

Play it Safe

Rationale

Each year, Seqwater invites South East Queensland schools to participate in a summer safety day. Last year's Play it safe day was held in December and aimed to educate school-aged children – from prep to year 12 – about the importance of safety when recreating during the summer months.

In celebration of this summer safety day, Seqwater would like to communicate the safety messages of playing it safe near waterways (i.e. creeks, rivers, dams and beaches).

Seqwater is hosting a Play it safe incursion prior to the official Play it safe day. This will introduce Seqwater, Wivenhoe Dam and the concepts behind an aqua ranger and recreation safety. This lesson includes the following key topics:

- Who is Seqwater?
- What is an Aqua Ranger? And what role do they play in water safety?
- What constitutes safe play near waterways (i.e creeks, rivers, dams and beaches)?
- Communicate 'playing it safe' to the public.

Lesson plan – Year 4 to 6

Playing it safe

Student objectives

Students will be able to identify the following:

- Seqwater's role in water supply for South East Queensland.
- actions that constitute safe play.
- local waterways.
- actions the community and themselves can do to continue playing it safe.

Introduction

Begin a classroom discussion on the boundaries of South East Queensland. You may wish to draw this on a large A3 piece of paper, to help clarify or use a map of South East Queensland. Explain that Seqwater looks after the sourcing, storing and treatment of water, before it is supplied to the whole South East Queensland region.

Introduce Seqwater and promote messages of playing it safe near waterways (i.e. creeks, rivers, dams and beaches). Some teachers and students may have prior experience in Play it safe day and participating in the 2014 event with Seqwater. Encourage these students to discuss prior knowledge and share with the class what their definition of playing safely is. Discuss Seqwater's role in water supply.

Discussion points

- What does SEQ stand for?
- Where does the water come from? Discuss water cycle.
- How do we store the water?
- Why do we need to treat the water before we can supply it for drinking?
- Can you name some dams in South East Queensland?

Move the discussion to Wivenhoe Dam and recreational activities that many people enjoy at these locations.

Discussion points

- What types of activities could we do at a dam?
- What types of activities would we do with our families on the weekend?

Encourage responses that may include the following:

- Swimming
- Boating
- Fishing
- Bushwalking
- Canoeing.

Reinforce the fact that for this reason, it is very important for Seqwater to make sure everyone at these dams have fun recreating, but are doing so in a safe way. Discuss the role of an

Seqwater Ranger and Aqua Rangers. To begin this discussion use an outline picture of both the male and female Aqua Ranger cartoons and ask the students to divide into groups of three to four. Provide each group with an A3 copy of the Aqua Ranger male and/or female cartoon outline. Amongst each group ask the students to write down on the A3 paper, what qualities would make an aqua ranger good at their job?

Discussion points

- What qualities would make a ranger?
 - Would the ranger need to enjoy the outdoors?
 - Would they need to be observant?
 - Are they good at educating and speaking with people?
 - Do they need to know the laws?
 - Should they know what can and cannot be done at a dam?

Move the discussion to why an Aqua Ranger must ensure everyone is safe. Encourage each group to write down on their A3 paper their understanding of what safe means. Please see discussion points below for further guidance.

Discussion points

- What does the word safe mean to each student?
- What is an action that would depict being safe?
- What is a waterway?

Activity

Ask students to remain in their groups and using a new A3 paper, draw a table with the below four headings;

1. Local waterway.
2. Recreational activities
3. Unsafe actions.
4. Safe actions.

Ask each group to identify and write down their closest dam or waterway name, and write their responses underneath the heading 'local waterway'. Ask each group to list a variety of recreational activities that they would do at these sites, and write their responses underneath the heading 'recreational activities'. This may be as a family, with friends or by themselves. Ask each group to then identify unsafe actions for each recreation activity listed and identify the alternative safe actions for each of these recreational activities.

| Local waterway | Recreational activities | Unsafe actions | Safe action |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|
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Discuss Seqwaters top five water safety behaviours that all Aqua Rangers should follow:

- Wear a hat, drink plenty of water and use sunscreen.
- Watch out for your friends and look after each other.
- Obey the rule set by your supervising adult (teacher, parent or carer).
- Obey Seqwater’s rules.

You may wish to promote these top five water safety behaviours in the classroom in a visually distinct location.

Activity – this can be introduced during this lesson and continued afterwards

Share with the students the classroom invitation to the Play it Safe day, they may wish to elect a place to put this poster on display or make copies to share with the school.

Activity

In the Appendix are two Aqua Ranger badges offered as a colour and black and white template for students. Share with the students the template and ask students to commit to following the top five water safety behaviours.

Once they have made their commitment students may wish to design their own aqua ranger badge. Encourage students to wear their Aqua Ranger badge on the official Play it safe summer safety day. You may wish to laminate each badge when complete, and hole punch the top. Students can then wear their badge on the day attaching to their school uniform using a safety pin.

Activity – this can be introduced during this lesson and continued afterwards

As a whole classroom activity ask students to construct a piece of artwork that identifies the meaning of safe play, nearby to a waterway. Students may wish to use their listed waterways, recreational activities and safe actions from the white board activity as key components to their artwork. They may also wish to research on Seqwater’s website, Up a Dry Gully (www.upadrygully.com.au) and also on Seqwater’s social media pages for more tips and advice on playing it safe.

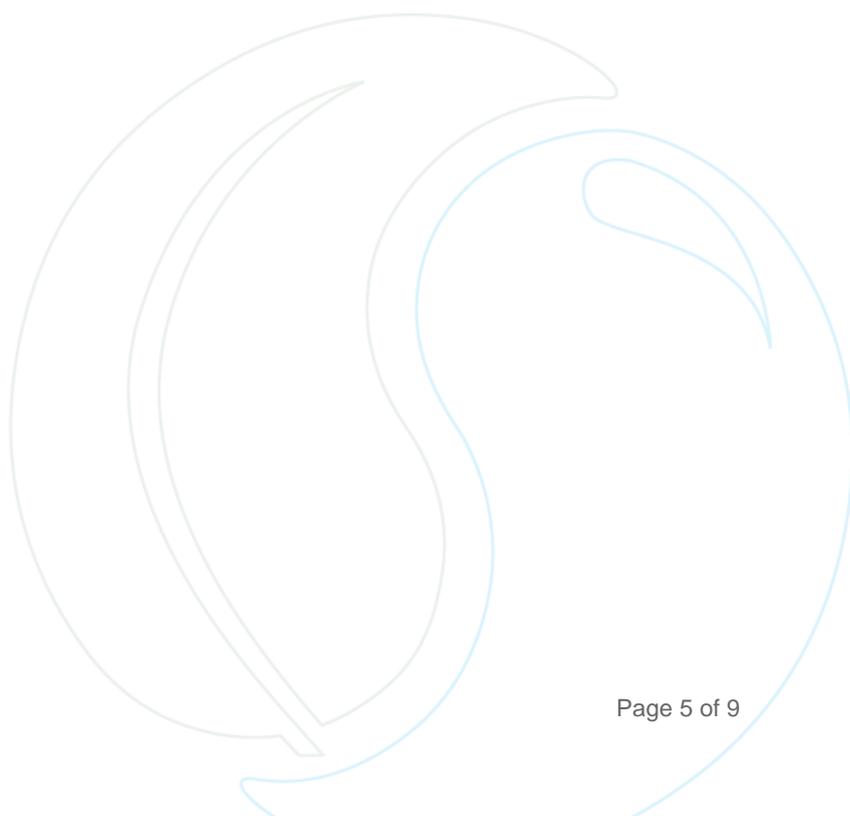
Students can place these pieces of artwork around the school and promote these messages to other students before their official attendance to Play it Safe day.

Resources

| For the teacher | For the student |
|--|--|
| Play it safe – invitation/poster | Art supplies |
| Map of Seqwater assets and South East Queensland | A3 plank paper (per group) |
| A3 blank paper (10 pieces) | Markers (variety of colours) |
| Markers (variety of colours) | A3 Aqua ranger outline posters (per group) |
| Aqua ranger outline posters | |
| Internet access and computer | |
| Whiteboard | |
| Top five water safety behaviours | |

Australian curriculum linkages

| Year level | HPE | Geography |
|-------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Years 3 & 4 | ACPPS035 ACPPS036 ACPPS040 ACPPS041 ACPMP043 | ACHGK014 |
| Year 5 & 6 | | ACHGK028 ACHGK027 ACHGK030 |
| Year 7 & 8 | ACPPS073 ACPPS078 ACPMP084 ACPMP086 | ACHGK037 ACHGK038 |



Appendix

