

SINK OR SWIM

YEARS 3 & 4

LESSON PLAN TWO

Farmyard Fix and Backyard Blitz

OVERVIEW

This lesson plan has been designed to teach students about water which you may find on a rural property including outdoor toilets, sinks, buckets, troughs etc. It looks at how students can develop strategies to address the problems associated with water and hazards. Students are encouraged to **BE AWARE AND BE PREPARED** around their home when it comes to water and will be reminded to **NEVER SWIM ALONE**.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Collect photographs of the students' backyards (where possible)
- Farmyard Fix and Backyard Blitz Information - Refer to Appendix 1

LESSON TOPICS

1. Photographic Dangers
2. City Cousin/Country Cousin

CURRICULUM CONNECTION

Health and Physical Education*

Physical, Social and Community Health

Being healthy, safe and active

✓	Describe and apply strategies that can be used in situations that make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe (VCHPEP090)
✓	Identify and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing (VCHPEP091)

The Arts* - Drama

Explore and Express Ideas

✓	Explore ideas and narrative structures through roles and situations and use empathy in their own improvisations and devised drama (VCADRE025)
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*Available for use: <http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/overview/about>

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DANGERS

30 MINUTES

Activity

1. Rural Farm Dangers: Using the students pictures of their home, have them find and highlight where water is or may be.

Students are then to write down what the water is used for and what danger there may be.

2. Water Safety Poster: Students are to create a poster which they can take home and display encouraging everyone to stay safe around water.

Students must include at least 3 water safety messages.

Refer to Appendix 1 for Information regarding the use of water and possible dangers on rural properties and in backyards.

Differentiation

Have students use photos from their property and create a comic strip which includes safety messages.

CITY COUSIN/COUNTRY COUSIN

30 MINUTES

Activity

Role play: In pairs, students will have an opportunity to take on each role and deliver their safety rules; swapping after a few minutes.

Scenario:

- Let's assume that you live on a farm.
- A relative, cousin, from the city is planning to visit – they are your age.
- They have never been to the country before.
- They think they can swim but you do not know that for certain.
- There are water dangers on the farm that your city cousin will not be aware of.
- You do not want them to get into any danger.
- When they arrive at your house, you will need to explain what the safety rules are so that they will stay safe.
- Jot down safety rules you think you would tell your cousin.
- Make sure you understand the reasons behind your safety rules.

Differentiation

This activity can be extended by forming students into groups of four. Two students play each of the cousins – one will speak and the other will perform the arm gestures. The country cousin sits on a chair and puts their hands out of the way, behind them. Another student kneels behind the chair and puts their arms through to make all the arm movements and gestures. The country cousin must not use their own arms.

The city cousin sits on a chair opposite, with the fourth student taking up a position behind their chair to do their arms. The rest of the role-play is the same as it was done previously. As they speak, the other two students provide random arm actions and gestures.



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REPORTING COMMENTS

The student has responded by contributing to discussion about strategies to address the problems associated with water hazards on a rural property.

The student has re-stated the information on water dangers in the form of safety rules.

The student has communicated information about water dangers through role-play.

The student has understood the reasons behind the safety rules.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1

Farmyard Fix and Backyard Blitz Information



EDUCATION
FROM ANYWHERE



Possible Dangers and Description

- Water tanks – are very deep, with steep sides, and are difficult to climb out of. They are often built on a high frame or tower.
- Animal drinking troughs – can be difficult to climb out of (sides may be deep).
- Animal dips - contain water with dangerous chemicals mixed in; sheep are dipped into a mixture of water and chemicals to prevent disease; both the chemicals and the water can be hazardous for humans.
- Electrical equipment - water and electricity do not mix and may shock.
- Irrigation channels – The water can be fast flowing and can be very cold. The banks or sides of the channel are steep and slippery and can be difficult to climb out of. If the water is unclear, it could hide submerged objects.
- Natural lakes and ponds – lakes such as salt lakes, can appear and disappear depending on the weather; it is important not to forget about them. They can also be too shallow to dive into. Lakes and ponds can have slippery edges and a sticky, slippery bottom. They might conceal tree stumps, branches, rocks and other debris.
- Big puddles or flooded ditches – can be slippery with hard surfaces under the water; if you slip and hit your head, you might become unconscious.
- Dams - can be deep and the water can be very cold; the water is usually muddy and murky. Dams have very steep sides and are hard to get out of; the edges can be slippery and the bottom can be sticky.
- Drums, buckets and outdoor containers – empty drums, buckets and containers that are left outdoors can fill with rain water. Even a couple of centimetres of water in the bottom are a danger. If someone like a toddler falls in, they may drown.
- Drains - may block and collect water.
- Outdoor toilets and sinks left with water in them – a young child or toddler may fall in
- Swimming pools – can be dangerous if children are using them without adult supervision.

What can be done to *FIX* these water dangers?

- Water tanks – tanks and wells near the house can be covered with mesh; ladders should not be left against the tower and children should not climb on the towers.
- Animal drinking troughs – can be fitted with a lid.
- Animal dips – keep children away when in use. Store all chemicals in their original containers, out of reach, in a locked shed or cupboard; fill in old, unused dips.
- Electrical equipment - do not hold electrical items with wet hands or near water. Make sure equipment is switched off and unplugged when not in use.
- Irrigation channels – can be fenced.
- Natural lakes – can be fenced and small ponds – can be covered.
- Big puddles or ditches – can be filled in.
- Dams - can be fenced off, signs can be put up, a rope and buoy or flotation device can be mounted in case of an emergency.
- Drums, buckets, outdoor containers- after heavy rain, empty all containers around the farm.
- Drains – can be covered.
- Outdoor toilets and sinks – empty sinks, close toilet lids, and shut the door.
- Swimming pools - keep pool fences and gates closed at all times. Do not leave toys floating in the pool as these attract young children who may not be able to swim. Never leave things that small children can climb on beside the pool fence.

Plus

- Prevent toddlers and young children wandering away unnoticed into farm waterways.
- Provide young children with a safe and secure, fenced, outdoor play area.
- Supervise young children at all times.
- Make sure children learn water safety skills.
- Learn and practise cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Have a CPR chart on hand or visible.