

## Activity

Episode 34  
25<sup>th</sup> November 2014

# Drowning Report

## Key Learning

Students will investigate the risks associated with water play. Students will plan and practise strategies to promote water safety in their community.

## The Australian Curriculum

Health and Physical Education / Personal, Social and Community Health / Being healthy, safe and active

Plan and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing. ([ACPPS054](#)) Years 5 & 6



Investigate and select strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing. ([ACPPS073](#)) Years 7 & 8



Health and Physical Education / Personal, Social and Community Health / Contributing to healthy and active communities

Investigate the role of preventive health in promoting and maintaining health, safety and wellbeing for individuals and their communities. ([ACPPS058](#)) Years 5 & 6



Plan and use health practices, behaviours and resources to enhance the health, safety and wellbeing of their communities. ([ACPPS077](#)) Years 7 & 8



## Discussion Questions

1. Briefly summarise the *Drowning Report* story.
2. What important skills are kids in Bangladesh learning?
3. What are the kids in India learning?
4. The World Health Organisation (WHO) found that more than \_\_\_\_\_ thousand lives are lost to drowning each year.
5. Which places in the world have the highest rates of drowning?
6. Why are the rates so high in some places?
7. What does the WHO want to do about the problem?
8. What do you do to stay safe when swimming?
9. Working in pairs, think of some ideas to help keep kids safe around the water.
10. What do you understand about water safety since watching this story?

## Activities

### Water and culture

Water is important for leisure and play and many cultures and religions use water symbolically. As a class or individually, students will think about ways that people use water.

- Make a list of activities that you and your family participate in that involve water.
- Write a response to the following statement ‘*Participation in water activities is part of Australian identity and culture.*’
- Think about how other cultures around the world may use water in everyday life. List your ideas.

### KWLH

Discuss the BtN *Drowning Report* story as a class. What questions were raised in the discussion (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their prior knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

What do I <u>know</u> ?	What do I <u>want</u> to know?	What have I <u>learnt</u> ?	<u>How</u> will I find out?

Hold a classroom discussion using some of the following questions.

- Where can drowning occur? Explain to students that wherever there is water there is the threat of drowning. Drowning occurs in bathtubs, buckets, ponds, rivers, ditches and pools, as people go about their daily lives.
- What do you do to be safe around water?
- How can kids learn to be more water safe?
- What surprised you about this story?

Write students responses on the classroom whiteboard. Consider using student’s responses to develop an information booklet or website about water safety for your school.

## What are the risks?

Drowning happens in many different ways. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has put together a list of the main risk factors. Students will look at the diagrams below and match them to the corresponding risk.



**Flood disasters, whether from extreme rainfall, storm surges, tsunamis or cyclones**



**Travelling on water, especially on overcrowded or poorly maintained vessels**



**Lack of physical barriers between people and water, particularly close to home**



**Uncovered or unprotected water supplies and lack of safe water crossings**



**Lack of water safety awareness and risky behaviour around water, such as swimming alone**



**Lack of (or inadequate) supervision of young children**

## Action plan

The World Health Organisation came up with some ways to help prevent drowning, see some of these below.

- Install barriers controlling access to water. Provide safe places for kids
- Teach children basic swimming, water safety and safe rescue skills
- Increase public awareness about drowning and water safety
- Develop a national water safety plan
- Train bystanders in safe rescue and resuscitation

Students will choose one of the actions from the list above or think of one of their own to develop an awareness raising campaign to promote water safety in their community. Students will need to consider the following when developing their campaign:

- What is the campaign's main aim?
- Do you have a slogan or message? What is it?
- Who is your target audience?
- What is the best way to communicate your message?

Discuss with students how they will get their message out there to help raise public awareness. Some possibilities include:

- Short film or animation (using iMovie).
- Clay animation <http://www.clayanimator.com/english/menu.html>
- Community service announcement (for television or radio).
- Poster or pamphlet to be put up around the school.
- Letter to the producer of your local radio station.

## Further activity

Design a series of water safety hazard signs that raise awareness or remind people of the dangers around water. Ensure the pictures or symbols used will be recognised by non-English speaking people.

The Water Smart Award is for primary school children from year 4 to year 6. The award focuses on water safety knowledge, introduction to resuscitation principles and basic reach and throw rescue techniques. <http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/schools/in-the-classroom/watersmart/water-smart-award2>

Visit the Kids Zone on the Royal Life Saving website for fun games and activities on water safety. [http://www.swimandsurvive.com.au/content\\_common/pg-kids-zone.seo](http://www.swimandsurvive.com.au/content_common/pg-kids-zone.seo)

How much do you know about life saving? Do the *Swim Safe* quiz on the BtN website <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/quiz.htm?file=/btn/quiz/js/2013-34swimsafe.js>

## Related Research Links

Behind the News – Swim Safe

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3250504.htm>

Behind the News – Swim Safe

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3895056.htm>

Behind the News – School Swimming

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3619584.htm>

Behind the News – Drowning Danger

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s2502347.htm>

CBBC Newsround – Children around the world must learn to swim

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/30082923>

BBC Health – Drowning: ‘Hidden Childhood Killer’

<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-30080768>

Royal Life Saving – Water Smart Education Toolkit

<http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/schools/in-the-classroom/watersmart/water-smart-education-toolkit>

Child and Youth Health – Water safety at home

<http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetailsKids.aspx?p=335&np=288&id=2236>