

In Your House and in Your Yard, Watch for Water, Be on Guard



KEY TERMS

- **Arroyo** – A water-carved gully or a normally dry creek found in arid or desert regions.
- **Dam** – A barrier across flowing water that obstructs, directs or slows the flow of water.
- **Drainage ditches** – Long trenches that collect and carry away water.
- **Flash flood warning** – Flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.
- **Flash flood watch** – Flash flooding or flooding is possible within the designated watch area.
- **Levee** – An embankment designed to prevent the flooding of a river.
- **Storm drains** – Designed to drain excess rain and ground water from paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks and roofs.
- **Urban and small stream advisory** – Flooding of small streams, streets and low-lying areas, such as railroad underpasses and urban storm drains, is occurring.
- **Undercurrent** – Water flowing beneath the surface.

OBJECTIVES

After completing the following activities, students will be able to–

Topic 1: Be Water Smart Around the House and Yard

- Identify sources of water around the house and yard.

Topic 2: Fixing the Hazards

- Describe steps they can take to keep from getting into dangerous water situations.

Topic 3: The Dangers of Flooding

- Describe the different types of flooding.
- Describe safety rules to follow in a flash flood warning.
- Describe how to prepare for a flash flood.
- Describe how to help someone who falls into floodwater.
- Describe how to help yourself if you fall into floodwater.

Topic 4: Know Your Neighborhood

- Identify potentially dangerous sources of water in their neighborhoods.

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MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

All Topics

- In Your House and in Your Yard, Watch for Water, Be on Guard poster
- *Longfellow's WHALE Tales* DVD
- DVD player and monitor
- Optional:
 - Watch for Water, Be on Guard stickers (one for each student)

Topic 1: Be Water Smart Around the House and Yard

- [Activity Sheet 10-1: Find the Water in the House and Yard](#) (Grades K–3)
- [Activity Sheet 10-2: List the Water in the House and Yard](#) (Grades 4–6)
- Newsprint and markers

Topic 2: Fixing the Hazards

- [Activity Sheet 10-3: I Can Do My Part and Be Water Smart!](#) (Grades K–2)
- [Activity Sheet 10-4: Being Water Smart in the House and in the Yard](#) (Grades 3–6)
- Newsprint and markers

Topic 3: The Dangers of Flooding

- [Activity Sheet 10-5: Flood Watch Word Search](#) (Grades 4–6)
- [Activity Sheet 10-6: Floodwater Crossword Puzzle](#) (Grades 4–6)

Topic 4: Know Your Neighborhood

- Large drawing paper
- Crayons or markers



LEADER'S NOTES

- *Display the In Your House and in Your Yard, Watch for Water Be on Guard poster at the front of the class. To begin a discussion about the poster, point to each scene and ask students questions, such as "What could be dangerous about this scene? What are the people in the scene doing to stay safer? Are there any other things that you could think of that would make this scene even safer?" Refer to the poster throughout the activities on this topic. As an option, you may use an LCD projector to display the electronic version of the poster from the CD-ROM.*
- *The Longfellow's WHALE Tales DVD segment, "In Your House and in Your Yard, Watch for Water, Be on Guard," can be shown to support this topic.*

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INTRODUCTION

Key Points:

- People need to know about water safety and how to prevent drowning wherever there is water—not just at a swimming pool or beach.
- If the water is deep enough to cover the mouth and nose, even while lying down, a person can drown.
- Drowning can occur in the home in a bath tub, toilet or any other container of water.
- Flash floods can occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall, a dam or levee failure or a sudden release of water held by an ice jam.
- It is important to know what to do to stay safe in, on and around water, no matter where you find it.

TOPIC 1: BE WATER SMART AROUND THE HOUSE AND YARD

Recommended Grade Levels: K–6

Activity:

- Hand out Activity Sheet 10-1: Find the Water in the House and Yard to students in grade levels K–3. Have students circle each drawing that shows a situation in which water could be a danger to a small child.
- Name each situation and have the students tell you if the situation is dangerous.
- Hand out Activity Sheet 10-2: List the Water in the House and Yard to students in grade levels 4–6. Divide students into groups of 3 or 4. Have the students in each group work together to list as many situations where water could be a hazard in and around the home.
- Call on students from each group to state their responses. Record the responses on newsprint under two categories—In the House and In the Yard. Be sure to create a list that includes all the different responses that were thought of by the students.

Key Points and Discussion:

- The best way to prevent young children from drowning is to use physical barriers to keep them away from the water.
- Whenever children are around any source of water (such as pools, rivers, lakes, bath tubs, toilets and even buckets of water), adults must provide constant and active supervision. Even if the child can swim very well and the water is shallow, an adult must be supervising any children who are in, on or around the water.
- If a family has a swimming pool in their yard, they have to be extra careful and take steps to keep children out of the pool area unless there is an adult who is actively supervising them.

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- The best way to keep children safe is to provide layers of protection. This includes—
 - Make sure you have a fence at least 4 feet high with a self-closing gate around your pool. Make sure it completely surrounds the pool to keep children out of the area. Always contact your city, town or county government first to make sure the fence meets their requirements and building codes.
 - Having a pool alarm.
 - Making sure there are safety locks on doors and windows leading to the pool area.
 - Allowing children in the pool area only when an adult has given them permission to be there and is actively supervising.
 - Making sure everyone in the home knows how to swim.
 - Making sure people know how to respond to an aquatic emergency, including knowing first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

- What does “active” supervision mean?

Answer: Active supervision means that the person watching should pay close attention to the activity in the water and remain close enough and ready to respond to any situation that might come up.

TOPIC 2: FIXING THE HAZARDS

Recommended Grade Levels: K–6

Key Points and Discussion:

- You can stay safe and help keep other children safe by recognizing dangerous water situations.
- If you recognize a dangerous water situation, you should tell an adult so he or she can fix the dangerous water situation.
- If the problem cannot be fixed, the best solution is simply to stay away from the dangerous water situation.
- If you see a bath tub with water in it when nobody is taking a bath, what should you do?

Answer: Drain the bath tub of water, close the bathroom door and tell an adult.

- If you see a toilet bowl with the lid up, what should you do?

Answer: Shut the toilet lid and close the bathroom door.

- If you see standing water after a rain, what should you do?

Answer: Stay away from the standing water and keep other children away from it.

- If you see a bucket with liquid in it, what should you do?

Answer: Move it out of the reach of children and tell an adult so it is emptied appropriately.

- If you see a stream, what should you do?

Answer: Stay away from the stream and keep other children away from it.

- If you have a swimming pool in your yard, what should you do?

Answer: Stay out of the pool area unless you have asked an adult for permission to be there and an adult is closely supervising you.

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Activity:

- Hand out Activity Sheet 10-3: I Can Do My Part and Be Water Smart! to students in grade levels K–2. Have students look at the pictures on the activity sheet and place a checkmark on the blocks that shows things they will do to help prevent dangerous water situations.
- Write at least three statements that start with “I can” on newsprint. The statements should be drawn from the activity sheet that most of the children selected and should be in simple terms. Add the following statement as the last one on the list: I will do my part and be water smart!
- Have students recite all of the statements aloud.
- Hand out Activity Sheet 10-4: Being Water Smart in the House and in the Yard to students in grade levels 3-6. Have students share their statements with the rest of the class.

TOPIC 3: THE DANGERS OF FLOODING

Recommended Grade Levels: 3–6

Key Points and Discussion:

- **Flash floods can occur within a few minutes or hours of a great deal of rainfall, a dam or levee failure or a sudden release of water held by an ice jam.**
- **It might be tempting to walk or play in floodwaters, but floodwaters have many hidden dangers that most people do not realize.**
- **Just 6 inches of fast moving floodwater can knock you off your feet.**
- **What do you think causes a flood?**
Answers: Responses should include the following:
 - *Heavy rain concentrated over one area caused by slow moving thunderstorms*
 - *Heavy rain from hurricanes or tropical storms*
 - *Dam or levee failures*
- **What is the difference between a flood watch and a flood warning?**
Answer: During a flood watch, you should watch out for storm problems. During a flood warning, storms are actually causing larger, dangerous problems like flash flooding.
- **What makes a flood dangerous?**
Answers: Responses should include the following:
 - *Quick change from calm to raging water*
 - *Water rising and overflowing its normal path*
 - *Little warning that it is coming*
 - *Floodwaters containing raw sewage and chemicals from farms and factories as well as gasoline or oil*

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- Depending on where you live, you may encounter different kinds of floods.
 - Coastal floods—Hurricanes and tropical storms can produce heavy rains or drive ocean water onto land. Coastal flooding can also be produced by sea waves called tsunamis, giant tidal waves that are created by volcanoes or earthquakes in the ocean.
 - Flash floods in arroyos—An arroyo is a water-carved gully or a normally dry creek found in arid or desert regions. When storms appear in these areas, the rainwater cuts into the dry, dusty soil, creating a small, fast-moving river.
 - River floods—Flooding along rivers is a natural event. Some floods occur seasonally when winter snows melt and combine with spring rains. Water fills river basins too quickly, and the river will overflow its banks.
 - Urban floods—As land is paved for parking lots, it loses its ability to absorb rainfall. Rainwater cannot be absorbed into the ground and becomes runoff, filling parking lots, making roads into rivers and flooding basements and businesses.

- Where have you seen flooding?

Answers: Responses should include the following:

- Backyard
 - Basement
 - Rivers
 - Ditches
 - Streets
- If you are outdoors and it has been raining a lot and a flash flood is likely, where should you go for safety?

Answer: Get to higher ground immediately.
 - If you are in your car, should the driver try to drive through the flood?

Answer: No! Turn around and go another way. If the car stalls in just 2 feet of moving water, the water will have enough force to lift it up and carry it away.
 - As you listen for the weather alerts, pay attention if the forecast mentions **flash flooding**. The problem will most likely be around streams, gullies and ditches.
 - If the forecast mentions **urban flooding**, then you know that some streets are filling up with water.
 - If the forecast mentions **river flooding**, then you know that a river is filling up and flowing over its banks.
 - Every family should have a plan for what to do in the event of a natural disaster, such as a flood. The American Red Cross Web site tells you the steps for making a plan. After getting your parents' permission, go to www.redcross.org to learn how to make a plan to be ready.

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■ Should you swim in floodwater? Why or why not?

Answer: No! You should never swim in floodwater.

The reasons you should not include the following:

- Debris or garbage may be in the water.
- You do not know what is in the water that may injure you.
- There may be a current below the surface that you cannot see.
- Water may be contaminated with harmful bacteria and chemicals.

■ What should you do if someone falls into floodwater?

Answers: Responses should include the following:

- Do not go after the person.
- If possible, throw them something to use as a flotation device, such as a foam ice chest.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.

■ What should you do if you fall into floodwater?

Answers: Responses should include the following:

- Try to stay calm.
- Try to float on your back with your legs extended and your feet pointed downstream.
- Use your legs to push yourself away from obstructions.
- Keep your head up so you can see where you are going.

Activity:

- Grades 3 and 4 complete Activity Sheet 10-5: Flood Watch Word Search.
- Grades 5 and 6 complete Activity Sheet 10-6: Floodwater Crossword Puzzle.

TOPIC 4: KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Recommended Grade Levels: 2–6

Key Points:

- We have talked about what kinds of water you should be thinking about in your home and yard, as well as types of flooding that might happen.
- Now we are going to think about what kinds of water might be dangerous in your neighborhood.

Activity:

- Hand out a large piece of drawing paper to each student. Have them each create a drawing that depicts their neighborhood. Tell them to depict the following:
 - If they live high on a hill, in a flat area or low in a valley
 - Streets, roads or highways

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- Areas of water in normal situations, such as levees, arroyos, canals, streams, neighborhood or other public swimming pools, homes with swimming pools and water features, such as fountains or fish ponds
- Now have them think about what happens when it rains a great deal. Ask them to mark on their drawings the areas they have seen or think might be dangerous if flooding would occur.

WRAP-UP



LEADER'S NOTE

Refer back to the In Your House and in Your Yard, Watch for Water, Be on Guard poster as you review the lesson.

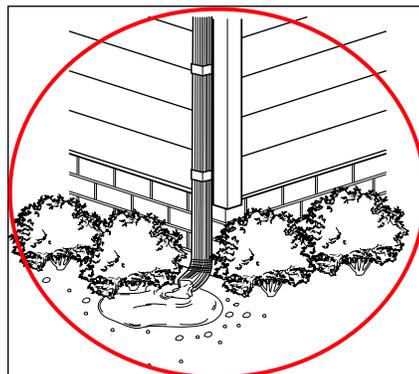
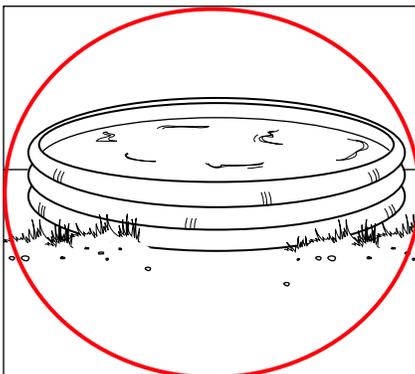
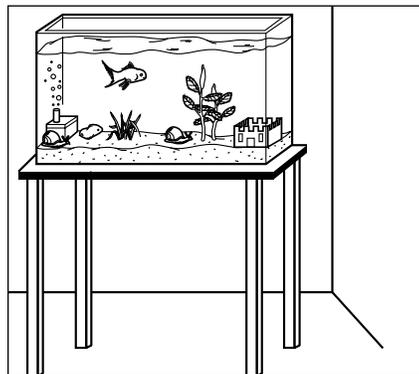
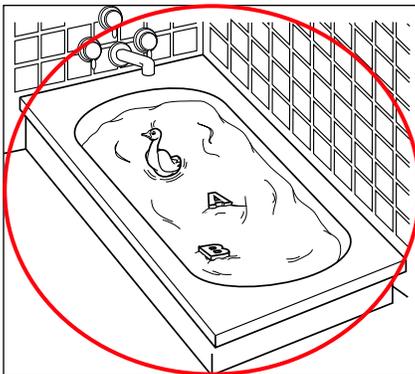
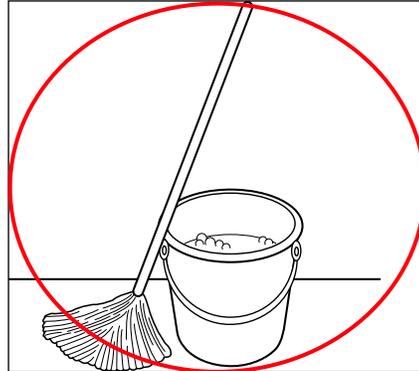
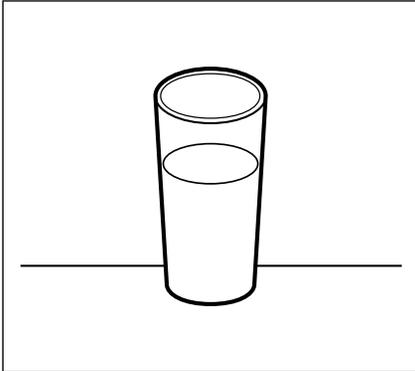
Key Points:

- **People need to know about water safety and how to prevent drowning wherever there is water—not just a swimming pool or beach.**
- **If the water is deep enough to cover the mouth and nose, even while lying down, a person can drown.**
- **Drowning can occur in the home in a bath tub, toilet or any other container of water.**
- **Be alert for weather conditions that can cause flooding.**
- **If you live in an area where flooding may occur, stay prepared for a flood.**
- **The best response to any signals of flash flooding is to move immediately and quickly to higher ground.**
- **Remember, never swim in floodwater.**

Find the Water in the House and Yard



Circle the drawing that shows a situation in which water could be a danger to a small child.



List the Water in the House and Yard



List as many dangerous situations you can think of in which water could be a hazard in and around the house.

In the House

bath tub _____

drink bucket _____

cooler _____

cleaning _____

toilet _____

bucket _____

In the Yard

bottom of down spout _____

pool _____

fish pond _____

fountain _____

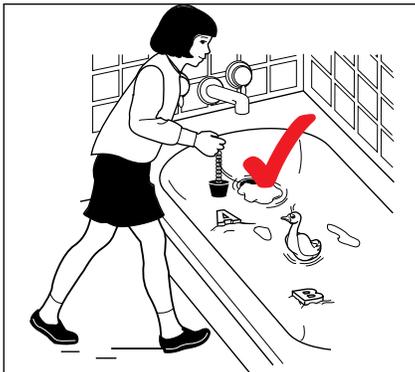
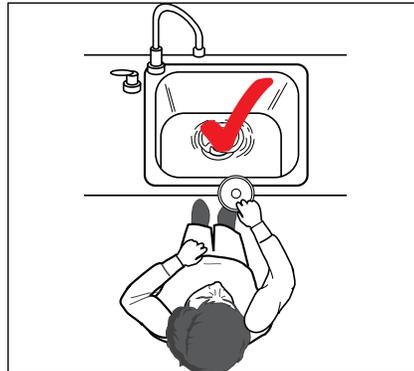
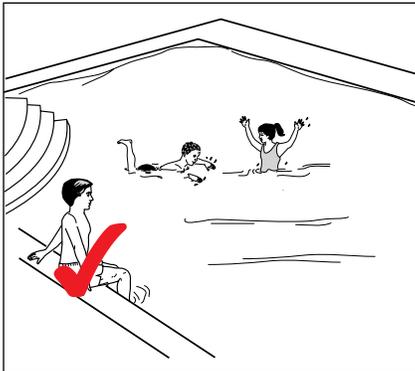
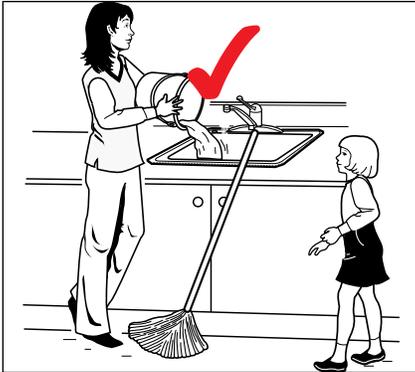
canal _____

pond _____

I Can Do My Part and Be Water Smart!



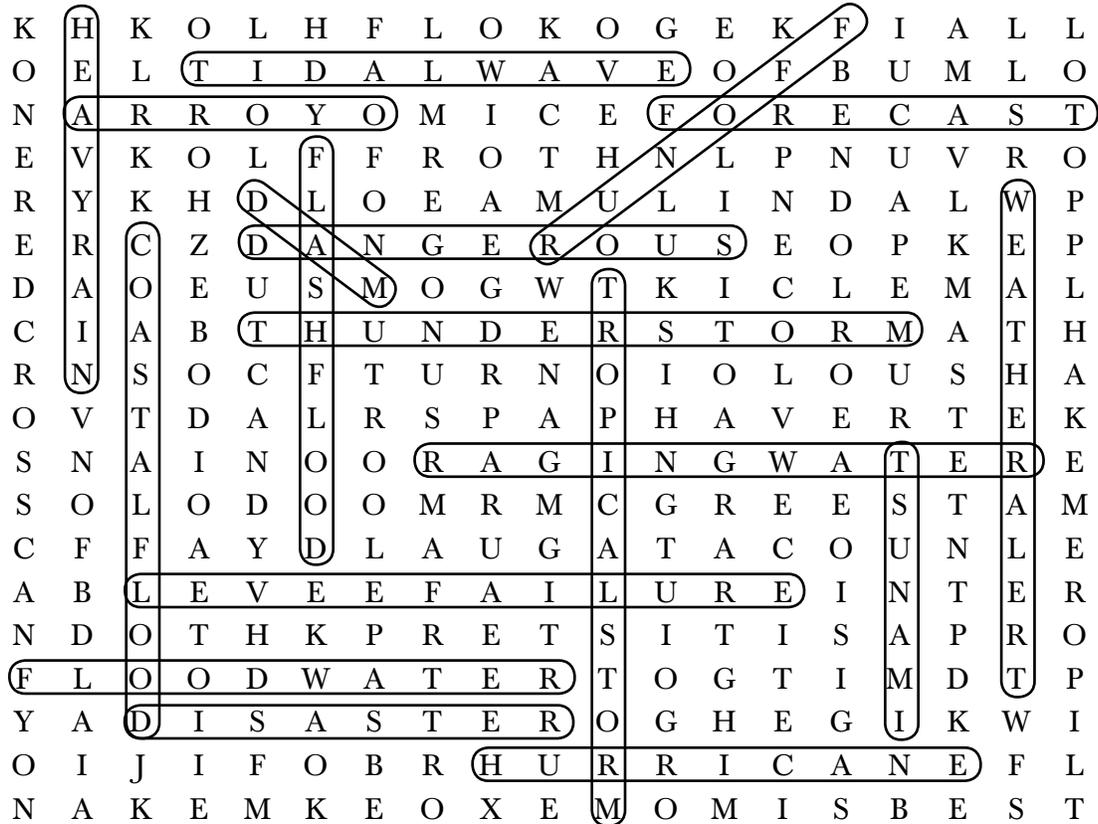
Place a checkmark on the blocks that show what you will do to be water smart.



Flood Watch Word Search



Find the hidden words listed below. They describe things you should consider before going in the water. The words can run up, down, backward, forward or diagonally.



Word List

FLASH FLOOD

HEAVY RAIN

THUNDERSTORM

HURRICANE

TROPICAL STORM

DAM

LEVEE FAILURE

DANGEROUS

RAGING WATER

COASTAL FLOOD

TSUNAMI

TIDAL WAVE

ARROYO

RUNOFF

WEATHER ALERT

FORECAST

DISASTER

FLOODWATER

