

IT'S ALL ABOUT KNOWING

HEALTH AND SAFETY CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FROM:



Boating is a popular New Zealand pastime

TEACHER NOTES AND KEY IDEAS DEVELOPED

- The following messages are brought to us by Maritime New Zealand – the government agency that helps to educate boaties about safe boating and co-ordinates search and rescue when things go wrong. Maritime New Zealand knows how effective young people are in getting out important safety messages to families. Through this unit we enlist the help of students to get these messages out to families and boaties.
- With summer fast approaching, thousands of New Zealanders will be enjoying boating on our seas, rivers and lakes. Sadly up to 20 people (including children) lose their lives every year in boating accidents. Many of these people would be alive today if they had:
 - *taken emergency communication equipment*
 - *been wearing a life jacket*
 - *checked the weather before their trip*
 - *avoided alcohol, particularly excessive consumption.*

TUNING IN TO BOATING SAFETY

- How many students have been or are likely to go out on a boat this summer? Have students share any previous boating experiences with the class. Do any students have a boat of their own such as a kayak or small yacht? Brainstorm and list reasons why boating is such a popular New Zealand pastime – especially in summer.
- Share the sad fact that up to 20 people lose their lives every year in boating accidents in New Zealand. Speculate on the situations or reasons that boating fatalities can occur. List these for later comparison after further research.
- Challenge students to come up with a preliminary list of simple precautions that boaties could take to lessen any possible chances of having a boating emergency, **eg**
 - *precautions that could be taken such as wearing lifejackets*
 - *carrying equipment such as a cellphone or VHF radio.*
- Have any students seen advertisements on TV that promote boat safety? What messages can they recall? Keep a media watch for boat safety messages during this unit.

Curriculum Links: Health and Physical Education

- Personal Health and Physical Development – Safety Management. Using information to make safe choices in a marine boating context.
- Healthy Communities & Environments – Taking collective action for the care and safety of other people at school and in the wider community.

- Links to English – Listening, Viewing, Speaking, Writing and Presenting ideas for a particular purpose and effect.
- Level: Most suitable for years 4-8

STAY ON TOP WITH COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

- Remind students of the main job that Maritime New Zealand carries out for recreational boaties – education and co-ordinating search and rescue. Tell students that they have developed a special website to help educate boaties about keeping safe in boats: **www.stayontop.org.nz**.
- Introduce the scenario of a family on a fishing trip several miles away from shore. The boat motor will not start and the weather is beginning to deteriorate. They need immediate help. What do they do? Tell students that Maritime New Zealand is emphasising the Communications Equipment message this summer. Their message is simple:
If you can't contact us then we can't rescue you.
- Have groups visit the website > select Safe Boating & You > Click on Communication and conduct research under the headings: Radio; Flares; Cellphone; EPIRB. Find out:
 - *why is it that hand-held radios are recommended and how can we keep them dry?*
 - *how do you call for help in an emergency situation?*
 - *If the cellphone is relied on for safety, what precautions do we take to ensure that it can always be used during an emergency and who do we call?*
 - *under what circumstances would you use different kinds of flares?*
 - *explain what an EPIRB is and the advantages this has. What regular checks should be made on this equipment?*
- Are the students surprised to know that failure to carry reliable communications equipment is the second biggest cause of boating fatalities? Point out that the \$200 cost for a waterproof, hand-held VHF radio is a small price to pay compared with the cost of a boat and its gear.
- Tell students that a wet phone is an unusable phone. Do they know lives have been lost even though a cellphone was carried and they were within calling range because they were not carried in a waterproof and sealed plastic bag.

AND SPREADING SAFETY MESSAGES

Former Navy Diver Rob Hewitt (pictured) who survived for 4 days in the water says you need to carry at least two kinds of communication equipment.

Have students check out his new TV advertisement at: www.stayontop.co.nz > Select Latest and click on events.



STAY BRIGHT ON TOP – PADDLING TO BE SEEN

- Develop the idea that many people enjoy being on the water in small boats and in canoes and kayaks. Introduce the idea that because of their size, it can often be difficult for power boat users to spot them in the water. Can they think of any reasons for this **eg**
 - choppy water or swell
 - sun glare, salt on the windscreen ...
- Introduce the concept of visibility – being able to be easily seen by other water users. Have groups brainstorm any sensible and easy measures that they could take to help make them more visible to other boaties.
- Download, print out and distribute the 'Paddling to Be Seen' section of Safe Seas/Clean Seas pdf (Page 3) at: www.maritimenz.govt.nz > Click on News and Publications > Click on Recreational Publications > Select and download Safe Seas, Clean Seas #20 pdf.
- Through discussion and shared reading have students discover and make a wall display the following visibility tips:
 - the most visible colours that should be used
 - how to make your head (your highest point) visible
 - how to make paddles and/or oars visible
 - colours for life jackets and benefits of contrasting colours
 - how to be seen at night
 - chopper flags and bright colours for the craft.



REVISE OTHER IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- Share the life jacket, checking the weather and alcohol messages with the students. Assign groups a topic and conduct research on: www.stayontop.org.nz Report back.

Education units on life jackets, weather forecasts and a junior school unit can be downloaded at: www.teachingonline.org/maritime.html

SPREADING THE SAFETY MESSAGES

Ensure students are aware that they can make a big difference in spreading the important safety messages to families and boaties. Maritime New Zealand suggests that classes/schools organise a **Stay on Top** day where students, parents and the community are involved. To assist with your Stay on Top day, consider the following:

Free Resources Available from Maritime New Zealand

- Cellphone bags – ziplock bags to keep cellphones dry
- Stay on Top – safety message – fun tattoos
- *Safe Boating*: An essential guide booklet covering how to be safe on the water, **ie** sea, river or lakes
- Safe Boating DVD – bringing the boating safety message to life
- Safe boating tips stickers – providing a quick summary for car windows, on the boat, fridge reminders ...

Invite Expert Speakers

- Invite local safe boating advisers from Coastguard, Maritime New Zealand or the Regional Council harbourmaster office to talk to students and parents about safe boating. These volunteers will show you how to correctly fit life jackets and talk about the importance of communications equipment.

For free resources, speaker contacts and further information email: recreational.boating@maritimenz.govt.nz

Teaching and Learning programmes for Years 5-8

- Visit Coastguard Boating Education website at: www.cbes.org.nz/safe-boating

FURTHER STAY ON TOP MESSAGE IDEAS

- Write to local community newspapers to publicise the safe boating messages:
 - wear a life jacket
 - check the weather
 - take emergency communication equipment
 - avoid alcohol.
- Write summaries of all the safety messages covered and publish these on the class/school web page.
- Prepare a fun multi-choice questionnaire based on www.stayontop.org.nz for parents and families to complete. Set this as a homework assignment.
- Make and design a summary of all the safety messages students have discovered in poster format for a display at a local supermarket or library.
- In groups, have students script and act out boating safety mini dramas to other classes and/or film a boating safety video.
- Write and design catchy slogans to be used as fridge reminders at home.

