

# SINK OR SWIM

YEARS 7 - 10

## LESSON PLAN THREE

Flood Safety

### OVERVIEW

This lesson plan has been designed to teach students about floods and how to prepare for them while staying safe. It looks at how **CONDITIONS CHANGE** including the flow, depth, debris, clarity and the temperature of the water. Students will learn the importance of **NEVER WALKING, SWIMMING, PLAYING OR DRIVING IN FLOOD WATER.**

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Most recent Victorian Drowning Report (Available on Edu from Anywhere)
- Victorian Water Safety Guide Z-Card
- Article: *Drowning in Stormwater Drain* - Refer to Appendix 1
- Visit the following websites for additional information:
  - [www.melbournewater.com.au](http://www.melbournewater.com.au)
  - [www.water.vic.gov.au](http://www.water.vic.gov.au)
  - [www.floodsreview.vic.gov.au](http://www.floodsreview.vic.gov.au)
- Download the PDF document:  
[www.melbournewater.com.au/content/library/publications/reports\\_archive/annual\\_reports\\_archive/2000-2001\\_safety\\_review.pdf](http://www.melbournewater.com.au/content/library/publications/reports_archive/annual_reports_archive/2000-2001_safety_review.pdf)

Additional Reading:

*Swimming & Lifesaving: Water Safety for all Australians* The Royal Life Saving Society (6th ed.)  
ISBN: 978187589795

### LESSON TOPICS

1. Floods
2. Conveying a Message
3. Storm Water Drains
4. Pollution

### CURRICULUM CONNECTION

#### Health and Physical Education\*

#### Physical, Social and Community Health

##### *Being healthy, safe and active*

✓	Level 7 & 8 - Investigate and select strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing (VCHPEP126)
✓	Level 9 & 10 - Plan, rehearse and evaluate options (including CPR and first aid) for managing situations where their own or others' health, safety and wellbeing may be at risk (VCHPEP144)

##### *Contributing to healthy and active communities*

✓	Level 7 & 8 - Plan and use strategies and resources to enhance the health, safety and wellbeing of their communities (VCHPEP130)
✓	Level 9 & 10 - Plan, implement and critique strategies to enhance the health, safety and wellbeing of their communities (VCHPEP149)

\*Available for use: <http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/overview/about>

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## FLOODS

10 MINUTES

### Content Information

Water levels can rise over a short period of time and the force of the water can break through and wash away natural and man-made banks and retainers. Flood waters in Australia travel vast distances, damaging the environment as they move through the land.

### Activity

1. Flood safety: Brainstorm and map: Floods: What are the dangers? What dangers are associated with driving?

### Differentiation

For further information on flooding and stormwater, including river and creek systems, drainage and catchment systems, sustainable urban development, warning systems and safety - visit the websites listed on Page 1.

## CONVEYING A MESSAGE

15 MINUTES

### Content Information

The reason that so many people drown during flooding is because few of them realise the incredible power of water: 15 centimetres of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult; most vehicles can be swept away by less than 50 centimetres of running water and it only takes another 10 centimetres to do the same to pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles (SUVs)

Water crossings and stormwater drains are dangerous areas during a flood.

Many of the drownings that occur in automobiles are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

### Activity

1. Creating a billboard: Imagine a billboard that shows a photograph of a vehicle caught in fast-flowing flood waters. The vehicle needs a number plate that not only relates to the scene but conveys a message about flood dangers/safety.

Combine letters, numbers and phonetics to come up with a phrase or statistic.

Example of a phrase: H20TOGO

Example statistic: 6TEECM (It only takes 60 centimetres to wash away your SUV)

### Differentiation

Once you have your number plate, create the background. Include the number plate on a car in a flood.

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## STORM WATER DRAINS

20 MINUTES

### Activity

1. Did you know....? Did you know that entering stormwater drains is not only dangerous, it is illegal?

Read the article: 'Missing boy presumed drowned, search suspended' (refer to Appendix 1). Write a letter to his family and friends explaining your regret, and what you will do to get the message across to others.

2. TV News Report: Imagine that someone has been rescued from a flooded stormwater drain and fined for illegally entering the drain in the first place.

You are a roving reporter, delivering a description of the events that occurred at the scene.

Use the information about floods, particularly the dangers and consequences associated with stormwater drains, in order to script your one minute story for the evening TV news.

### Differentiation

Ideally, all scripts will be swapped or pooled and drawn randomly. This way, students get to hear their work delivered by someone else and can evaluate how the information came across and how this matched or differed from expectations.

Time constraints may mean that only a handful of students will present.

\*Please note: Be careful and sensitive with those students who may have experienced something traumatic or stressful.

## POLLUTION

15 MINUTES

### Content Information

Did you know stormwater pollution is the biggest threat to our urban rivers and creeks? Each year about 500 billion litres of water containing litter and other harmful pollutants such as heavy metals, oil, organic matter and excess nutrients enters our rivers, creeks and bays via stormwater drains.

### Activity

1. Doing something about it: As a class, come up with an action to keep our drains clean. You may like to allocate different tasks to students to ensure the message is taken on board by your school. You will need to get permission from your principal and think of ways to get your school on board.

### Differentiation

You may like to see if there is funding available to start up this new program in your school.



## REPORTING COMMENTS

The student has discussed and explained the purposes of laws relating to the illegal entry of stormwater drains.

The student has made and presented art works that represent and communicate ideas and purpose to an audience.

The student has constructed text for the purpose of a news report to position listeners to respond in particular ways.

The student has identified the need to keep our drains clean and assisted in the development of a whole school program.

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LESSON  
PLAN THREE

Flood Safety



EDUCATION  
FROM ANYWHERE



### ***Article: Missing boy presumed drowned, search suspended.***

AAP General News (Australia), 12-24-2000

MELBOURNE, Dec 24 AAP - A 14-year-old boy missing after being swept into a creek in Melbourne's north on Friday is presumed drowned and a search for him has been suspended.

A police spokesman said a two kilometre search today found no trace of Brian Michael McHugh, of north suburban Thornbury, and there would be no search tomorrow.

Over the next few days police would assess whether to resume their search for the boy.

"He is missing, presumed drowned," he said.

The search, which began on Friday afternoon and continued yesterday, was suspended this morning because of high water levels in the Merri Creek, into which the drain runs.

But it later dropped by about 25cm and four police search and rescue divers resumed searching until 3.30pm.

"The divers walked through the water; nothing was found along a two kilometre stretch of the Merri creek," the spokesman said.

Brian was playing in the drain with a friend at about 5pm on Friday when the two boys were washed into the creek.

The friend managed to scramble out of the water.

Yesterday's search found Brian's backpack on the west bank of the creek near Arthurton Rd, Northcote, about 500m from where he was last seen.