

Water Safety - Lesson Plans

Activity 4- Reservoir Safety

Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes

I am learning to assess and manage risk, to protect myself and others and to reduce the potential for harm when possible. **HWB 2-16a.**

I know and can demonstrate how to keep myself and others safe and how to respond in a range of emergency situations. **HWB 2-17a.**

The first part of this lesson involves the class in some research on reservoirs. This could be given as a homework task before the activity or the class could work in pairs or small groups on the internet in school.

1. Connecting the Learning - Give each child a partner and ask them to 'Think, Pair and Share' to think up as many different points as they can about Water Safety in two minutes. Have another few minutes to let them share their ideas. Explain that in this lesson the class are going to find out about reservoirs, the particular hazards at reservoirs and how to avoid them.

2. Sharing the Learning Outcomes -

- I can describe the function of a reservoir and explain why they are important
- I can describe some hazards at reservoirs and how to avoid them

3. Active Learning - Set the class a research task to find out what they can about reservoirs in Scotland. They could work in pairs or small groups to encourage good collaborative learning and to speed up the reporting back. Their research questions could include:

What are reservoirs for?
Who builds and looks after reservoirs?
Where are the reservoirs for the area where you live?
Why do reservoirs need to be kept clean?
What dangers might you find at a reservoir?

If time is short each group could be set just one of the questions above. See the Teachers' notes below for some background information on reservoirs.

4. Demonstrating Understanding - Have a feedback time to allow pairs or groups to share what they have found with the rest of the class. Discuss some ideas for keeping safe at reservoirs and emphasise the point that no one should swim in a reservoir.

5. Review and Recall - Use the interactive Reservoir Safety Quiz (Go Safe website, Second, Water, Activity 4) as a plenary and to check that the class have understood all the safety messages.

Links to Scottish Water website games - <http://education.scottishwater.co.uk/flash1/game.html>

Activity 4– Reservoir Safety

Resources needed:

List of research questions (?)

Interactive Plenary Quiz

Teachers background notes on reservoirs – e.g.

“Reservoirs are used by Scottish Water to provide storage for water before it is treated and made safe for you to use and drink. It is a high priority for Scottish Water that the water quality in our reservoirs is maintained at a standard high enough to make it possible to treat. In order to do this, special care must be taken to limit the amount of pollution entering the water environment. Scottish Water has a campaign called Take Care Be Aware which gives tips and advice on accessing its reservoirs. Reservoirs are man-made features and because of their purpose, they have a number of unique hidden dangers. These dangers relate mainly to built structures such as dams, spillways (overflows) and water intakes (underwater pipe work that takes water out of the reservoir) and the effects of these. For example, water intakes can cause dangerous down currents, underwater structures could cause you to injure yourself or you could even get stuck in an overflow pipe. For your own safety you should keep away from all man-made structures. Other hidden dangers found at reservoirs are similar to those that can be found at natural lochs and include deep cold water (even on a hot day), underwater plant life and steep banks”.