

Student Web Activity: *Alabama Boating Safety*

Introduction:

Using the right equipment and following the rules are just as important while boating as they are while driving a car. Whether you are fishing with friends, riding a personal watercraft (PWC), or just out for a paddle on a lake, practicing responsible boating techniques enhances the enjoyment of being on the water and promotes safety in the boating community.

As part of a campaign to increase safety and encourage the responsible use of waterways, Alabama's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has created a Web resource to educate the public on boating laws and required boating equipment that is essential for safe and responsible boating. Learn more about safe boating and certification at the Web site below.

Links to Explore:

Outdoor Alabama

<http://www.outdooralabama.com/boating/>

Directions:

- Click on the above link and read the main "Boating" page. Also read the "Boating Equipment Checklist" and "Personal Watercraft" pages, using the links on the right side of the "Boating" page.
- Then answer the following questions.

Questions:

1. How many life jackets or personal floatation devices (PFDs) must be on board a vessel at all times?
2. Do teens need to wear a PFD while operating a personal watercraft or when being towed on skis or on a tube?
3. What is the minimum age requirement for operating a personal watercraft in Alabama?
4. Give three examples of unsafe operation of a personal watercraft.
5. The _____ on a personal watercraft is responsible for stopping the motor in the event of a fall. It is required equipment (unless the PWC has a self-circling feature) and must be attached to the operator at all times.
6. A diver's flag signals to boaters that people are in the water nearby. How many feet must boats and personal watercraft stay away from the flag?
7. Name two types of waterway that are designated as "federally controlled waters."
8. All boats must be equipped with _____ if operated at night.
9. Orange Smoke, Red Meteor, and Red Flare are all examples of what type of distress signal?
10. If visibility is reduced or a vessel has an emergency at night, what other signaling device can be used to attract attention?