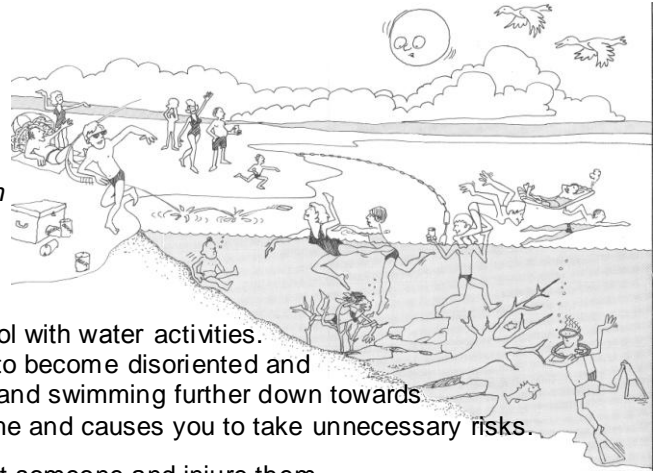


## Teacher's Worksheet:

### A Day At The Beach – 'Talking Points'

Dangerous or not? Some of the images on *A Day At The Beach* may be subjective as to the level of danger the activity poses. Other images are blatantly obvious. Here are some 'Talking Points' you may want to utilize for a classroom discussion.



1. Beer cans on the beach – it's never a good idea to mix alcohol with water activities. Swimmers with a high blood alcohol content have been known to become disoriented and not be able to distinguish between swimming up to the surface and swimming further down towards the bottom. Alcohol, a depressant, slows down your reaction time and causes you to take unnecessary risks.
2. Man skipping rocks inside a marked swim zone – he might hit someone and injure them.
3. Man standing on beach with a can in his hand – is that a can of soda or alcohol?
4. Other people on the beach – Are they watching the small child running towards the water? Do they know there is no lifeguard on duty at Corps beaches? Do they realize it's dangerous to swim outside of the 'designated' swim area? Should the small child be wearing a lifejacket?
5. Baby underneath the water – self explanatory.
6. Girl caught in the weeds – Corps designated beaches have been checked for and cleared of dangerous hazards. If you swim outside of the marked area, you don't know about the natural hazards present.
7. Two young men just outside of the swim zone – again, what is the content of the can in his hand? Even if it's a soda, what is he going to do with the empty can? Horseplay (diving off the shoulders of your friend) of any type is never a good idea while in the water. Both young men are outside of the safe swim zone. They don't know about the hazards underneath the water; the rocks, the sudden drop off in the depth of the water, the hidden tree hazard and the diver underneath the water. Many of the lakes in Kansas are multi-purpose lakes. This means that they have many functions from flood control to water supply or irrigation. Some lakes even supply water for navigation along the Missouri River in times of low rainfall. All of these "purposes" can cause the lake elevation to change. Last weekend at the lake you may have been in 10 feet of water whereas this weekend it may only be 2 feet deep. Never dive head first into unknown depths.
8. Man swimming outside of the swim area – he's entering very deep water and the 'boating zone' where a boat operator may not see him in time to avoid hitting him. If the boat should come too close to the swimmer, the swimmer could be hurt by the boat's prop (whirling blades connected to the motor). Also where is he swimming to? Many people try to swim across a cove not realizing how far away it is and overestimating their swimming ability. Distances on the water appear closer than what they actually are. What could happen to him if he tires or gets into trouble? He's not wearing a life jacket to help keep him afloat and the water is too deep for him to simply stand up in.
9. Person on the floating air mattress – again this person is outside of the swim area, over deep water and also entering the 'boating zone' where they are a hazard to boaters. The air mattress appears to have sprung a leak. What will this person do when their air mattress deflates? They too are not wearing a life jacket. Inflatable beach toys are "full of hot air". Don't trust your life to a toy. There is no substitute for a Coast Guard approved life jacket.
10. Diver – he is not displaying a Diver Down Flag (red flag with a white diagonal stripe) indicating there is a diver underneath the water below the flag. A boater could come too close and hit him. It's a diver's responsibility to pick areas to dive in where he does not interfere with other lake users.

### What can you throw into the water to help someone in trouble?

There are lots of things that 'float' that in an emergency can be used to save a life. The immediate need of a drowning person is assistance in keeping their head above water. Any item that floats can temporarily assist the person while rescuers use other, safe methods to retrieve the person. Statistics show that most drownings occur within 10 feet of safety. Never go out into the water to rescue someone unless you are trained/certified to do so. With an adrenaline surge, even a small child can pull an untrained adult rescuer beneath the water and drown the would be rescuer.

Correct answers: inflatable beach ball; paddle; plastic jug (empty w/lid); tire (yes, it floats – try it with your 'donut' spare in a kiddie pool); life jacket; cooler