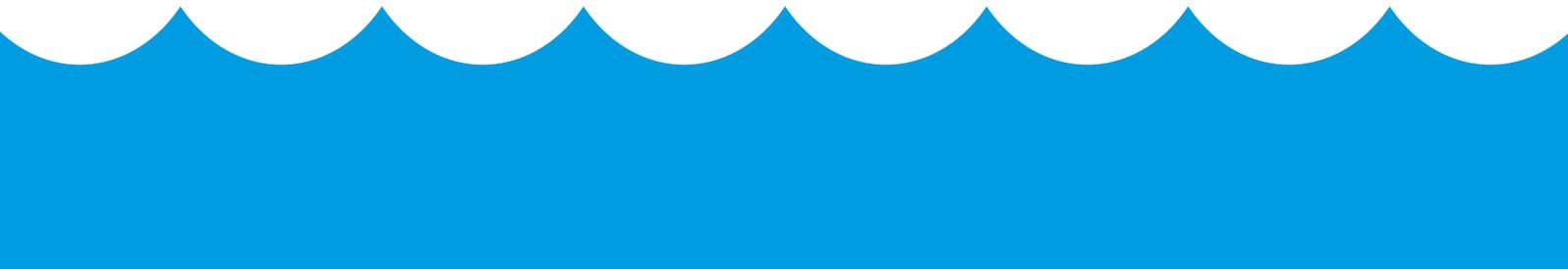




DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK

**A WARM SUMMERS DAY
LITERACY AND ASSEMBLY ACTIVITY**





A WARM SUMMER'S DAY

It was a warm sunny day during the school summer holidays. Ben, John, and Edward were looking for something fun to do for the day, and they decided that a big bike ride would be great fun on such a nice day. After cycling what felt like miles under the hot sunshine, the boys decided they needed to take a break somewhere they could cool off and have a drink. They leaned their bikes up against a big tree by the river, and sat under the tree for shade whilst they got their drinks out of their rucksacks.

After having a big gulp from his bottle Ben said "I've got a great idea, let's go for a swim in the river".

QUESTION: WHY DID THE BOYS WANT TO GO INTO THE WATER?

The water looked calm and still but John said "My mum has always told me that it's dangerous to swim in water with no lifeguards." The other boys laughed! "Don't tell me you're scared?" they said, "No! I'm not scared, I was just saying!" replied John quickly, as he felt a little silly for saying it now Ben and Edward were laughing at him.

"Its fine, look how calm the water is" said Ben. "I bet people swim in here all the time and we're all good swimmers! Come on...let's get in!" and off he jumped into the river. Not wanting to be left out, the other two boys quickly followed.

QUESTION: WHY DID THE BOYS THINK IT WAS OK TO GO INTO THE WATER?

When they first got into the water with a big splash, the cold water took their breath away, but after a little while they started to forget how cold it was as they were having so much fun splashing each other, laughing

and joking. Suddenly Ben and John noticed that Edward was nowhere in sight. Thinking that he was messing around they called his name. "Edward! Edward! Very funny!" they shouted, "Stop messing around!"

A few minutes passed and there was still no sight of their friend. Now the boys started to worry, as they couldn't work out where Edward could have gone. They climbed up the bank and out of the river to see if they could see him. In the distance they caught a glimpse of what they thought could have been Edward further down the river.

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU THINK THE TWO BOYS FELT AT THIS POINT?

Sudden panic and fear ran through Ben and John's bodies, and they ran as fast as they could along the river bank to where they thought they had spotted their friend but by the time they got there he was nowhere to be seen.

In a panic John shouted to Ben "What are we going to do?"

Consider using Extension Activities 1 and 2 here (from the Lesson Plan).

Show the Children the Water Safety Code poster).

Discuss with the children:

- What they should have done if they had wanted to go swimming? (Ask a parent/adult to take them somewhere safe to swim such as the swimming pool)
- What steps the boys should take in the story now they realise their friend is in danger? (Get help by calling 999 or getting an adult. DO NOT go into the water and put themselves in danger)

“We’ll have to get in...he may be under the water!”
Ben said to John.

So the boys got back into the river but this time it wasn’t just cold, there was a current pushing against them too. They struggled to stay on their feet, catching their legs on weeds and old bottles someone had thrown into the river, and their arms scraped against sharp branches leaving cuts and scratches all over them.

“We have to get out!” shouted John to Ben. After struggling back up the river bank they made it to dry land. John ran to his rucksack where he had a mobile phone, and he immediately called Edward’s dad. “He’s lost, we got into the river for a swim and now he’s gone” he cried. “Where are you?” asked Edward’s dad. “I’m not sure...somewhere along the river” said the boy. “I’ll be straight there, keep looking for him” said the father.

As soon as the call with John was finished, Edward’s dad called 999 straight away. The emergency services arrived at the river even before Edward’s dad could get there, and they started searching for Edward. Eventually Edward was found further down the river where the current had pushed him to, and luckily he had managed to climb out where the water became shallow, but he was too cold and tired to get back to where the boys had gone into the river. The emergency services gave Edward some first aid, and then they took him to the hospital.

After one night in hospital Edward was allowed home. He realised how lucky he was that he managed to get out of the water when he did, and what a bad idea going into the river for a swim was in the first place, because unlike at the swimming pool and at the beach, there were no lifeguards or adults there to help him when he needed it.

A couple of weeks later the weather was still hot, and the boys wanted to go for a swim. This time they went to the swimming pool, and although Edward was a bit scared at first, remembering what happened in the river, he knew that the lifeguards were watching him and keeping him safe, and they all had a great time.

Consider using the Differentiation Additional Learning Activities following the story (from the Lesson Plan).