



Farm and countryside safety

Curriculum Links:

- Science Living things
- Geography Human environments
Natural environments
- SPHE Myself
Myself and the wider world

Lesson objectives:

To encourage students to be aware of water in the countryside. To understand how students can stay safe around rivers, lakes, streams and containers of water.

Teacher guidelines

In 2019, 19 people died in farm accidents (HSA, Ireland). The most common cause of farm accidents in Ireland is from tractors and other farm machinery. With that said, some children in Irish classrooms may be affected by farm and countryside accidents, and as such, this may be a sensitive subject for some children. It is suggested that the teacher introduces students to the basic concept of farm and countryside safety before starting the lesson.

Keywords and concepts introduced in Module 1:

animals fences gates pens roads safe cross code

The countryside can be a dangerous place if we are not aware of how to stay safe there: climbing fences, entering fields, pens and crossing busy roads are all potentially dangerous activities.

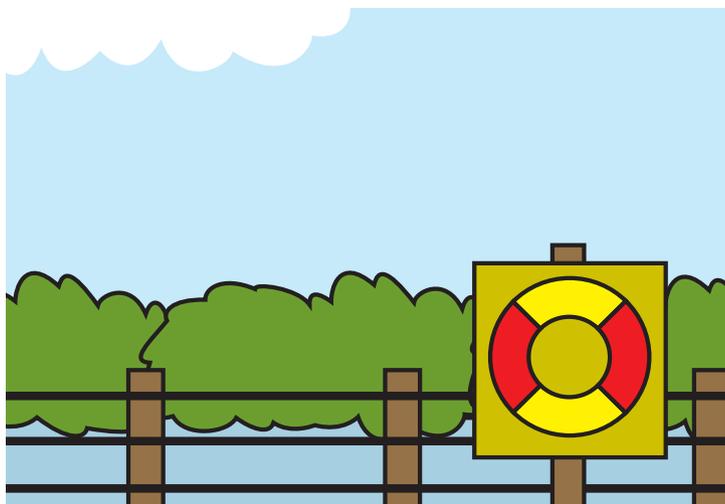
After revision of the above, teachers could discuss the more detailed information below.

Keywords for this lesson:

rivers lakes ponds streams environment barrels silage slurry

Rivers, lakes and ponds

Farmers put up fences around **rivers**, **lakes** and **ponds** to prevent animals or people from falling into them. This also protects the water from getting dirty. Reeds and grass can often hide the edge of the pond so extra care is needed when walking through fields or wooded areas where there might be ponds. Be aware of any water on the farm. Do not walk, play or work too close to ponds, **streams**, wells or rivers. If you see someone getting into difficulty, do not attempt to go into the water. Go to an adult for help or call 999. We should never litter our waterways as it causes damage to our **environment** as well as to animals.



Fences and bridges around waterways

Do not play around waterways. Always tell an adult where you are going. Do not climb over fences or play around bridges as you could fall into the water.

Water containers

When on the farm you may see large containers or **barrels** at the end of downpipes from roofs. This is for the rainwater to be collected and used around the farm. This water is not safe for us to drink. Collecting rainwater is also environmentally friendly. A farmer may sometimes have a trough in a field for his/her animals to drink from. Do not play around this as you may fall in and there is a danger of drowning.

Be safe around slurry pits

If you live on or are visiting a farm, you should ask the farmer if there is a **silage** or slurry pit on the farm. Do not walk, play or stand too close to either of these as they can be deep and very dangerous. The farmer keeps slurry tanks covered or fenced to keep children out and away from danger.



Suggested activities

- Photocopy the activity sheet on page 49
- Sinking and floating – collect a number of classroom objects and predict whether they will sink or float and carry out the experiment in class. Record the results
- Discuss how different farm animals use water in different ways, i.e., ducks swim, cows drink etc.
- Form an eco-committee in your class. Survey how clean is your school and discuss what can be done to keep our water ways clean
- Inform students of what they should do if they see someone in difficulty in the water. Discuss water safety in the swimming pool as part of an aquatics PE lesson
- Watch Agri Aware's 'Once Upon a Farm' and discuss the potential dangers associated with the slurry scene
- Read the story 'The ugly duckling' and 'The pig is in the pond'
- For extension material, see Modules 3 and 4
- Sign your class up to participate in the "Farm Safe Schools" interactive programme. For more information on how to register your class, visit: www.farmsafeschools.ie

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this lesson, students should know how to stay safe around water, to understand the dangers of slurry pits and know that they must stay away from them.

Additional resources:

- www.agriaware.ie/farmsafety
- Check out Agri Aware's 'Once Upon a Farm' video on YouTube
- www.fbd.ie/farm/farm-safety
- www.agrikids.ie



Farm and countryside safety

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 Complete the story title

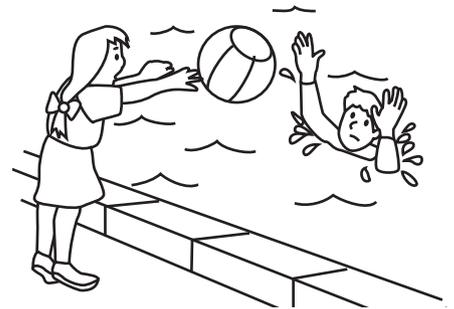
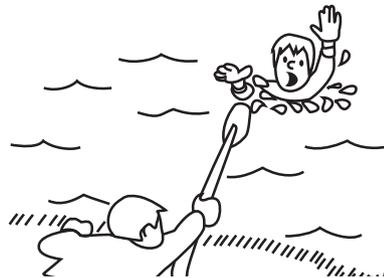
In the countryside I need to be careful around water because _____

2 Write a sentence saying why these pictures are unsafe.



1.
2.

3 Colour in the picture below



If someone is drowning, don't jump in, help them. Stay calm and raise the alarm by calling out for help, find a telephone and dial 999. Try to reach them with a stick or throw them something that will float.

***To be used with teacher guidelines, page 18 and accompanying the Farm Safety DVD at the front of the pack!**