



# PROGRAMME 25: RIVER SAFETY

## AIM

The aim of this topic is for children to learn how to identify potential hazards around rivers and to develop an awareness of safety practices in and around rivers.

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will:

- describe the particular hazards of a river
  - explain key safety precautions to take around rivers
  - demonstrate the 'River Safety Position'
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## SKILLS

- Problem solving
  - Self-management
  - Sociability and co-operation
  - Sharing and gathering information
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## MATERIALS

- DVD 2 episode 'River Safety'
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## VIRTUES

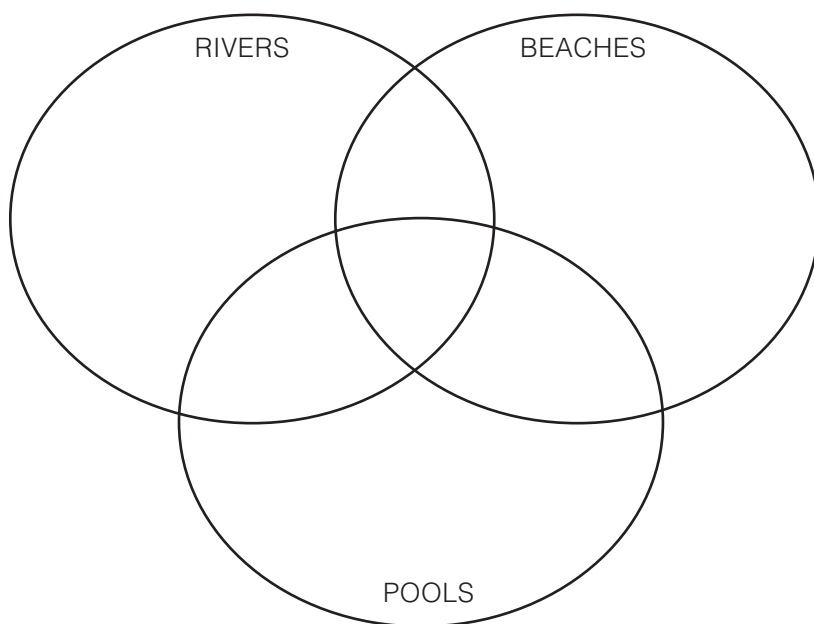
- Confidence
- Obedience
- Responsibility

## LESSONS *(Adapt for Juniors)*

View the episode 'River Safety' on DVD 2 before the lesson. See CD Rom for printable worksheets.

1. Discuss the places where you can swim and have fun with water – rivers, beaches, pools, paddling pools, water slides etc.
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2. Talk about, and list, the dangers that can arise in and around water, elaborating on the term 'drowning'. Using the Venn diagram below, place the dangers into different segments of the diagram, or in the centre section for dangers that are common to all swimming spots.



3. Recap the precautions Constable Bryan & Bobby illustrated on the DVD:

- Always wear a lifejacket no matter what sort of boat you go in
  - Be careful before diving in – always check depth and further downstream first
  - Use the River Safety Position if necessary
  - Link arms with others when crossing the river, and if you're not sure it's safe – don't cross!
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4. Look at the segment on the DVD of Constable Bryan demonstrating the 'River Safety Position'. Have the children lie down on the floor in that position. Call out hazards that are coming up and ask them to demonstrate how they would negotiate these while staying in the position.
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## RIVER SAFETY

Name: .....

Date: .....

There are four important things to remember about river safety. Rearrange the words into the correct order to make a sensible sentence. Write the new sentence on the line below.

wear life boat no Always what matter of you go sort a in. jacket

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hazards Be river diving depth and in. Check look careful. about downstream for

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Position. River Use Safety the

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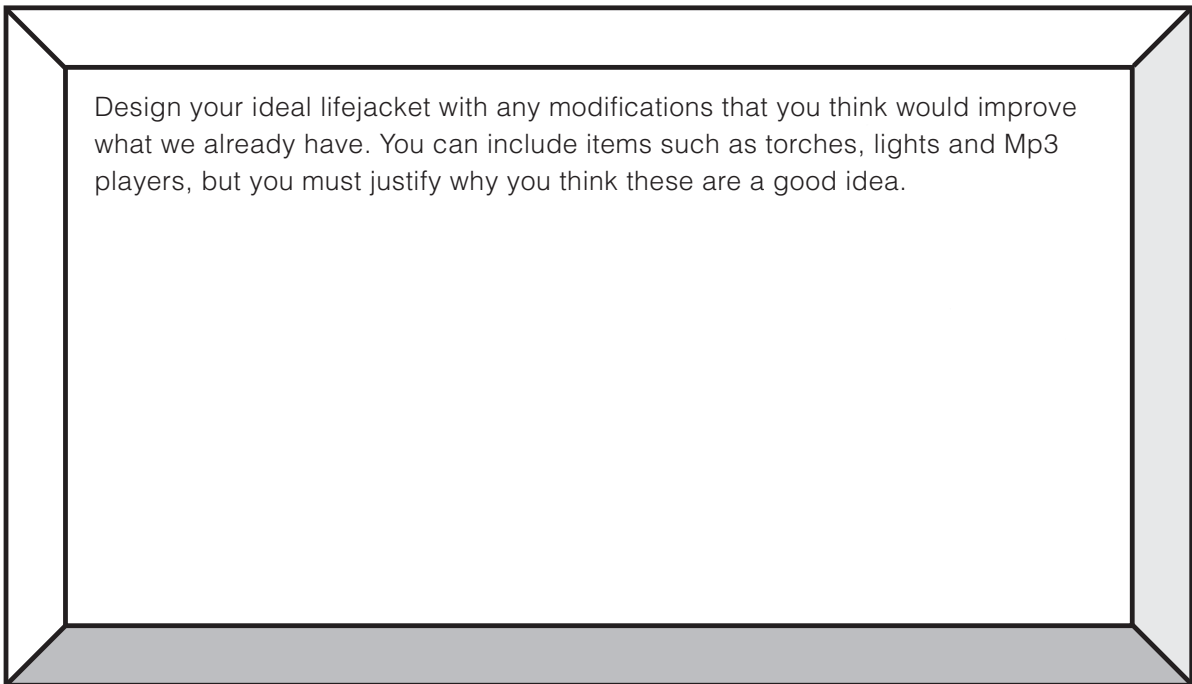
others not crossing cross! river when don't and if if Link sure the arms it's with safe – you're

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Write a rule about when NOT to cross a river. Mix it up and give it to a partner to arrange into the correct order.

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Design your ideal lifejacket with any modifications that you think would improve what we already have. You can include items such as torches, lights and Mp3 players, but you must justify why you think these are a good idea.



## SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

### Art/Topic

Make a water safety flyer that could be handed out around your school or neighbourhood. Include the 'dangers' Constable Bryan & Bobby found out about in the 'River Safety' programme.

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### ICT

Use the web to find out what the longest and shortest rivers in the world are called, where they are and how long they are. Compare their lengths to the lengths of some of New Zealand's rivers.

Which river is the widest river in the world? What equipment would you need to cross a river like that? Prepare a PowerPoint presentation with your explanations or design a poster including all the measurements and other interesting facts about the rivers.

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### Science

Investigate how floatation devices work. How does a person, who is so much heavier than a lifejacket, manage to stay above the water while wearing one? Experiment with different types of containers and materials.

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### Topic

Look at a photo of a local river. Have the children identify potential hazards by circling and annotating their pictures.

Create a river using clay and a large, shallow, plastic container. Build up river banks and raise one end of the container slightly above the other. Pour water from a jug into the raised end of the container and watch the water flow along the 'river'. Vary the amount of water and the angle of the inclination and note the difference it makes.

Place different items onto the river bed (leaves, twigs, paper cut-outs etc) and note what happens when the river starts to 'flow' as you pour water from the jug.

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### Written Language

Write a story about river safety using the following keywords: current, lifejacket, sunscreen, rocks, rapids, downstream.

Bobby has forgotten what he learnt on the 'River Safety' programme. See if you can write a checklist on what Bobby needs to tell his mate Wolfie before they leave on a kayaking expedition.

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