# ALASKA SAFE BOATER KIDS

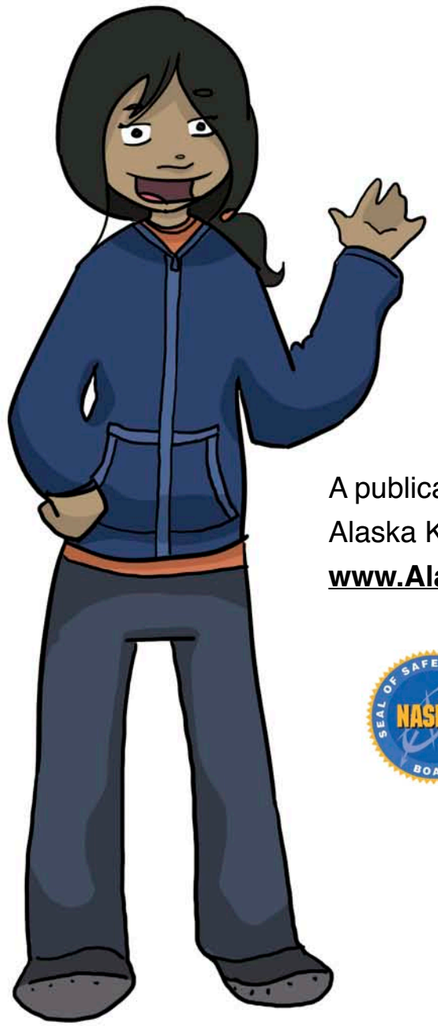
## comic and activity book

second edition

A publication of the Alaska Office of Boating Safety
Alaska Kids Don't Float School Program
www.AlaskaBoatingSafety.org

# THE ALASKA SAFE BOATER KIDS

*second edition*



**Grades 4 and up.**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**Illustrated by:** Liz Shine
**Edited by:** Kelli Toth



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The Alaska Boating Safety Program cooperates with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and other partners to produce educational programs and publications that promote safe and enjoyable boating, including this 2013 edition of The Alaska Safe Boater Kids.

I'M LARS. YOU GOING ON THE FIELD TRIP WITH MR. DAY'S GROUP? YOU FROM HOMER?

YES AND NO. I'M GOING BUT I LIVE IN GALENA.
I'M EMBER.

EMBER...
I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT NAME.
YEAH. WELL.
WHEN AN ELDER DIES THE NEXT BABY BORN GETS THE ELDER'S NAME. I WAS THE LUCKY BABY.

I LIKE IT. IT'S DIFFERENT.

HEY!

HEY EVERYBODY, THE BOSS SHOULD BE HERE IN A BIT.

HE'S GOT TO BE THE MOST MUSCLED-UP OLD GUY EVER.

OK. ROLL CALL.

WHEN I SAY YOUR NAME YOU SAY WHERE YOU'RE FROM...

DIMI.

HERE! NOME.

EMBER.

GALENA.

KIANA

ANCHORAGE.

NICK.

ANGOON.

ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR?

OK, LET'S GET ALL THE GEAR ONBOARD. WE'RE THE LAST GROUP TO LEAVE THE DOCK! BE SURE TO LOAD EACH SKIFF SO IT'S BALANCED, FORE AND AFT - PORT TO STARBOARD. MORE WEIGHT IN THE BACK AND MIDDLE.



THE KIDS ON THE SHORE WERE FROM ALL OVER THE STATE - THEY HAD WON THEIR AREA SCIENCE FAIRS. THE PRIZE WAS THIS TRIP, FOUR DAYS ACROSS KACHEMAK BAY AT A WILDERNESS CAMP. EACH DAY A DIFFERENT SCIENTIST WOULD SHOW THEM DIFFERENT STUFF.

OK. EVERYONE NEEDS THEIR LIFE JACKETS ON NOW!

WHY? WE'RE STILL ON THE SHORE. THEY ARE HOT AND HARD TO MOVE IN.

AND JUST UGLY!

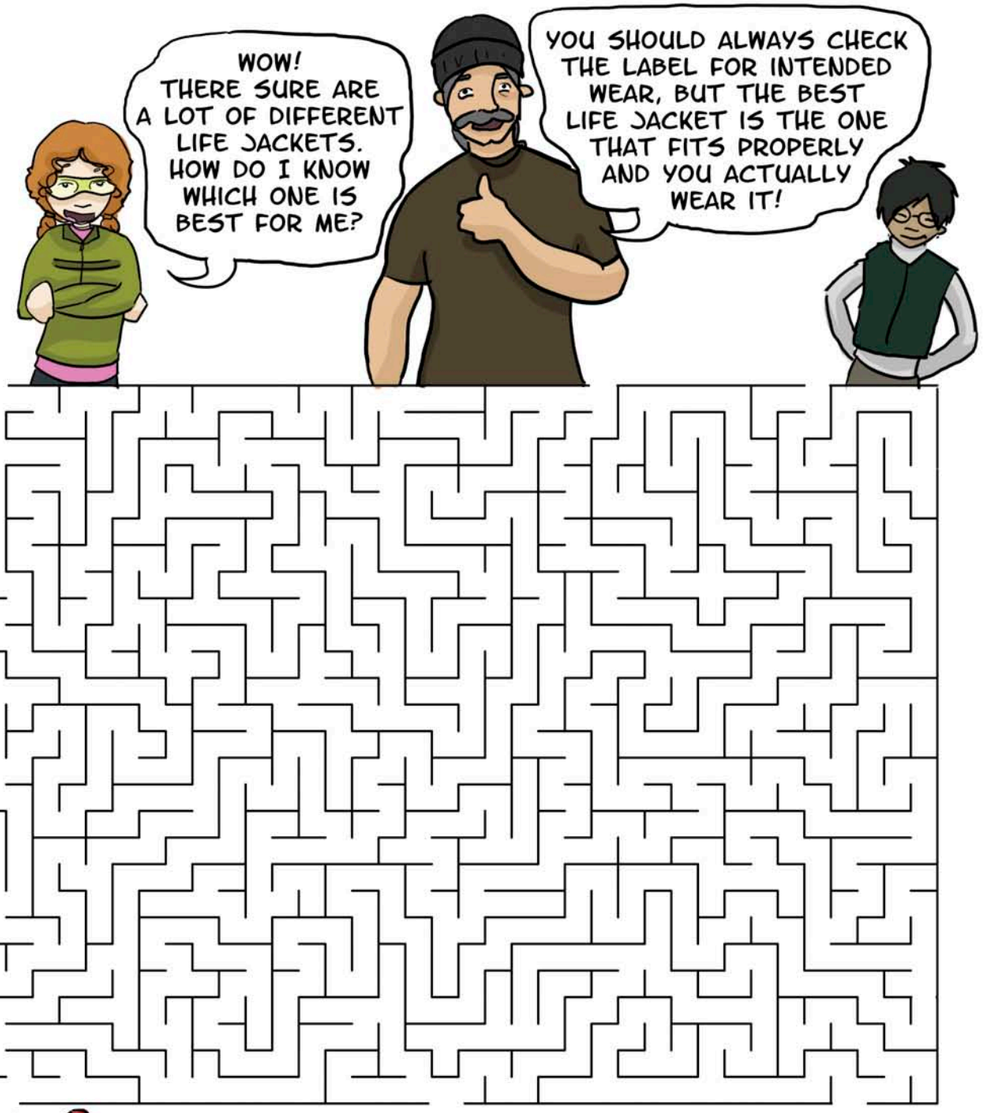
HMM.

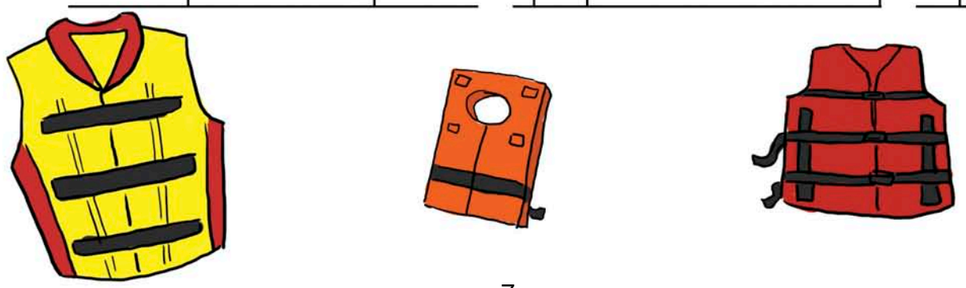
EVERYONE FOLLOW ME.

IT'S THE KIDS DON'T FLOAT BOARD. JUST LIKE BACK HOME.

# MAZE

Below are three different sized boaters. Lead them through the maze to the life jacket that will fit them the best!



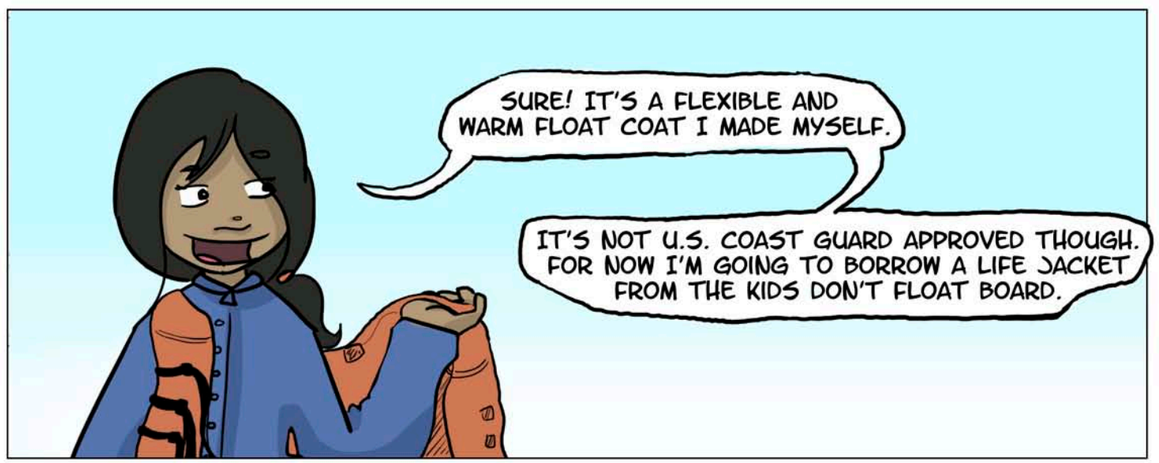
PFFFF.

IS THAT THE COAT?

YES.

WELL THIS IS A TEACHABLE MOMENT.
THIS COAT WON FIRST PLACE IN THE WESTERN ALASKA SCIENCE FAIR. TELL US ABOUT IT.

HMMMFF.

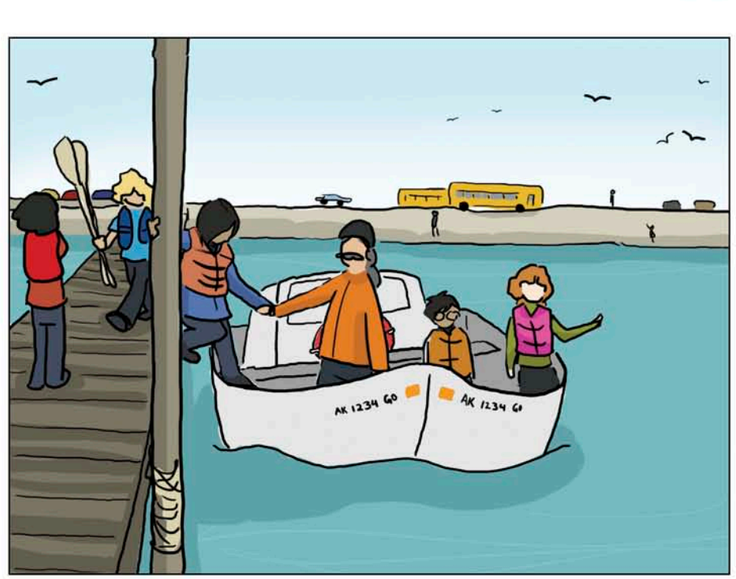

SURE! IT'S A FLEXIBLE AND WARM FLOAT COAT I MADE MYSELF.
IT'S NOT U.S. COAST GUARD APPROVED THOUGH. FOR NOW I'M GOING TO BORROW A LIFE JACKET FROM THE KIDS DON'T FLOAT BOARD.

BUT DON'T YOU LIVE ON A RIVER? YOU CAN JUST SWIM TO SHORE.
WELL NOT REALLY. ENDING UP IN A BIG FAST RIVER CAN BE REALLY DANGEROUS.
ANOTHER PART OF MY PROJECT WAS TO GET EVERYONE IN TOWN TO SIGN THE PLEDGE.

WHAT PLEDGE?

THE PLEDGE TO LIVE.
THEY PROMISED TO ALWAYS WEAR A LIFE JACKET OR FLOAT COAT WHEN THEY ARE ON THE WATER.
PLEDGETOLIVE.ORG
Did you know:
• In Alaska, drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death.
• Alaska has one of the highest non-commercial boating fatality rates in the nation.
• 9 out of 10 boating deaths occur from open boats that are less than 26 feet long.
Please. Don't be a statistic.
I, _____ pledge to always wear my life jacket because:
PLEDGE TO LIVE • WEAR A LIFE JACKET
For more information on safe boating in Alaska, please visit PledgeToLive.org.

THANKS EMBER.
LARS...
THERE ARE 2 PADDLES IN THE BACK OF MY TRUCK, AND A DRY BAG. PUT THEM IN YOUR SKIFF.


AK 1234 GO
AK 1234 GO

LET'S GO OVER THE RULES.

NO STANDING OR LEANING OVER THE SIDE, AND MAKE SURE YOUR LIFE JACKETS ARE ALWAYS FASTENED.

AK 1234 GO

THESE CAN COME IN VERY HANDY. IT'S CALLED A TYPE IV THROWABLE DEVICE, AND THEY ARE LOCATED ON THE SIDES OF THE BOAT.

EVERYONE ATTACH ONE OF THESE WHISTLES TO YOUR LIFE JACKET BEFORE WE LEAVE.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A WAY TO SIGNAL OTHERS IF YOU NEED HELP ON THE WATER.

KIDS DON'T FLOAT LIFE JACKETS DO.

READY?

OK. LET'S GET GOING!

THE TRIP ACROSS THE BAY WAS QUICK BECAUSE THE TIDE AND WIND WERE BEHIND THEM. THE SKIFFS STAYED CLOSE TOGETHER, LARS RIDING THE SMOOTH WATER IN THE V-WAKE OF MR. DAY'S BOAT. BUT IT WAS STILL WINDY.

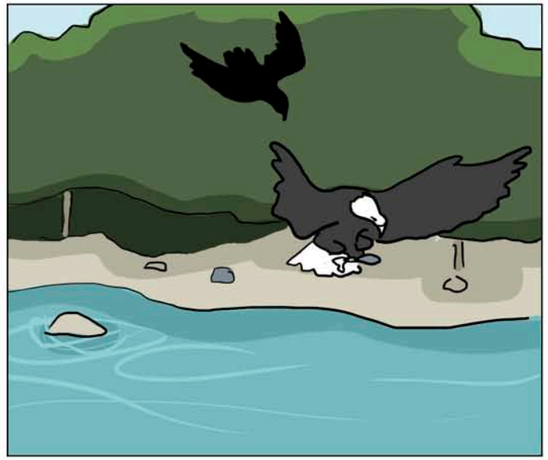


LOOK AN OTTER!

I HAVE NEVER SEEN AN OTTER BEFORE, HOW DO THEY STAY WARM? BLUBBER?

NO, THEY STAY CLEAN. THEY HAVE TWO LAYERS OF HAIR. THE OUTSIDE IS WATERPROOF AS LONG AS IT'S REALLY CLEAN, THEN THERE'S A SUPER DENSE INNER LAYER.

LOOK AT THAT RAVEN CHASING THE BALD EAGLE!



THAT'S WHY THEY CALL 'EM RAVENS - THEY'RE RAVING MAD!

AK 1234 50

CRUNCH!

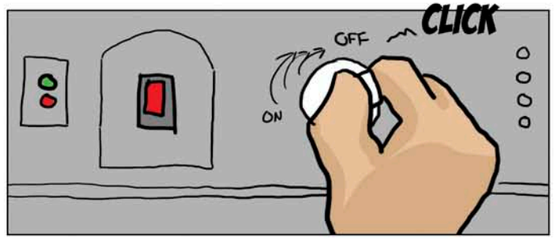
AK 6789 HI

AAAHH!!

LARS AND NICK HIT A LOG, THEY'RE IN THE WATER!

TWEEEEEEET!
MAN OVERBOARD!

GASP!
GASP!
GASP!
GASP!

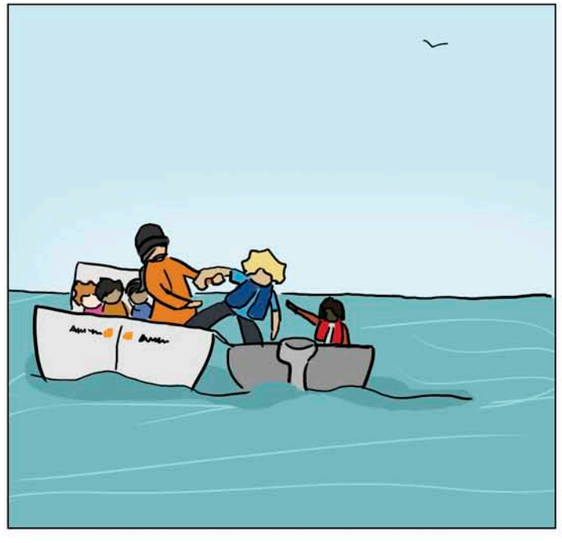

OFF
ON
CLICK

AAAHHHHH!! WE'RE TIPPING!
GRAB ON!

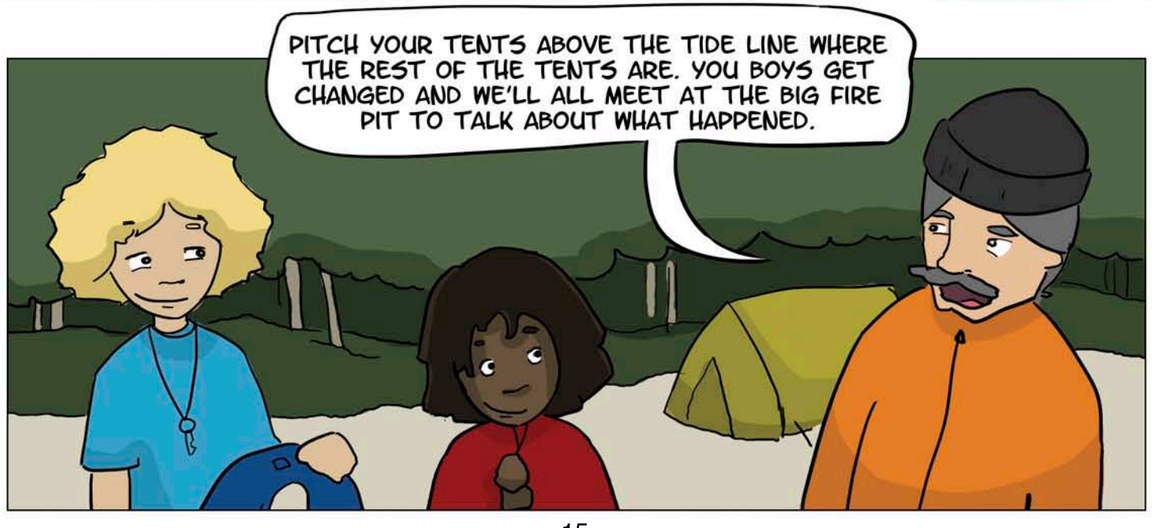
DIMI! MOVE TO THE OTHER SIDE WITH EMBER.

I DIDN'T SEE THE LOG UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE AND THEN IT WAS TOO LATE!

EVERYONE'S OKAY! LET'S GET TO THE CAMP AND GET YOU BOYS DRY.



NOW WHAT?


PITCH YOUR TENTS ABOVE THE TIDE LINE WHERE THE REST OF THE TENTS ARE. YOU BOYS GET CHANGED AND WE'LL ALL MEET AT THE BIG FIRE PIT TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

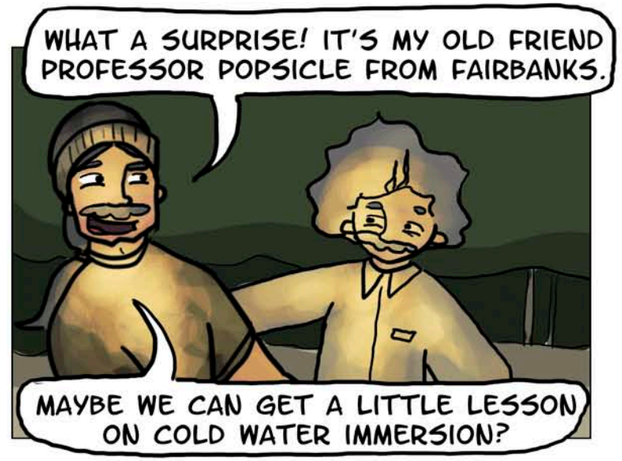
SO, WHAT DID YOU GUYS LEARN TODAY?

THAT IT'S SMART TO KNOW WHERE THE EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT IS... ESPECIALLY THE TYPE IV THROWABLE.

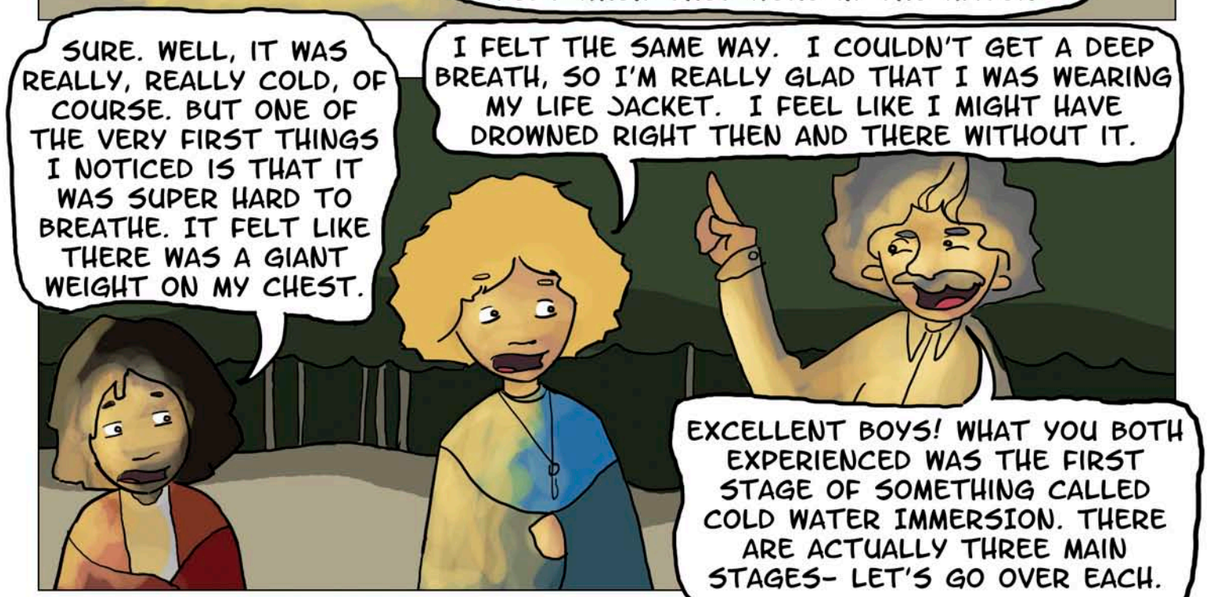
AND THAT THINGS CAN HAPPEN REALLY FAST. I'M REALLY GLAD WE ALL HAD OUR LIFE JACKETS ON, OTHERWISE NICK AND I MIGHT NOT HAVE MADE IT.
I KNOW. THANKS YOU GUYS.
WHEN I HIT THE WATER I COULDN'T BREATHE. IT WAS LIKE A SEA LION WAS SITTING ON MY CHEST.

IT'S CALLED THE GASP REFLEX. IF YOU HAD BEEN UNDERWATER WHEN YOU STARTED GASPING, YOU COULD HAVE SUCKED IN WATER AND POSSIBLY DROWNED. IT'S REALLY GOOD THAT YOU HAD YOUR LIFE JACKET ON.

DID SOMEONE SAY GASP REFLEX?


WHAT A SURPRISE! IT'S MY OLD FRIEND PROFESSOR POPSICLE FROM FAIRBANKS.
MAYBE WE CAN GET A LITTLE LESSON ON COLD WATER IMMERSION?

I'D BE DELIGHTED! YOUR STORY HAS BEEN THE TALK OF THE CAMP AND I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING YOUR DISCUSSION JUST NOW. IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU GUYS HAD QUITE AN EXPERIENCE.
MAYBE NICK AND LARS CAN SHARE HOW THEY FELT WHEN THEY WERE IN THE WATER?


SURE. WELL, IT WAS REALLY, REALLY COLD, OF COURSE. BUT ONE OF THE VERY FIRST THINGS I NOTICED IS THAT IT WAS SUPER HARD TO BREATHE. IT FELT LIKE THERE WAS A GIANT WEIGHT ON MY CHEST.
I FELT THE SAME WAY. I COULDN'T GET A DEEP BREATH, SO I'M REALLY GLAD THAT I WAS WEARING MY LIFE JACKET. I FEEL LIKE I MIGHT HAVE DROWNED RIGHT THEN AND THERE WITHOUT IT.
EXCELLENT BOYS! WHAT YOU BOTH EXPERIENCED WAS THE FIRST STAGE OF SOMETHING CALLED COLD WATER IMMERSION. THERE ARE ACTUALLY THREE MAIN STAGES- LET'S GO OVER EACH.

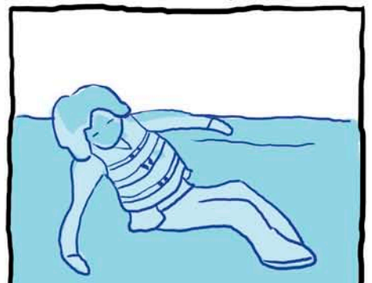
1. Gasp Reflex

1. Within the first 3 minutes
2. Uncontrollable gasping and hyperventilation
3. If not wearing a life jacket, a higher risk of drowning

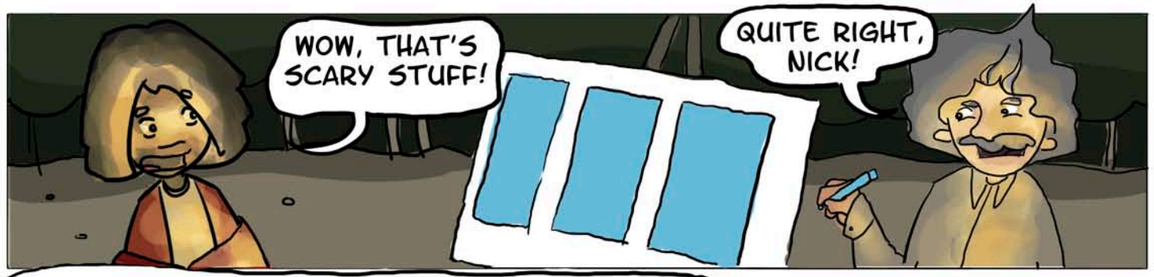
2. Cold Incapacitation

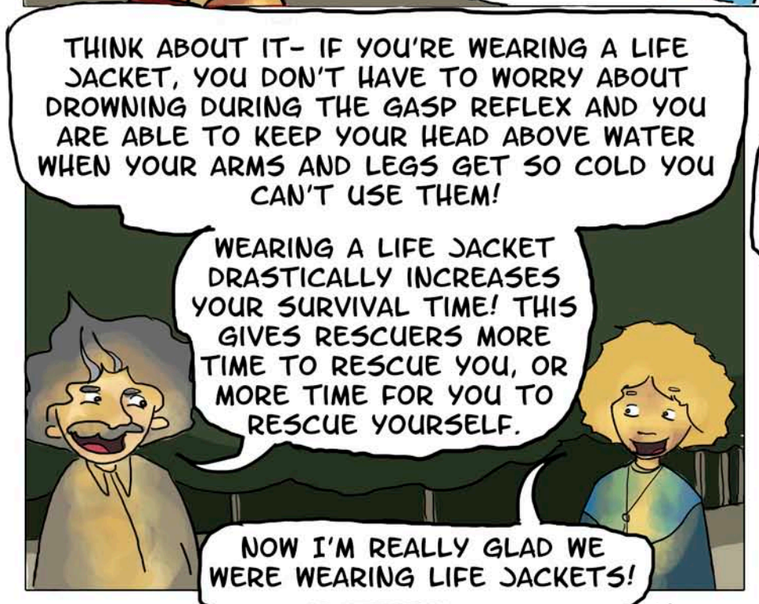
1. Within the first 30 minutes
2. Arms and legs begin to lose sensation and function
3. If not wearing a life jacket, a higher risk of drowning

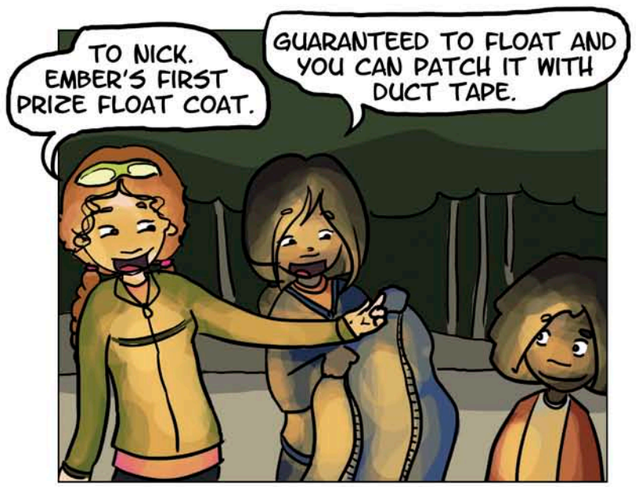
3. Immersion Hypothermia

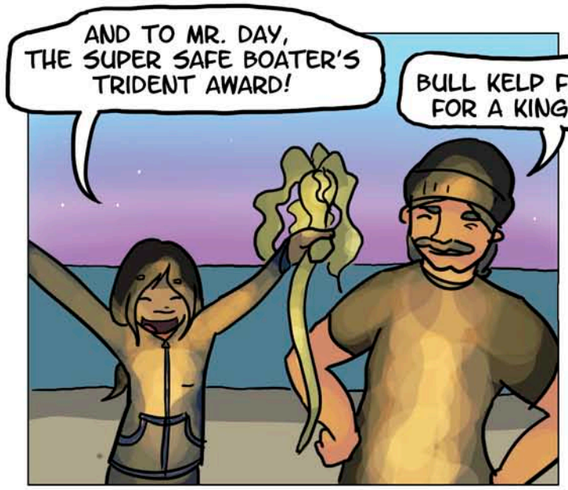


1. After 30 minutes (or more)
2. Gradual drop in body core temperature
3. Wearing a life jacket may increase survival time

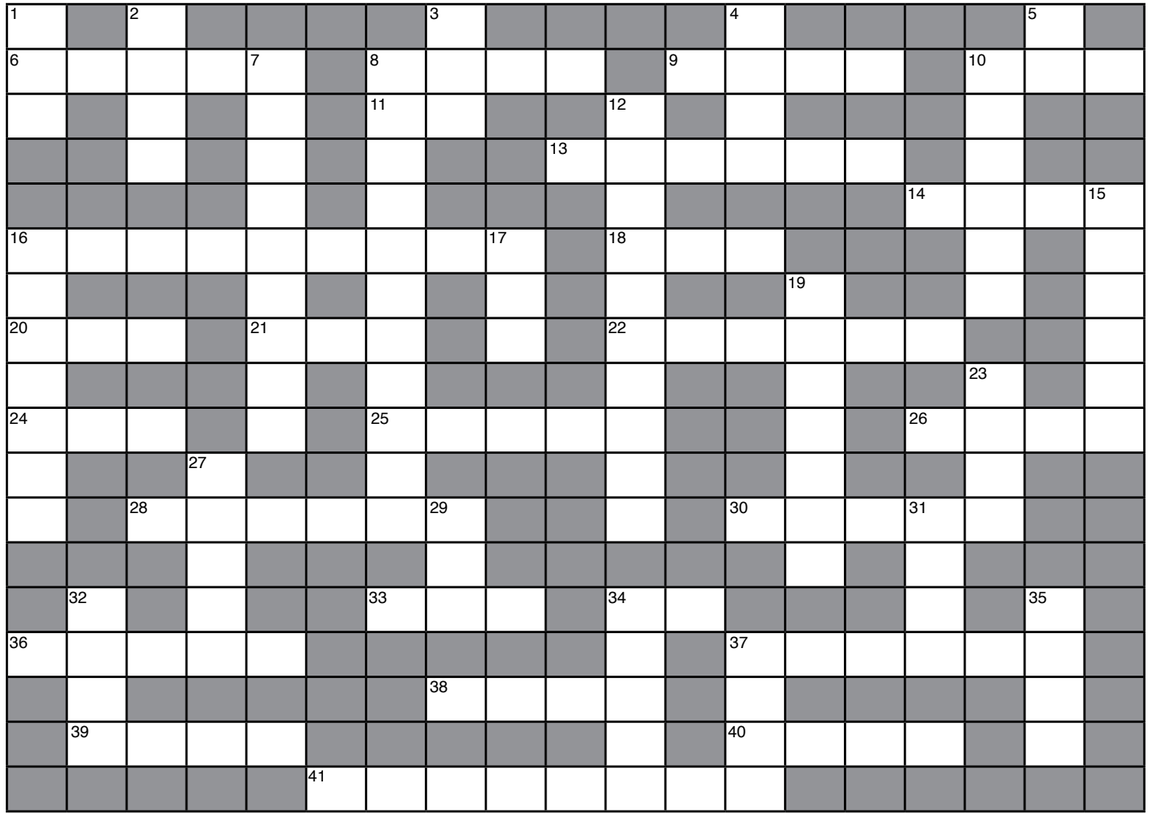




# CROSSWORD
# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF BOATING TERMS!



**ACROSS**

6. Kids Don't _ _ _ _ _.
8. Choose a life jacket that _ _ _ _.
9. To tie-off a boat to a dock or buoy
10. Can limit your visibility on the water
11. A person under 13 is required by law to wear a life jacket when _ _ a boat or on an open deck.
13. _ _ _ _ _ _ for help in an emergency.
14. Signal for _ _ _ _ in an emergency.
16. The #1 threat to Alaska's boaters (two words)
18. The stern is the back _ _ _ of a boat.
20. Along with #16 down, this can help you find your way



**ACROSS (continued)**

21. A person who drinks alcohol and drives a car may be arrested for driving while intoxicated (DWI). If driving a boat, this is called a _ _ _.
22. An important object attached to a boat by chain or rope
24. When a person in a boat is facing toward the stern they are looking _ _ _.
25. Small boat propelled by double bladed paddle
26. Turbulence left by something moving through the water
28. Freedom from danger
30. A signaling device that burns brightly
33. A boat that tows other boats is called a _ _ _.
34. To rescue someone in the water you should reach, throw, row, but never _ _.
36. Small boat paddled by one or more persons
37. When you wear your life jacket, don't forget to _ _ _ _ _ _ up.
38. Motorboats should always carry an extinguisher in case of a _ _ _ _.
39. A rope, when used on a boat, is called a _ _ _ _.
40. Used to row a boat
41. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ is the force that keeps something afloat.

**DOWN**

1. Personal Flotation Device (abb.)
2. Place to moor your boat
3. To use a fire extinguisher, you must first pull the _ _ _.
4. A good life jacket is NOT _ _ _ _.
5. Kids don't float, life jackets _ _.
7. A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ device (type IV) is designed to be tossed to someone in the water.
8. For use in medical emergency (three words)
10. "A life jacket is your best _ _ _ _ _ _."
12. Another name for Personal Floatation Device (two words)
15. An implement having a blade at one or both ends
16. Device used to determine direction of travel
17. To propel a boat with oars
19. Signaling device with a piercing sound
23. Swell or ridge that crests on the surface of the water
27. A wireless transmitter
29. _ _ _ should always wear a life jacket when in a boat.
31. "Don't _ _ _ _ the boat."
32. To remove water from a boat
34. If the buoys on your right are red, the buoys on your left are _ _ _ _ _.
35. "The best life jacket is the one you _ _ _ _."
37. Floating object used to mark something

# BREAK THE CODE
# BOATING SAFETY MESSAGES

1. Count the letters in your first name.
2. Subtract 4 if your name has 6 or more letters.
3. Add 3 if your name has less than 6 letters.

The number you get is your code number. Circle all the letters under your code number to find the message just for you.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| D | T | D | W | D | M | S | E | O | K | O | A | T | N | E |
| 9 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| E | R | O | I | V | A | E | P | A | O | R | S | K | N | L |
| 9 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| F | T | E | I | O | O | Y | V | W | T | R | L | T | E | U |
| 3 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| R | Y | C | Y | A | D | O | A | H | A | E | R | R | N | I |
| 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| A | L | N | A | N | D | K | S | E | U | S | C | A | R | T |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| A | L | E | F | N | W | P | C | R | E | U | P | G | E | O |
| 8 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| L | O | L | P | H | F | V | I | A | N | O | E | Y | Y | G |
| 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| O | L | R | R | F | N | F | A | W | T | R | N | H | H | E |
| 5 | 9 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| N | O | U | M | D | E | L | B | S | O | D | F | I | O | T |
| 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| D | U | F | A | E | T | F | I | E | L | L | N | S | Y | G |



# BOATING SAFETY WORDFIND

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | B | C | L | E | F | G | A | S | P | K | L | N | N | O |
| P | O | R | I | T | U | M | W | T | Y | Z | R | O | T | F |
| H | N | W | F | Q | S | O | V | E | R | L | O | A | D | L |
| Y | D | P | E | R | W | V | B | R | W | Y | O | L | V | O |
| P | G | I | J | N | I | E | X | N | A | L | O | C | M | A |
| O | N | G | A | C | M | R | J | T | F | R | I | O | X | T |
| T | I | Q | C | R | D | B | S | A | C | T | Q | H | H | P |
| H | N | J | K | O | E | O | L | C | T | R | H | O | J | L |
| E | W | F | E | U | C | A | A | B | A | I | S | L | W | A |
| R | O | W | T | G | I | R | N | G | U | P | N | E | S | N |
| M | R | D | D | H | S | D | G | L | I | O | S | J | V | T |
| I | D | H | L | S | I | U | I | A | E | D | W | I | A | R |
| A | M | C | W | E | O | K | S | Q | E | S | U | C | Z | R |
| S | B | A | L | A | N | C | E | B | M | W | S | F | L | E |
| J | S | E | R | E | T | A | W | D | L | O | C | E | A | S |
| T | B | R | Y | R | E | V | O | C | E | R | Y | P | V | C |
| G | E | M | L | E | G | R | O | X | B | H | W | L | D | U |
| U | B | I | N | C | A | P | A | C | I | T | A | T | E | E |

**Find all of the boating-related words below. What does each word mean or refer to?**

GASP
INCAPACITATE
HYPOTHERMIA
LIFE JACKET
BOW
STERN
OVERLOAD
SWIM DECISION
DROWNING
VESSEL
ROUGH SEA
TRIPOD
SIGNAL
STAY
AFLOAT
DROWNING
REACH
THROW
ROW
BALANCE
NO ALCOHOL
COLD WATER
RESCUE
RECOVERY
OVERBOARD
FLOAT PLAN
CAPSIZE

*HINT: Words can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.*

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE! KIDS DON'T FLOAT QUIZ

Circle the BEST answer

1. Why should everyone wear a life jacket when in an open boat or on an open deck?
   a. they are Coast Guard approved
   b. they keep your head above water if you fall in
   c. they keep you from falling overboard
   d. it is the law

2. What is an example of a risky behavior when boating?
   a. water skiing
   b. fishing
   c. wearing your life jacket
   d. standing up while the boat is moving

3. The manufacturer's label on a life jacket provides what kind of information?
   a. the price and where it was purchased
   b. if it glows in the dark
   c. who the jacket belongs to
   d. the types of activities it is approved for

4. What is the best life jacket?
   a. the one that fits
   b. the newest one
   c. an inflatable
   d. a Type III

5. What does "serviceable condition" mean as it relates to life jackets?
   a. that the expiration date has not passed
   b. it is free of serious damage and all buckles work
   c. it has plenty of pockets
   d. that it is Coast Guard approved

6. Alaska law requires that a person under what age must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket when in an open boat or on an open deck?
   a. 11
   b. 12
   c. 13
   d. 14

7. What is one way to prevent falling into cold water?
   a. wearing a life jacket
   b. being able to swim
   c. wearing warm clothing and eating a good meal
   d. practicing safe behaviors while boating



# KIDS DON'T FLOAT QUIZ (CONTINUED)

8. What is one way cold water immersion can kill?
   a. frostbite
   b. gasp reflex
   c. broken bones
   d. impaled objects

9. What is one way a life jacket can help when experiencing cold water immersion?
   a. keeps your head above the water
   b. keeps you comfortable
   c. stops heat loss
   d. keeps you dry

10. What is an example of a safe behavior when boating?
    a. reaching overboard for an object
    b. riding on the bow of the boat
    c. seating everyone on the same side
    d. sitting and keeping the boat balanced

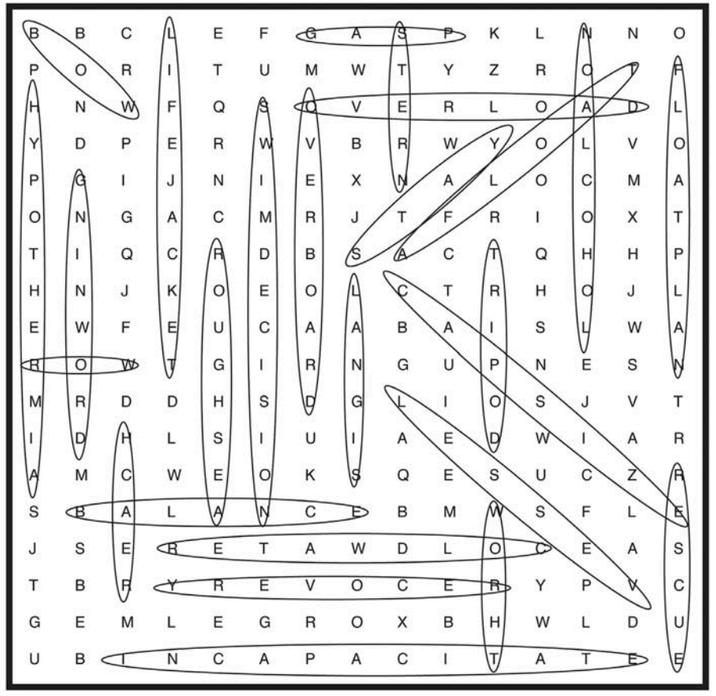
# ANSWER KEY

Crossword Answers

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 P | | 2 D | | | | | 3 P | | | | | 4 T | | | | | 5 D | | |
| 6 F | L | O | A | 7 T | | 8 F | I | T | S | | 9 M | O | O | R | | 10 F | O | G | |
| D | | C | | H | | 11 I | N | | | 12 L | | R | | | | R | | | |
| | | K | | R | | R | | | 13 S | I | G | N | A | L | | I | | | |
| | | | | O | | S | | | | F | | | | | 14 H | E | L | 15 P | |
| 16 C | O | L | D | W | A | T | E | 17 R | | 18 E | N | D | | | | N | | A | |
| O | | | | A | | A | | O | | J | | | 19 W | | | D | | D | |
| 20 M | A | P | | 21 B | W | I | | W | | 22 A | N | C | H | O | R | | | D | |
| P | | | | L | | D | | | | C | | | I | | | 23 W | | L | |
| 24 A | F | T | | E | | 25 K | A | Y | A | K | | | S | | 26 W | A | K | E | |
| S | | | 27 R | | | I | | | | E | | | T | | | V | | | |
| S | | 28 S | A | F | E | T | 29 Y | | | T | | 30 F | L | A | 31 R | E | | | |
| | | | D | | | | O | | | | | | E | | O | | | | |
| | 32 B | | I | | | 33 T | U | G | | 34 G | O | | | | C | | 35 W | | |
| 36 C | A | N | O | E | | | | | | R | | 37 B | U | C | K | L | E | | |
| | I | | | | | | 38 F | I | R | E | | U | | | | | A | | |
| | 39 L | I | N | E | | | | | | E | | 40 O | A | R | S | | R | | |
| | | | | | 41 B | U | O | Y | A | N | C | Y | | | | | | | |

Quiz Answers: 1) B, 2) D, 3) D, 4) A, 5) B, 6) C, 7) D, 8) B, 9) A, 10) D

Wordfind Answers



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