

Longfellow's WHALE Tales

Water Habits Are Learned Early

Closing Ceremony

ABOUT THE CEREMONY

This closing ceremony provides a brief final activity and a group safety pledge that leaders can use to reinforce the key safety messages taught in the Longfellow's WHALE Tales Water Safety for Children program. At the same time, it reminds participants that being water smart is what will help them enjoy their water adventures more safely.

GUIDANCE FOR THE LEADER

Leaders should adapt this closing ceremony as desired depending on time available and how many lessons your participants completed in the Longfellow's WHALE Tales program. You can do both the activity and the safety pledge, just one of the activities or simply distribute the certificate.

KEY TERMS

Safety champion: A person who speaks up about how to be water smart to help keep friends and family stay safer, too

Water smart: Knowing how to be safer in, on and around the water

TEACHING OBJECTIVES

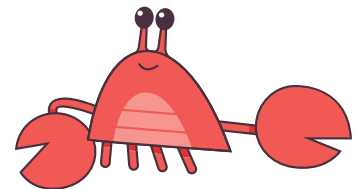
After completing this ceremony, participants will be able to:

- Recall the key messages learned in Longfellow's WHALE Tales about how to be water smart.
- Understand that being water smart helps keep things both safer and more fun when in, on or around the water.
- Be safety champions, sharing the lessons learned in Longfellow's WHALE Tales to help keep their friends and family safer too.

MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Review the lesson plan prior to leading it to determine which items you'll need for the options you choose. Materials may include:

- Beach ball or other soft ball or a beanbag that can be safely tossed from participant to participant
- Participation certificate (one for each participant). Options include a certificate with the safety pledge included or a simple participation certificate available in full- or half-page formats
- Writing utensils for participants (pencils/pens, crayons, markers)



TOPIC: INTRODUCTION

Time: 1 minute

SHARE AND TELL DISCUSSION



LEVEL



MATERIALS

None

■ Tell participants:

- What an impressive group you are! You all showed me you learned a lot about how to be safer in, on and around the water.
- Now that we have completed our Longfellow's WHALE Tales water safety lesson(s), you can use what you've learned to do your part and be water smart. You can also be a safety champion who helps your friends and family be safer too.
- Because this topic is so important, we are going to celebrate your participation with a closing ceremony.

TOPIC: CLOSING ACTIVITY

Time: 5 minutes

GET UP AND MOVE



LEVEL



MATERIALS

Beach ball or other soft ball or a beanbag

- **Set up activity:** Have participants sit in a circle or all face each other at their desks.
- **Tell participants:** Let's play a final game, just for fun. I'll start the game by passing the beach ball to one person and then ask that person a question. After they answer, they'll toss the ball to another person who will answer the next question I ask. Only the person holding the beach ball should answer. And each person should only get the beach ball once. If you do not want to answer a question, just toss the beach ball to someone else instead.



Leader's Note: Depending on how many participants you have in your group, each question can be asked multiple times until each participant has had a chance to answer once. There are no right or wrong answers in this activity!



■ Ask participants one question each:

- Where would you most like to swim: In the ocean, in a lake, in a pool or somewhere else?
- Is this statement true for you, or false? I think it would be a lot of fun to play in the ocean waves.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which ocean animal would you <i>least</i> like to meet up with while swimming? A jelly fish, a shark or a whale? • At a waterpark, which ride would you want to head to first: A fast slide, a wave pool with surfing or the lazy river? • Is this statement true for you, or false? I'd like to be a lifeguard for a job someday. • If you saw an alligator where you wanted to swim, would you be super scared; would you stay out of the water but think it was super cool; or would you feel a little of both? • Choose one: I'd rather be in the water swimming, on the water boating or near the water picnicking? <p>■ Tell participants: Great answers everyone! There are so many fun ways to enjoy the water when you use your water smarts.</p>
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TOPIC: SAFETY PLEDGE

Time: 2 minutes

<p>GET UP AND MOVE</p>  <p>LEVEL</p> <div> <div>LEVEL 1</div> <div>LEVEL 2</div> </div> <p>MATERIALS</p> <p>None</p>	<p>■ Tell participants: We're going to do one more thing together. We're going to take a safety pledge to help us remember how to be water smart kids and safety champions once we leave here today. Everyone stand up and raise your right hand, then repeat after me.</p> <div>  <p>Leader's Note: Read each statement below, one at a time, and ask participants to repeat each statement after you say it.</p> </div> <p>■ Say to Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will do my part to be water smart. • I will never go in the water by myself and will stick by my water buddy. • I will never go in the water without a lifeguard or other capable water watcher supervising me. • I will follow the rules and be a safety champion to help my friends remember the rules, too. • I will stay calm and think it through if something unexpected happens. • To help out, I will first give a shout. • I will not go in the water to help someone myself. I will only "reach or throw."
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TOPIC: CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION

Time: 1 minute

SHARE AND TELL DISCUSSION



LEVEL



MATERIALS

Participation certificate

Writing utensils



Leader's Note: Distribute a pre-completed copy of the WHALE Tales certificate of your choice, one for each participant. If using the safety pledge version, distribute writing utensils and have each participant write in their own name on the participant signature line to “sign” their pledge to be water smart.

- **Tell Participants:** This certificate is to recognize your participation in Longfellow's WHALE Tales Water Safety for Children program. I hope you all will continue to learn as much as you can about how to be safer in, on and around the water.