

Looking to the Future – Our Impact on the Resources

Overview:

Students learn about how we impact natural resources through our actions and determine a “code of ethics” to reduce negative impacts and improve our natural resources for future enjoyment.

Associated Objectives:

- ❑ Students will be acquainted with ways humans interact with natural resources including individual responsibility toward natural resources.
- ❑ Students will develop a set of guidelines for ethical conduct for canoeing and kayaking trips.

Time:

30 – 45 minutes

Materials:

Writing materials, flip chart or chalk board; Optional: canoe/kayak registration, craft, and required gear

Directions:

Refer to **Iowa’s Aquatic Resources**, **Issues Facing Our Aquatic Resources**, and **Regulations and Ethics** sections of the *Background Information* for brief synopses of these topics.

Ask students:

Where might you canoe (or kayak)?

Briefly discuss the major types of waters in Iowa. You might also discuss nearby public access areas for each type of water. See the *Iowa Canoe and Fishing Stream Access Guide* for information about public access points on rivers. The *Iowa Lake Fishing Guide* has information about public lakes. This information also is available through the DNR web site: www.iowadnr.com/fish/fishing/2004LakeFishingGuide.pdf.

Ask students:

What are some negative impacts to Iowa waters?

You can have them create individual lists and then share, or do this as a group. List impacts on a flip chart or chalk board so everyone can see the list. Be sure to add any from the *Background Information* students do not list. Discuss the impact – what causes it; how it can be reduced or prevented.

Provide students a copy of the “Quick Canoeing Facts” handout. Briefly discuss the regulations related to registration and required equipment for each craft.

Optional: Have a canoe or kayak with required equipment for students to view. Include items that are not required or do not meet requirements (e.g., a non-approved PFD, cooler, seat cushions, rope, fire extinguisher). Have students determine items that are required/meet requirements. Discuss their selections. Briefly review the basic regulations for canoes/kayaks. Distribute the “Quick Canoeing Facts” handout and/or copies of the current *Iowa Boating Regulations*.

Present the idea of an ethic vs. a regulation or law. Violating a regulation or law has legal ramifications. Actions based on ethics are voluntary. Most boating regulations/laws deal with safety issues. Ethical conduct shows respect for others and the resource.

Discuss how canoeists should conduct themselves on the water to minimize impacts on the natural resources (wildlife and waters). Develop a “code of conduct” for students to follow. Create a master list for the group. Keep the list short and simple, so everyone can remember it. If students have notebooks or journals, have them copy the “code of conduct” in these.

Evaluation:

Students will be able to identify different types of waters in Iowa and provide nearby examples of each. Students will be able to identify negative impacts on Iowa’s aquatic resources and ways to reduce or prevent those impacts. Students should be able to express requirements for registration and equipment for canoes/kayaks in Iowa (either verbally, or by identifying these on an actual craft). Students will develop a “code of conduct” to follow during canoeing/kayaking.

Quick Canoeing Facts

Following is a brief list of requirements for canoes and kayaks related to registration and equipment. Iowa has several boating regulations. For more information, see the *Iowa Boating Regulations* at www.iowadnr.com/law/files/boat2003.pdf.

Registration

- ✓ must have Iowa Registration Certificate and decals on public waters unless \leq 13 feet with no engine or sail
- ✓ register with county recorder in county where owner lives or county where craft principally used
- ✓ registration numbers and decals must be:
 - painted, decal, or otherwise affixed to forward half of each side of craft
 - placed for maximum visibility
 - read from left to right on both sides
 - at least three-inch high, bold, BLOCK letters

Required Equipment

Personal Floatation Devices (PFD)

- ✓ at least one United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved wearable PFD for each person on board
- ✓ >16 feet, one throwable USCG approved PFD also
- ✓ on the Mississippi or Missouri Rivers, or on federal reservoirs, children <13 must *wear* approved PFD
- ✓ “Approved” PFD must:
 - have a legible USCG approval tag
 - be in good and serviceable condition
 - be readily accessible
 - be of the proper size for the intended wearer

Navigation Lights

- ✓ needed between sunset and sunrise and in periods of restricted visibility
- ✓ lantern or flashlight shining with a white light suffices for canoe/kayak