

## Introduction

This lesson forms part of the WOW Waterside Safety resource. The activities, designed for 7-11 year olds, teach children the importance of **SAFE: Stay Away From the Edge**.

**Schemes of Work** Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship.

## Learning Objectives

To alert children to the possible dangers to be found near inland waterways. This objective applies equally to canals, rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

### The Curriculum

**England** - PSHE & Citizenship.

**Scotland** - Health education: Social Health strand.

**Wales** - Personal and Social Education Framework: Physical Aspect.

## Resources

Spot the Hazards picture, blank paper, pencils and coloured pencils.

### Key Vocabulary

Hazard, lock, current, protruding, weir, cyclist, fisherman, life ring.

## Teaching Activities

**Introduction** Remind the children that a visit to the waterways with an adult can be a wonderful way to spend the day, providing they follow the **SAFE** message and **Stay Away From the Edge**.

However, there are possible dangers near inland waterways. Can the children suggest any? Encourage them to think about dangers in the water and on the bank. You could write these up as a list.

**Activity** Give out the Spot the Hazards source sheet 1 and ask the children to identify the hazards on the picture.

Hazards include:

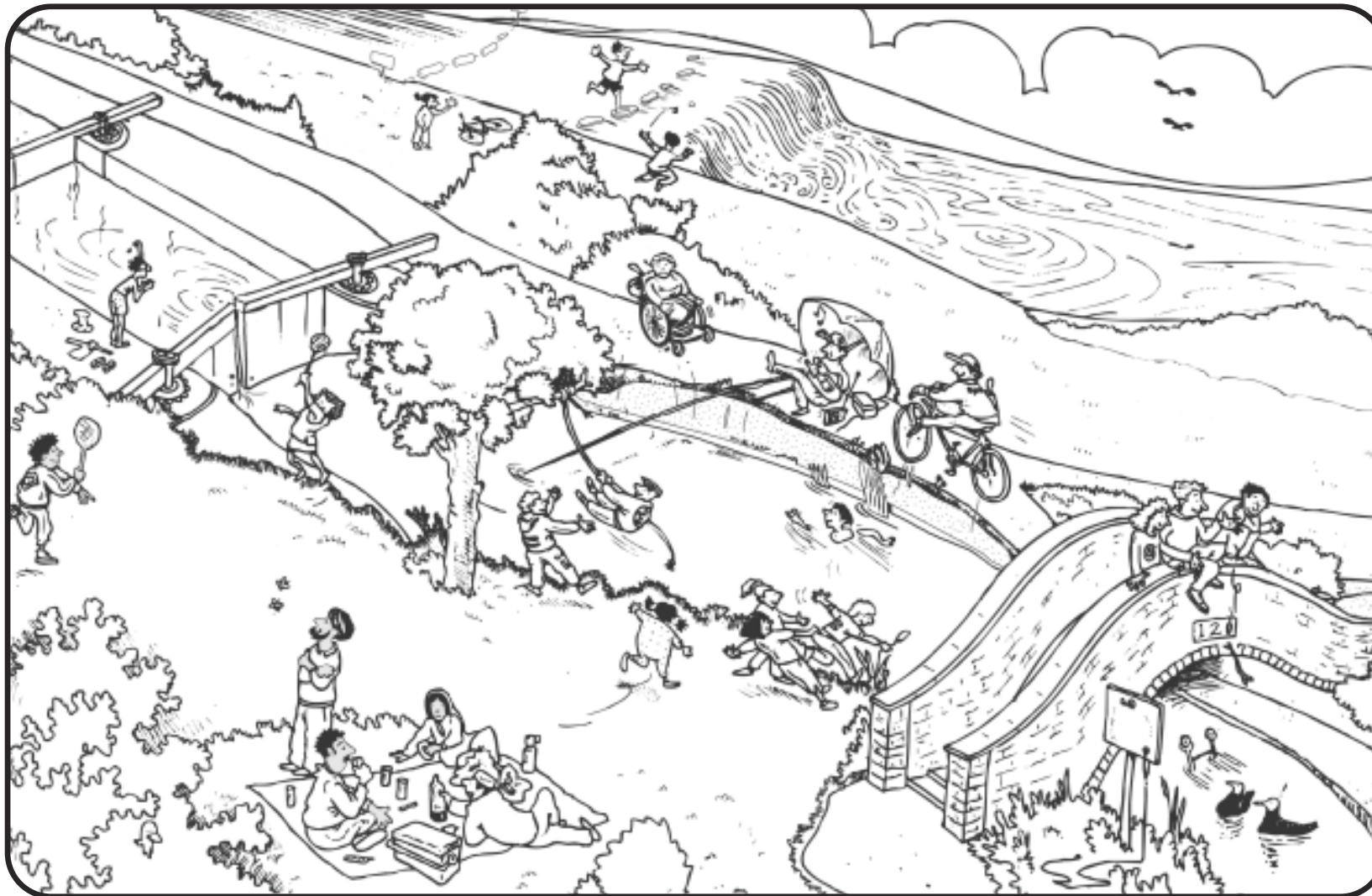
- A child walking off by itself because its parents have become distracted.
- Children playing with their backs to the water or near the water's edge.
- Children swimming in the canal.
- Lock has strong currents and very deep water.
- Weir has fast moving water which can be dangerous.
- Fisherman has a long 'pole' which can be tripped over easily.
- Objects protruding from the water may be sharp or could trap your feet.
- Cyclist is very close to the edge.

Not everything on the picture is a hazard! You could use this to begin a discussion.

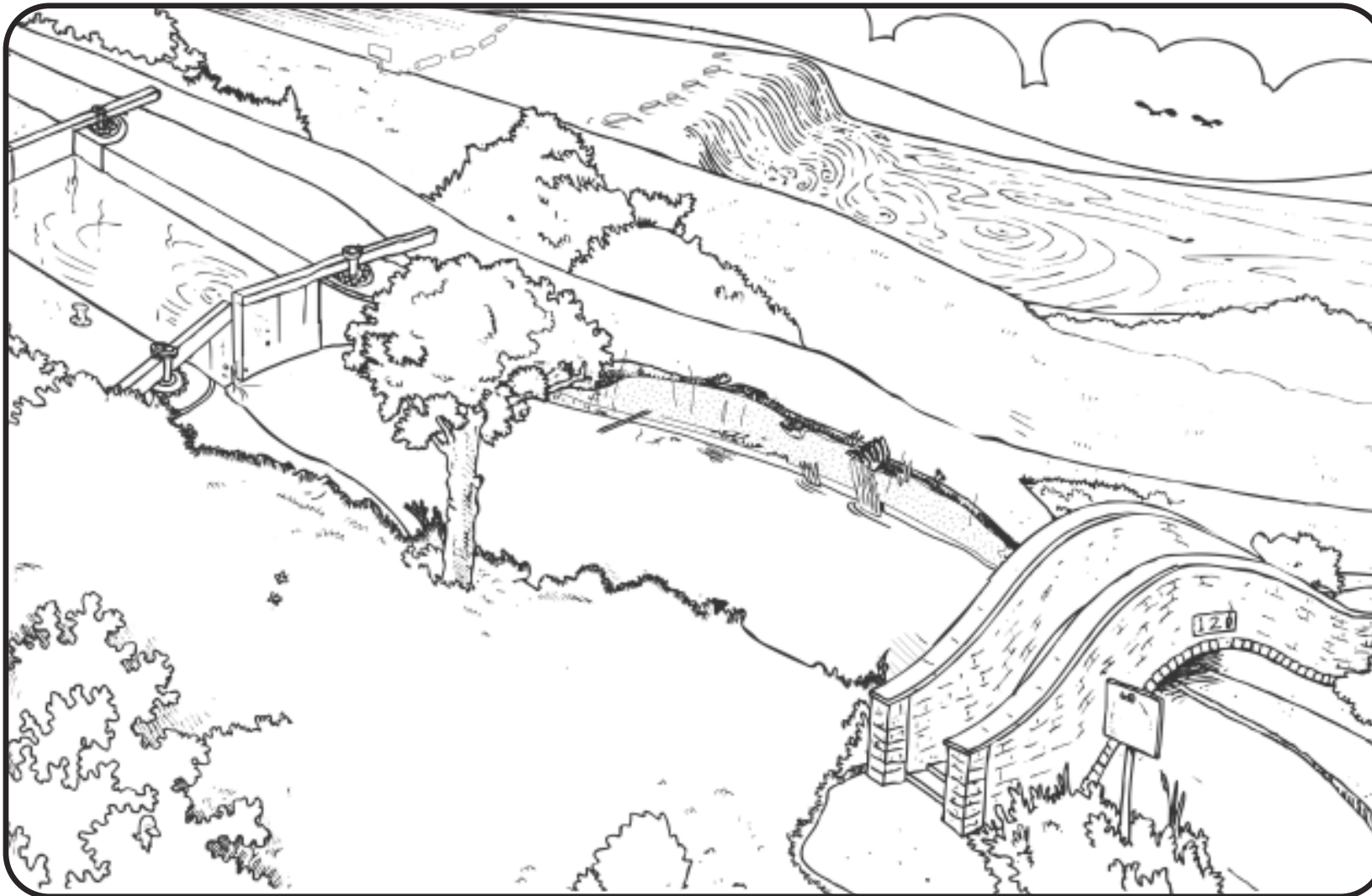
Check that everyone has identified the hazards correctly and that the children are clear why they are hazardous. What needs to change to make the potential hazards safe?

Ask the children to draw a new scene on source sheet 2, including the features of the Spot the Hazards picture, but making the hazards safe e.g. moving the children away from the edge of the bank. Suggestions are shown on source sheet 3.

**Plenary** At the end of the session remind children of the importance of following the **SAFE** message.



Be **SAFE**  
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