the dangers.

