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# Water Safety Advice



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**Thank you**

Thank you to Konfidence for supporting our  
Water Safety Advice Booklet.

Having fun and being safe in the water is an important part of our charitable message and swim products like the Original Konfidence Jacket play an important part in the learn to swim journey. They help to give participants independence and confidence in and around the water, when away from their swimming lessons.



[www.konfidence.co.uk](http://www.konfidence.co.uk)

# Introduction

## For Parents and Teachers:

Help your children develop water safety awareness and lifesaving skills by going through this booklet with them. It is important for vital information to be understood and for any questions to be answered. We recommend discussing the messages with the children and how it may apply to them.

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are an estimated 236,000 annual drowning deaths worldwide and we need your help to make a change.

*"It's not enough just to know how to swim; most people who drown accidentally every year, are actually strong swimmers".*

*"Being aware of how you and your children can stay safe in and around water is crucial. We've created this booklet to help your children / participants enjoy the water safely and know how they can identify dangers in a water environment."*

**Dave Candler, STA CEO**



# Introduction

## STAnley Says...

Welcome to STA's Water Safety booklet, it's great to have you here!

Are you ready to learn about water Safety?

This booklet is jam packed with fun activities to help you learn about how to Stay Safe in and around water (this means in the swimming pool, on the beach, by the river, at home and on holiday).

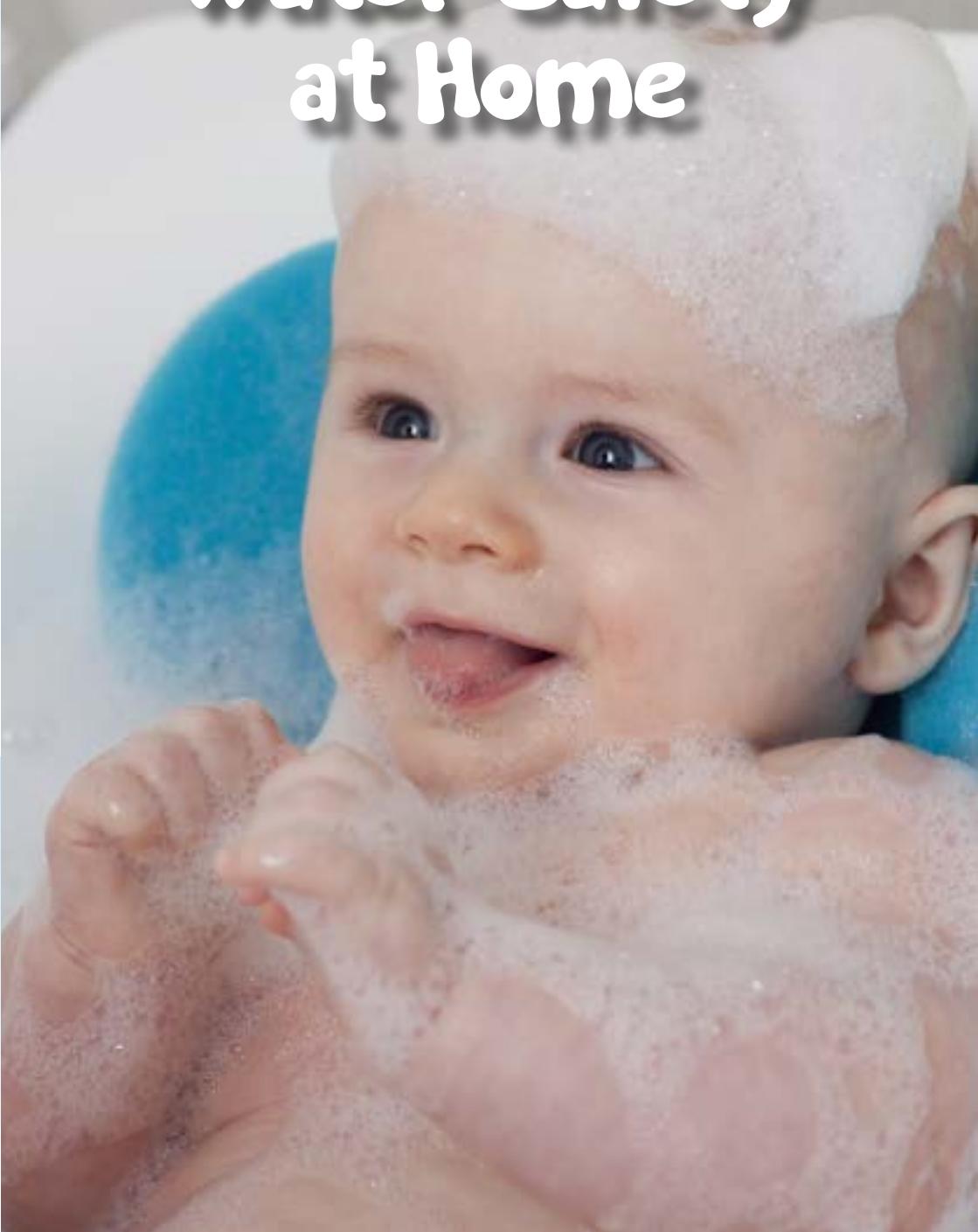
Tell an adult about what you've learnt along the way and ask them any questions if you need help.

Stay water Safe!

STAnley



# Water Safety at Home



# Water Safety at Home



**FACT: People can drown in just 2cm of water**

Make sure anything containing water in your home is emptied after it's used and make sure an adult is always with you when around water at home.

**Can you match these household hazards with the action you could take to make it safe?**



**Baths**

Cover with a secure lid

Children should not be left playing unsupervised in these, empty and put away after use



**Fishponds**

Empty after use and remove the plug



**Wash basins**

Children should be supervised at all times, empty and remove the plug after use

Check these are empty after use and store away from children



**Washing machines**

Keep the door shut at all times

Fence these off and cover with mesh



**Paddling pools**



**Water butts**

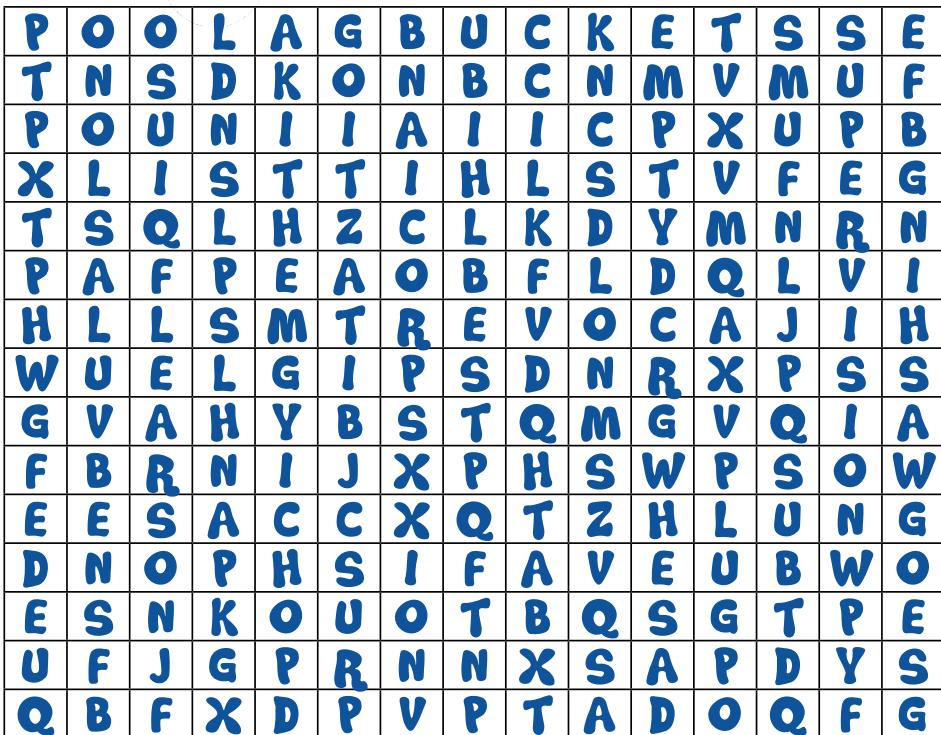


**Buckets**

# Water Safety at Home

5

Can you find all the words?



ADULT

BUCKETS

FISHPOND

PADDLING

SINK

BATH

COVER

HELP

PLUG

WASHING

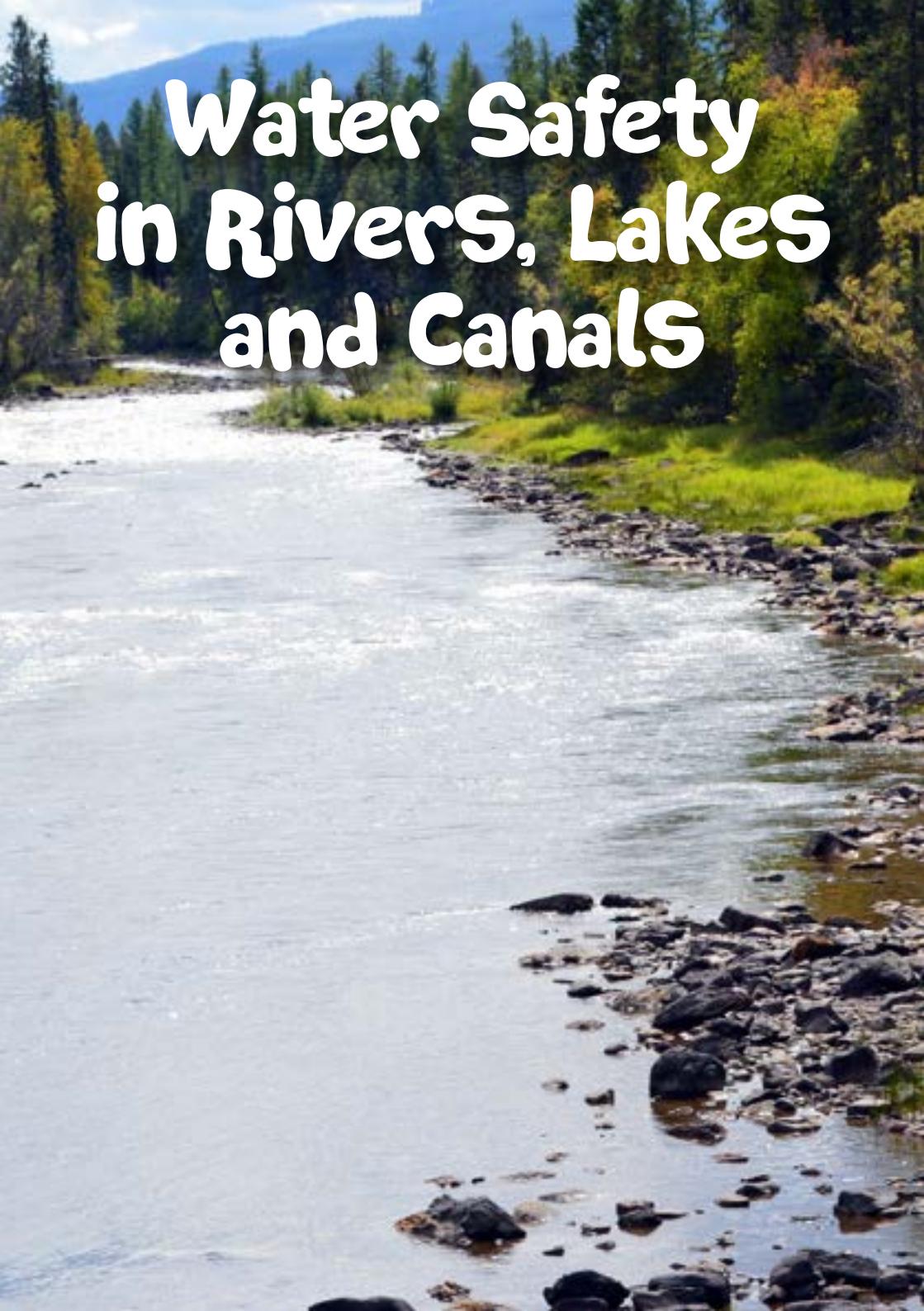
BATHPLUG

EMPTY

POOL

SUPERVISION

# Water Safety in Rivers, Lakes and Canals



# Water Safety in Rivers, Lakes and Canals

7

## What you Should Know about Swimming in Rivers | Lakes | Canals

### Keyword: Cold Water Shock

**FACT: Just because it's hot and sunny doesn't mean the water will be too.**

Cold water shock is the body's natural response to being in cold water (below 15 °C).

The cold temperature causes blood vessels in the skin to close, which restricts blood flow and means the heart has to work harder. Cold water shock can therefore cause heart attacks, even in the relatively young and healthy.

Cold water shock also causes an involuntary gasp for breath and breathing rates can increase uncontrollably which can cause panic and increase the chances of breathing water into the lungs which can result in drowning.

If you fall in to cold water, you may experience cold water shock. This means you will:

- Find it hard to breathe
- Gasp for air
- Muscles may cramp
- Find it difficult to think
- Suffer heart pain (your heart works harder when you're cold).

### What to do if you end up in cold water:

Float for a minute leaning back in the water and keeping your airway i.e. nose / mouth clear so you can control your breathing and to keep calm. Call for help or swim to safety if you're able.



Colour me  
in

# Water Safety in Rivers, Lakes and Canals

Environments where cold water might be present:

Match the pictures to the correct environment

1. Lake



2. Canal



3. Beach



4. River



5. Reservoirs



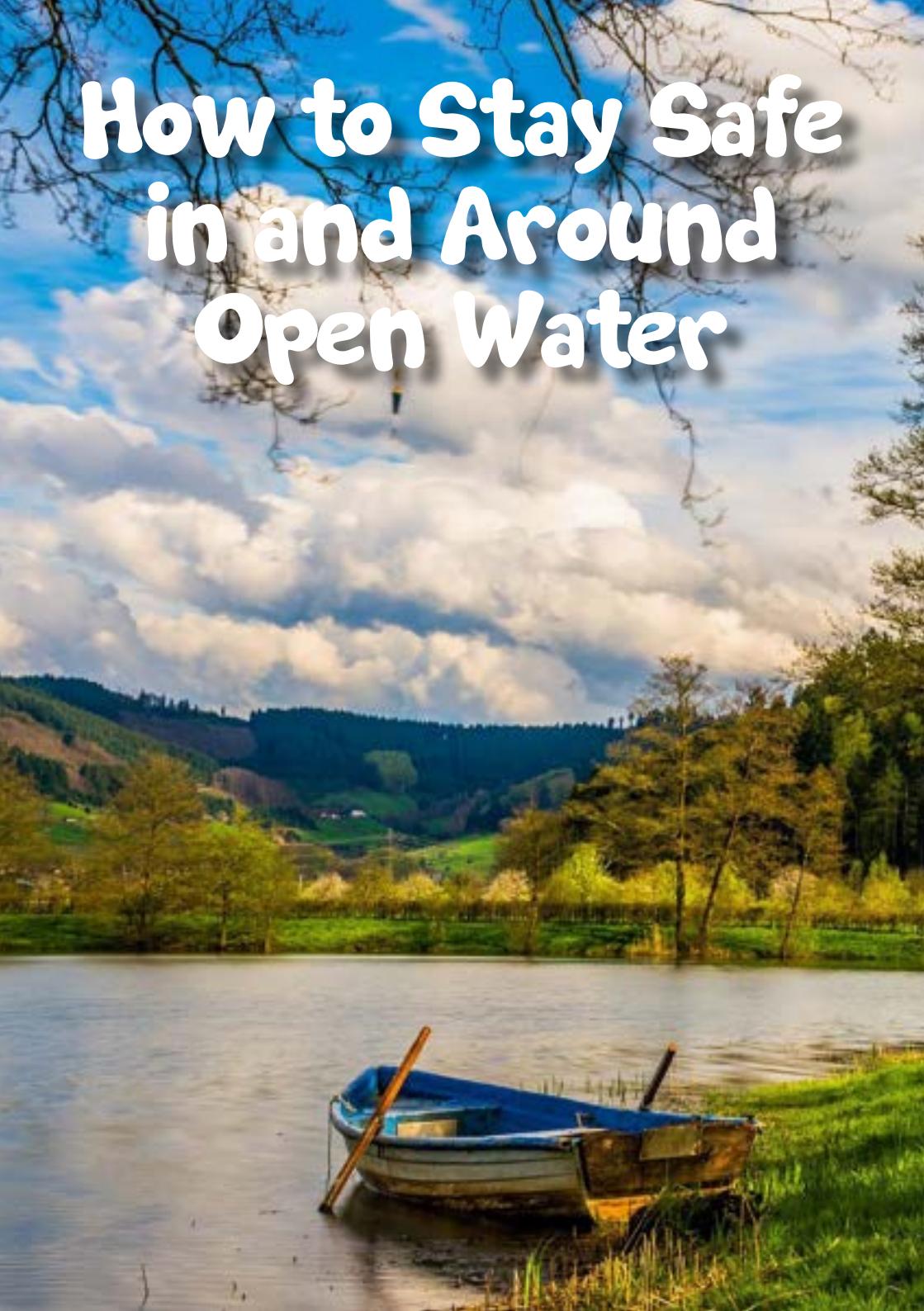
6. Quarries



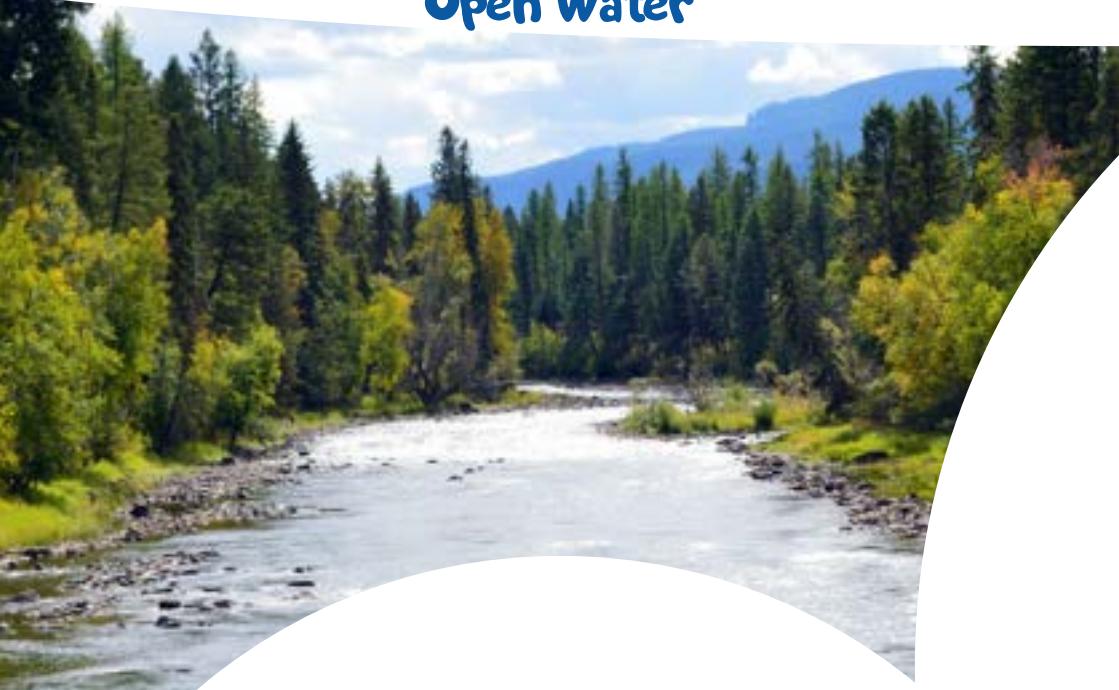
Did you Know:

These environments are known as locations with 'open water.'

# How to Stay Safe in and Around Open Water



# How to Stay Safe in and Around Open Water



Rivers, lakes, canal, and beach environments can be a great day out, but only if you follow these rules:

- Always go with an adult
- Pay attention to warning signs
- Do not enter fast flowing water
- Know how to call for help .

## Be aware of:

- Slippery and unstable edges
- Calm water may have strong currents
- Dangers in the water e.g. rubbish, rocks, rusty metals, tree branches
- Safety equipment around the area
- Unknown depths of water
- Avoid water that is frozen, do not play on the ice.

# How to Stay Safe in and Around Open Water

11

## What to do if you See Someone Struggling in water outdoors

**Never get in the water yourself and Stay back from the edge**

1. Ask if they need help (if they don't answer or say yes, call for help)
2. Find help from an adult or coastguard nearby if you are by the beach
3. Or call emergency services if no one is around (999 / 112) and ask for the coastguard if by the beach or fire and rescue if inland
4. Find anything that can float (e.g. water bottle, football etc.) and throw or reach it to the casualty and from the water's edge.

## What to do if you fall into in open water:

1. Float on your back
2. Keep your airway i.e nose / mouth clear of the water
3. Try to control your breathing
4. Call for help or swim to safety if you're able.



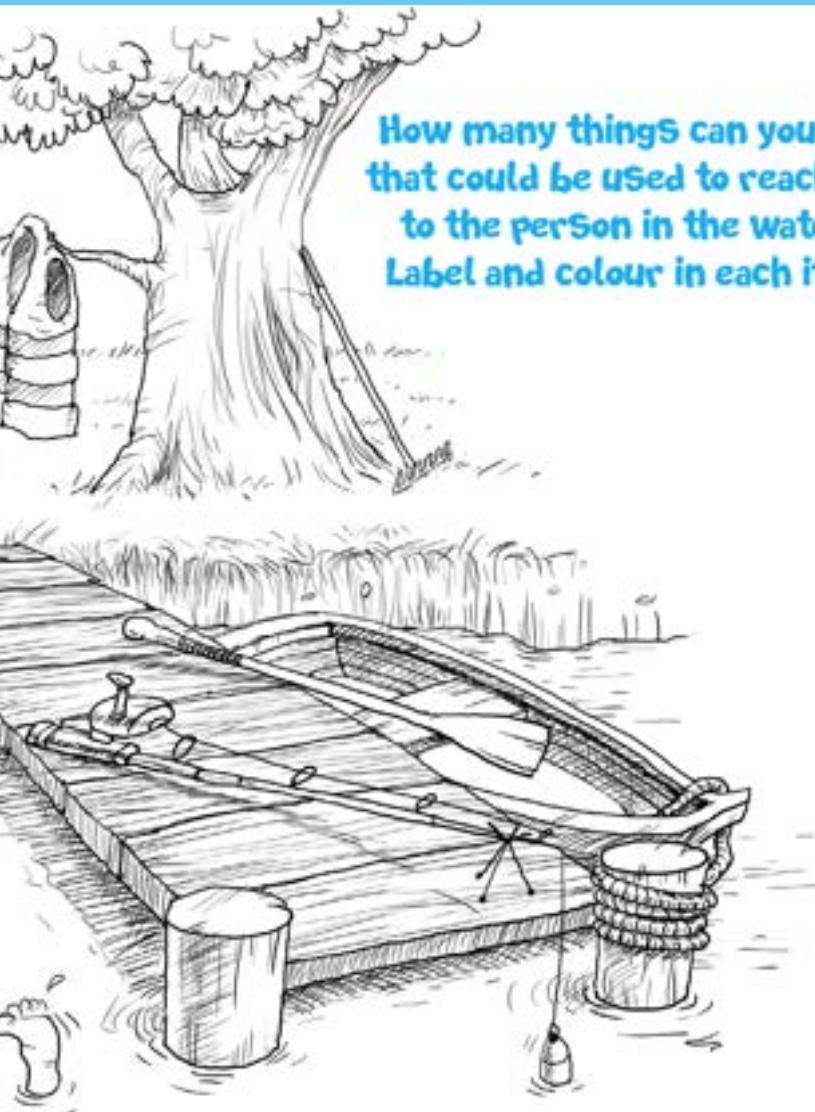
# Can STANley Ho



# elp His Friend?

13

How many things can you see  
that could be used to reach out  
to the person in the water?  
Label and colour in each item



# Water Safety on Holiday





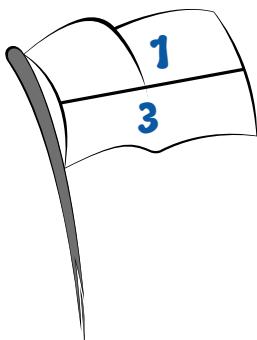
## How can you Stay water Safe on holiday?

### Think about:

- Beach Flags and what they mean
- What is the number for the local emergency Services?
- Is there a lifeguard by the pool or beach?
- Are warning signs in English?

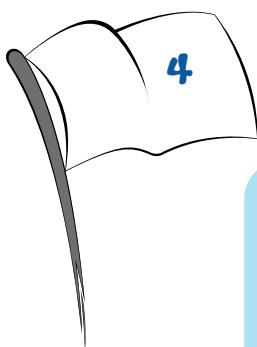


## Do You Know What the



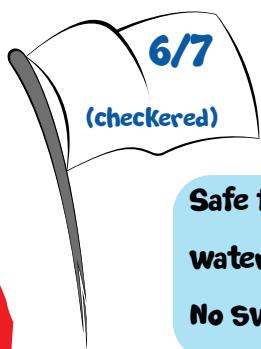
Lifeguard on \_\_\_\_\_.

Always swim between  
the \_\_\_\_\_



The water is \_\_\_\_\_.

This doesn't make the  
water safe; look for areas  
where a life\_\_\_\_\_ is  
present.



Safe for \_\_\_\_\_ and

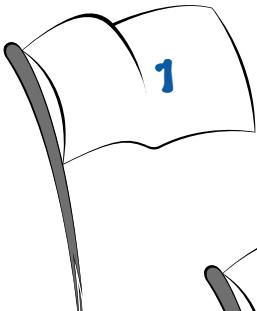
water \_\_\_\_\_ only.

No Swimming.

**Tip:** If you're unsure if the water is safe  
to swim in, ask a lifeguard.

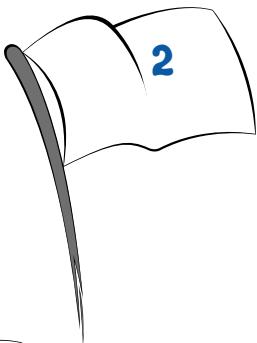


## Beach Flags Mean?

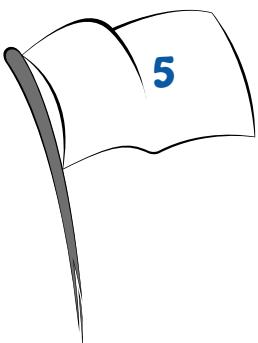


Danger.

No \_\_\_\_\_



These flags are known as Wind Socks. They show the direction of \_\_\_\_\_.



Dangerous marine life has been spotted e.g. \_\_\_\_\_ or jelly\_\_\_\_\_.

Word List: sharks guard calm  
swimming flags duty fish  
boats wind crafts

### Colour co-ordinates

- 1 – Red
- 2 – Orange
- 3 – Yellow
- 4 – Green
- 5 – Purple
- 6 – Black
- 7 – White

# Spot The



# Dangers

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# Water Safety on Holiday

## What to look for to Stay Safe at the beach:

### Waves

A strong wave could knock you off your feet in shallow water. Always be careful as waves can drag you out to sea in a matter of seconds.

#### What do Strong waves look like?

- Strong waves are caused by strong winds and can be noticed by their height.

### Tides

Tides occur when the water level changes throughout the day. You will notice that the water creeps up the sand further during the day and a few hours later, the water level will go down again. These movements are a regular cycle and are known as tides.

#### To avoid getting dragged into the water by a tide:

- Make sure it's safe by checking the 'tide tables' (these can be found in the tourist centre or the weather news – the hotel might even be able to help)
- Look out for any beach flags and warning signs.





## RIP Currents

Rip currents are strong currents running out to sea. They can quickly pull swimmers away from shore and into deep water.

They can be difficult to spot but often look like the safest / calmest, most appealing area.

### How to identify a rip current:

A channel of flat, darker water surrounded by choppy, churning water.

### If you enter a rip current, what do you need to do?

1. Stay calm
2. Call for help, raising your hand
3. If you can stand, wade don't swim
4. If you can't stand, swim parallel to the shore, don't try to swim against it
5. When free of the rip current, swim to shore.



# STANley Has Been Caug

He's raised his arm to get the lifeguard

Incoming  
waves

Rip h



# Get Up in a Rip Current

23

wards attention. What should he do now?

head



## Incoming Waves



ach

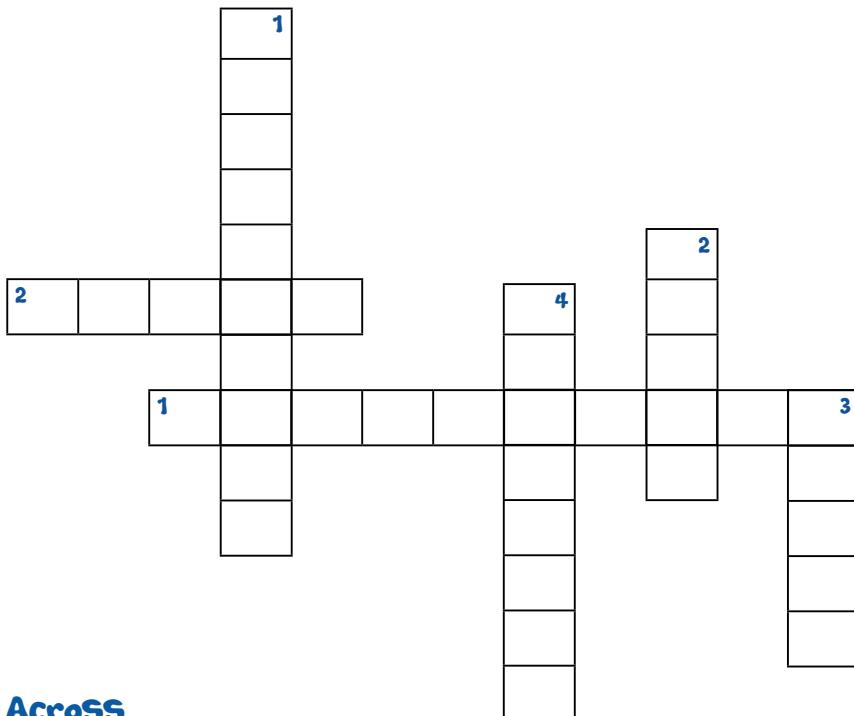
Complete a Set of instructions for STANley to Stay Safe:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

# Water Safety on Holiday

## Waves, Tides & Rip Currents

Put your knowledge to the test  
Can you complete the cross word correctly?



### Across

1. This can be noticed in the safest / calmest, most appealing water
2. Warning signs to look for at a beach.

### Down

1. The speed of what causes waves?
2. These can be seen by their height
3. Water creeps up the sand further during the day and a few hours later, the water level will go down again. What is this known as?
4. Which direction of the shore do you swim if you get dragged into a Rip current?

# Water Safety at the Pool



# Water Safety at the Pool

Swimming pools can be the safest places to swim and many of you may already be taking lessons. What's your favourite stroke?

## Do you know what a lifeguard is?

Lifeguards keep everyone safe in the pool.

### Can you circle 4 jobs of a lifeguard?

- Observe the pool and those who are swimming
- Answer the phone
- Offer help and advice on safety rules
- Prevent accidents
- Save swimmers if they are facing difficulty
- Show off their diving skills

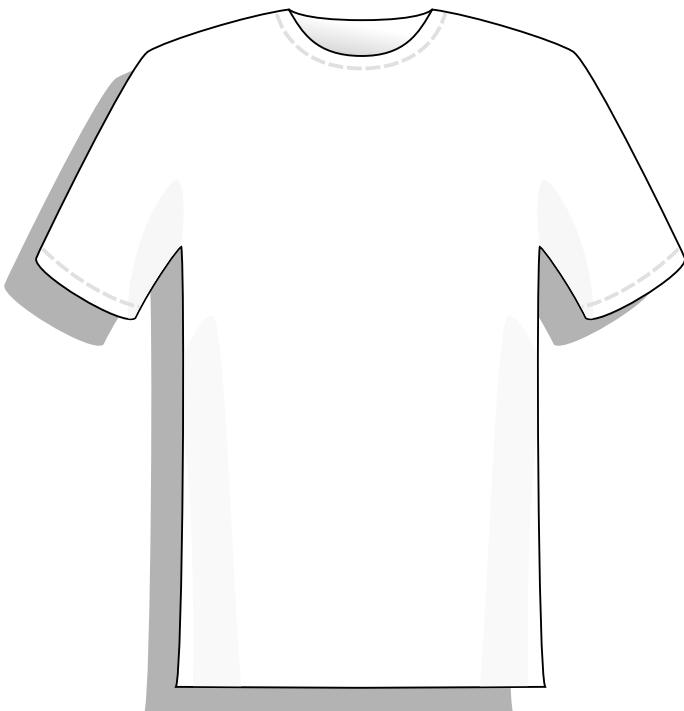


# Water Safety at the Pool

27

What colour T-shirt do  
lifeguards wear?

Colour the t-shirt below in the correct colour



**Remember:**

Only swim when a lifeguard is present.

# Spot the Danger!



Colour me  
in

# S in the Pool



ers! Can you circle and number the Dangers in the activity?





1. Children Should always be supervised by an adult
2. Beware of water depth
3. Don't dive where 'No diving' signs are present
4. The rules for Slides
5. Take care on Slippery floors
6. Don't bomb
7. No ducking
8. No Shouting
9. No pushing
10. Don't practice acrobatics in the pool
11. Don't run
12. No drinking or eating



# Water Safety at the Pool

## Things to remember when swimming in a pool:

- Always swim with an adult or a friend
- Find out the depth of the water where you swim
- Don't dive; Only jump in, feet first
- Do not push others
- Don't play or swim near drains, rails or steps or you may become trapped
- Walk, don't run
- Find out where to get help in an emergency
- Always listen to the lifeguard.

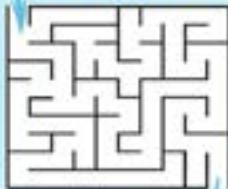


# Water Safety at the Pool

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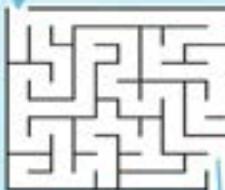


Can you help  
me to get to the  
pool Safely...



Go to the  
toilet

Have a Shower  
So I don't  
dirty the water



Now I can get  
in the pool



Help STANley  
get ready for  
his swim!

# Can You Save a Life?

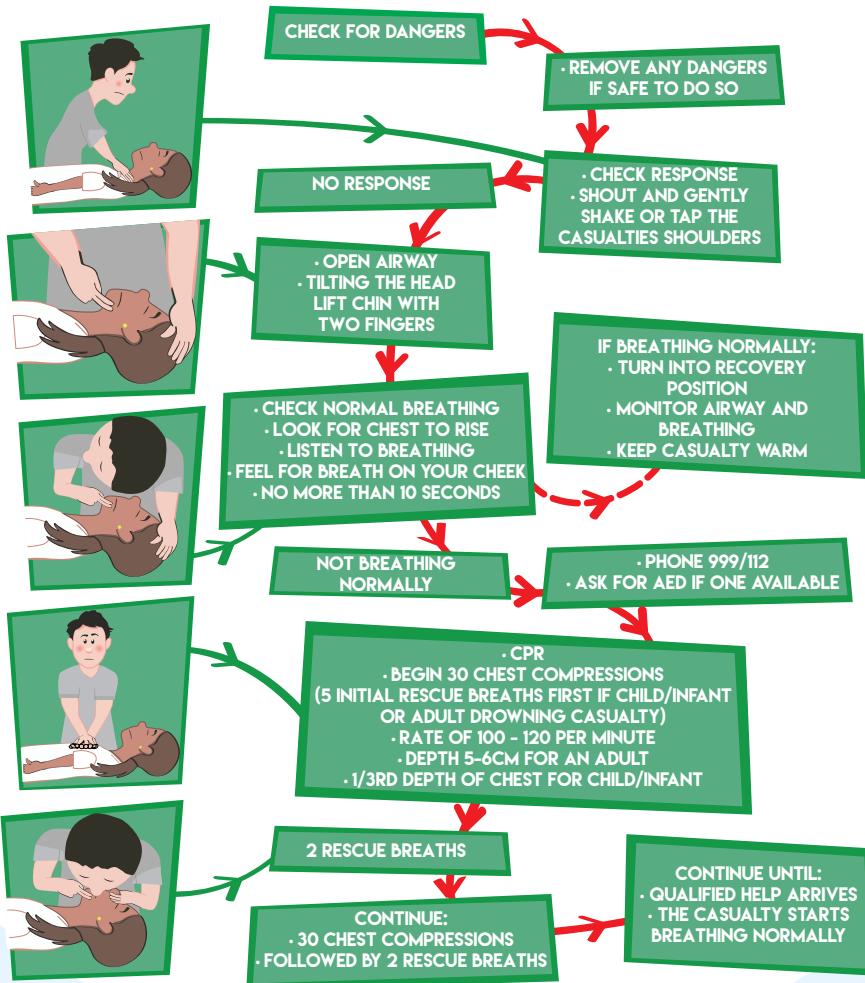


# Can You Save a Life?

## Do you Know how to Save a life?

### Scenario:

You've spotted your friend who's just had an accident. They're unconscious (and breathing) and an adult isn't available. Would you know what to do to save them?



# Can You Save a Life?

Can you put a definition under the following key words using the information in this booklet?

**Open Water**

**Cold Water Shock**

**Lifeguards**

**Rip Current**

**Tides**

**Waves**

**Beach Flags**





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# Answers



## Spot The Beach Hazards (Page 18)

Answers:  
 Red Flag - swimming  
 Orange Flag - wild swimming  
 Green Flag - safe, guard  
 Black and White Checkered Flag - boats and crafts  
 Red and Yellow Flag - duty, flags  
 Red Branch  
 Rake  
 Oar  
 Lifebuoy Ring  
 Fishing Rod  
 Lifeguard  
 Oar  
 Rake  
 Red Branch

## Do you know what the beach flags mean? (Page 16)

Answers:  
 1. Lake - A  
 2. Canal - C  
 3. Beach - D  
 4. River - B  
 5. Reservoirs - E  
 6. Quarries - F

## Can STANLEY help his friend? (Page 12)

Answers:  
 1. Lake - A  
 2. Canal - C  
 3. Beach - D  
 4. River - B  
 5. Reservoirs - E  
 6. Quarries - F

## Environments where cold water might be present (Page 8)

Image	Action
Washtubs	Cover with a secure lid
Washing Machines	Keep the door shut at all times
Wash basins	Empty after use and remove the plug
Fishpools	Fence these off and cover with mesh
Buckets	Check these are empty after use and store away from children
Padding pools	Children should not be left playing unsupervised in these, empty and put away after use
Baths	Children should be supervised at all times, empty and remove the plug after use

## Can you match these household hazards with the action you could take to make it safe? (Page 4)

# Answers

**Answers:** *Answers: Beach Flags - These tell you where and when it's safe to swim. Waves - Waves are caused by wind speed and can be noticed by their height. Rip Currents - Tides occur when water levels change throughout the day. Lifeguards - Lifeguards are people who can be noticed by their height. Cold Water Shock - If you fall into cold water, you may experience cold water shock. This means you will find it hard to breathe, gasp for air, muscles might cramp, and it's hard to think and suffer heart pain. Open Water Environment where cold water might be present.*

**Can you put a definition under the following key words using the information in this booklet? (Page 34)**



**Answers:** *Answers: Yellow*

**What colour T-shirt do lifeguards wear? (Page 27)**

**Answers:** *Answers: Parallel*

**3. Waves**

**2. Strongwind**

**1. Ripcurrent**

**Across**

**2. Flags**

**3. Down**

**4. Ripcurrent**

**5. Waves**

**6. Strongwind**

**7. Parallel**

**Waves, Tides & Rip Currents (Page 24)**

**4) Stay calm and swim back to shore**

**3) If he can't swim, go with the rip current**

**2) Swim parallel to the shore**

**1) Check the direction of the rip current**

**Answers:** *Answers: 1) Stay calm and swim back to shore*

*2) If he can't swim, go with the rip current*

*3) Swim parallel to the shore*

*4) Check the direction of the rip current*

**Stay calm and caught up in a Rip Current (Page 22)**

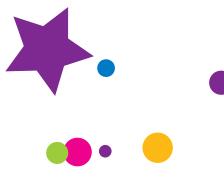
**Answers:** *Answers: 1) Stay calm and caught up in a Rip Current*

*2) If he can't swim, go with the rip current*

*3) Swim parallel to the shore*

*4) Check the direction of the rip current*

# STAnley's Water Safety Code of Advice



## 1. Spot the Dangers

Water may look safe, but it can be dangerous; learn to spot and keep away from dangers. You may swim well in a warm indoor pool, but that does not mean that you'd be able to swim in open water.

## 2. Take Safety Advice

Special flags and notices may warn you of danger. Know what the signs mean and do what they tell you.

## 3. Don't go Alone

Children should always go with an adult, not by themselves. An adult may be able to point out dangers or help if someone gets into trouble.

## 4. Learn how to Help

You may be able to help yourself and others if you know what to do in an emergency.