

**LOWER  
PRIMARY**

**AGE: 3-7**

INTRODUCTION & DELIVERY

EXTENSION



**STOP AND THINK**



**STAY TOGETHER**



**FLOAT**



**CALL 999/112**



## **ACTIVITY: FLY THE FLAG**

**LEARNING OUTCOME:**

**1**

I can recognise lifeguards and the safe swimming flags

Time: 30-45 mins | Format: Classroom activity | Maximum participation: 35



**Lifeboats**



# INTRODUCTION

This activity allows children to familiarise themselves with the various beach safety flags designed to help them identify where and when it is safe to swim and use the water.

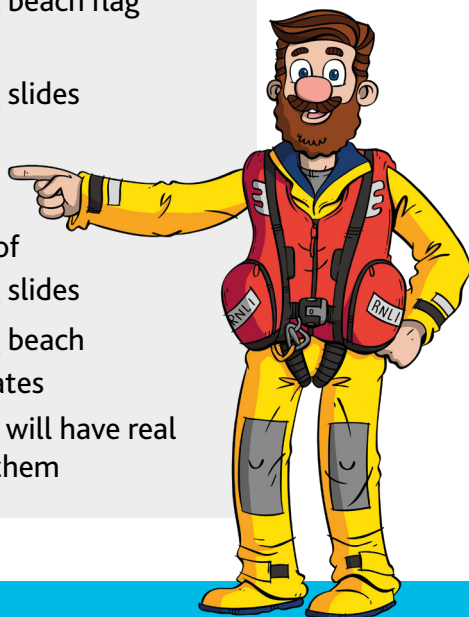


## RESOURCES REQUIRED

- ✓ Fly the flag beach flag templates
- ✓ Fly the flag slides

## LOW TECH OPTION

- ✓ Print outs of Fly the flag slides
  - ✓ Fly the flag beach flag templates
- Volunteers will have real flags with them



## DELIVERY

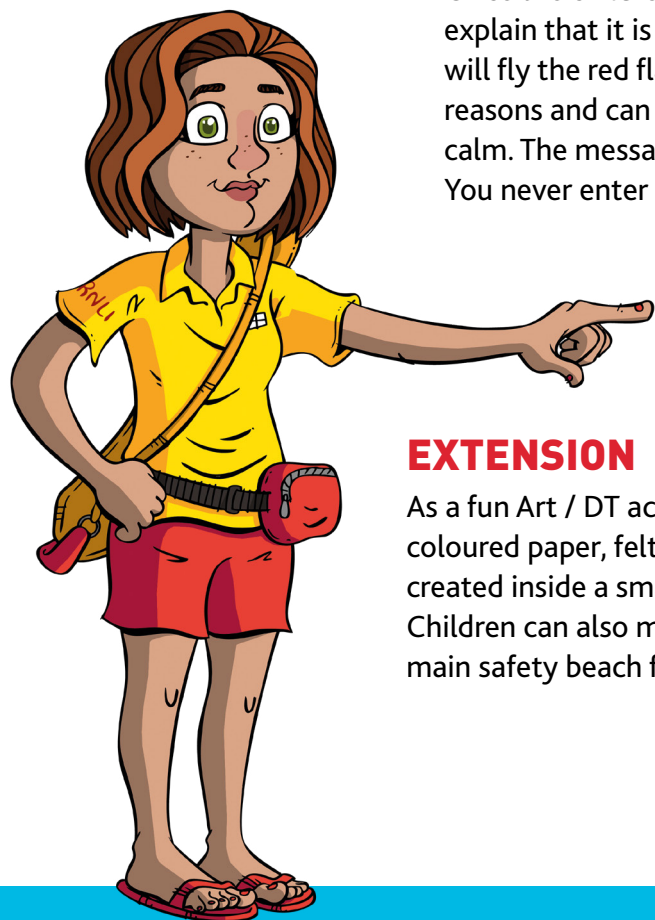
- Before the session begins, print out copies of the flag templates (one for each child).
- Ask children if they know how to recognise whether it is safe to swim when they visit the beach. What identifies a safe place to swim? Once they have volunteered their suggestions, explain that they should only ever swim in a lifeguarded area in case they get into difficulty in the water.
- Use slides 2–4 to explain that lifeguards keep watch along certain beaches to help keep visitors safe. They watch the sea conditions and put out flags to tell visitors where and when it is safe to enter the water.
- Slides 5–9 show the main flags you would expect to see on a UK beach.
- Give children their flags and ask them to respond to each question with the flag they think is correct. Actions can be introduced in the following way to make this activity more animated:
  - Red flag – children to shake their heads side-to-side to indicate NO, or use their arms to make a giant X
  - Red and yellow flag – children to make swimming motions with their arms
  - Black and white chequered flag – children to mimic a surfing action
  - Wind sock – children should puff up their cheeks and blow like the wind

**CONTINUED →**

# ACTIVITY: FLY THE FLAG



**Lifeboats**



- Now show slides 10–17. Ask children to comment on each picture one at a time, explaining what they can see before showing the flag they think best fits the image.
- Children should try to explain what particular elements in the image leads them to the decision (e.g. they can tell it is windy in slide 11 because the lady cannot open her umbrella).
- Once the children are familiar with the key flags, it is important to explain that it is not only during bad or stormy weather that lifeguards will fly the red flag. Explain that red flags can be put up for many reasons and can even be seen on a sunny day when the sea looks calm. The message even on a sunny, calm day remains the same. You never enter the water when a red flag is flying.

### EXTENSION

As a fun Art / DT activity, children can make their own beach using coloured paper, felt, card, sandpaper and small props. The beach can be created inside a small box (such as a shoe box) and show an aerial view. Children can also make miniature flags for their beach to represent the main safety beach flags.

### DIFFERENTIATION

To stretch students, discuss the notion of currents, explaining that they are strong movements of water that can pull swimmers away from the shore. Describe that even though it looks like a calm day, a red flag still may be flying because of the presence of strong currents or other hazards.