

# Recreation Role Plays

Participants are introduced to the principles of Tread Lightly! through a guessing game. Next, students take a closer look at the principle Respect the Rights of Others by looking at scenarios that require their new-found knowledge to figure out the responsible solution to different scenarios. Wrap up the lesson with Tread Lightly! beach ball!

**Grade Level:** 4th

## Objectives:

- Students will be able to list at least three of the five Tread Lightly! principles and two ways to follow each of them.
- Students will be able to make responsible outdoor decisions.

## Materials:

- What Principle Am I? sheet
- Tread Lightly! principle signs
- Role Play scenarios
- Tread Lightly! beach ball

## Appendixes:

- What Principle Am I? sheet: Page 4
- Role Play scenario cards: Pages 5-6
- Tread Lightly! beach ball questions: Pages 7-8

## Time Considerations:

Preparations: 15 minutes

Lesson Time: 40-60 minutes

*Introduction: 5 minutes*

*Activity 1: 5-10 minutes*

*Activity 2: 15-30 minutes*

*Activity 3: 10 minutes*

*Conclusion: 5 minutes*

## Related Activities:

Tread Monster, Tread Lightly! Memory, Trash Timeline, Are You Prepared?, Stop the Invasion!



## Nevada Department of Education Standards

### Health - Self Management

**7.5.6** - Assess safe/unsafe situations and practices

## Excellence in Environmental Education Guidelines

### Strand 2.4 - Environment and Society

**A)** Learners understand that human-caused changes have consequences for the immediate environment as well as for other places and future times.

### Strand 4 - Personal and Civic Responsibility

**B)** Learners understand the basic rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

**D)** Learners understand that they have responsibility for the effects of their actions.

### This lesson has been adapted from:

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. (2007). What principle am I and Beach ball. In

*Leave no trace 101: 101 ways to teach leave no trace* (pp. 9 and 27).

Tread Lightly!, Inc. (1995). Recreation role plays. In *As the trail turns: Explorations in land ethics* (20-22).

## Background

### Tread Lightly! principles:

#### Travel Responsibly

- Stay on designated trails and areas
- Go over, not around, obstacles
- Cross streams at designated fords
- Avoid wet, muddy trails when possible

#### Respect the Rights of Others

- Share the trail with other recreational users so they can enjoy their activities undisturbed
- If you're crossing private property get permission
- Leave gates as you found them

- Yield the right of way to those passing you or traveling uphill

#### Educate Yourself

- Have a map of the area so you won't get lost
- Find out the regulations of the public lands you're visiting
- Know how to operate your equipment safely

#### Avoid Sensitive Areas

- such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams
- Respect wildlife and their habitat
- Avoid disturbing historical or archeological sites

#### Do Your Part

- Model appropriate behavior

- . Leave the area better than you found it
- . Properly dispose of waste
- . Minimize use of fire
- . Avoid spreading invasives
- . Restore degraded areas

## Preparations

Tread Lightly! beach ball is best played outside, but can be done inside if necessary.

If you have a rowdy group don't have them keep the ball aloft before catching it, just have them catch the ball each time and read a question or task.

If you're going to be short on time, cut out Tread Lightly! beach ball.

## Doing the Activity

### Introduction:

After Introducing yourself ask students how many like to hike? ride ATVs? Camp? Fish?...be outside? Hopefully everyone raises their hand by the end. Tell the students that it's great that they like to be outside, because what we're going to talk about pertains to them.

Ask students if anyone has heard of Tread Lightly! before. If so, have the student share with the class what Tread Lightly! means to them. (responsible outdoor recreation)

Tell them that today we're going to learn about the principles of Tread Lightly!, through a guessing game. Then we're going to put that knowledge to use by looking at different scenarios and finding

responsible solutions for them. Last, we're going to wrap up the lesson with a fun Tread Lightly! beach ball game!

### Activity 1: What Principle Am I?

Post the principle signs on the board in the correct order. Tell students that you will read a number of situations and they will have to guess which principle your statements match.

Tell them not to yell out the answer when they think they have it though, simply put their finger on their nose. When most or all of the students have their fingers on their noses, ask for the answer.

Tell them now that they know all the principles, you're going to put their new Tread Lightly! wisdom to use with a few scenarios.

### Activity 2: Recreation Role Plays

Tell students you're going to break them into groups (four or five in each) and have all the groups look at each scenario at the same time. As a group they need to think of the responsible decision. Remember -Tread Lightly!. Then we'll come back together as a class and see what they came up with.

Be sure to go over the helmet scenario and the gate scenario. Cover the other three as time allows.

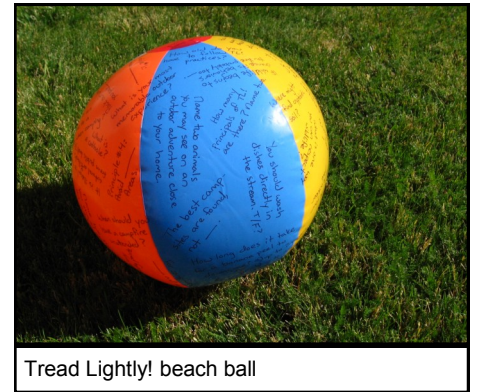
Give groups a chance to decide their response, visit each group and make sure they know why they came to that decision.

After everyone is ready have a group read the scenario, what they decided to do and why. Then ask the rest of the class if they agree. Why or why not?

Make sure a responsible decision is reached at the end of each scenario. Collect all materials before next activity.

### Activity 3: TL! Beach Ball

Tell students you have a fun game to end the lesson with. Have the group form a circle and tell them you're going to see what they remember.



Show the students the Tread Lightly! beach ball. Tell them that there are some questions and some tasks related to Tread Lightly! on the ball.

The goal is to keep the ball aloft for three bounces. On the third bounce, the person who would have bounced the ball will catch it. The person will read the question or task that their right index finger is touching and answer it or complete the task. If that item was already done, have them spin the ball and try again.

## Conclusion

Thank the students for having you in their classroom. Hopefully they learned a bit and that by treading lightly we can take care of the outdoors so that it stays as beautiful as, if not even more beautiful, as when we found it.

## Assessment

Note if students come up with the correct answers for the scenarios during Recreation Role Plays. Also, informally evaluate participants' knowledge by noting how students answer questions and complete tasks during Tread Lightly! Beach Ball.

## Extensions

### **Recreation Role Plays Extension**

When you give students the scenario cards also give them the principle signs and tell them to hold on to them for later. Note you can print smaller versions of the principle signs to save on paper.

After you discuss the responsible decision have groups decide what principle that scenario falls under. After the decision is reached have the group hold up the principle sign they think matches the scenario:

- . Helmet - Educate Yourself
- . Gate - Respect the Rights of Others
- . Horse riders - Respect the Rights of Others

## Sources

- Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. (2007). What principle am I and Beach ball. In *Leave no trace 101: 101 ways to teach leave no trace* (pp. 9 and 27).
- Tread Lightly!, Inc. (1995). Recreation role plays. In *As the trail turns: Explorations in land ethics* (20-22).

- . Switch backs - Travel Responsibly
- . Invasives - Do Your Part
- . Meadow - Avoid Sensitive Areas

## Vocabulary

**ATV:** all-terrain vehicle

**OHV:** off-highway vehicle

**Cryptobiotic Soil:** This crust consisting of tiny communities of living organisms is found in desert environments and is extremely vulnerable to foot traffic. It can take more than 250 years for this living soil to fully recover. In a nutshell - living soil that can be destroyed by one footprint.

**Invasive Species:** a non-native species that takes over native species' habitats

## What Principle Am I?

- . I leave areas better than I found them
- . I dispose of my waste properly
- . I minimize use of fire
- . I avoid spreading invasive species by washing my equipment after every ride
- . **Do Your Part**
  
- . I share the trail with other users
- . I leave gates as I find them
- . I don't yell or make loud noises
- . I yield the right of way to those passing or traveling uphill
- . **Respect the Rights of Others**
  
- . I stay out of meadows, wetlands and streams
- . I respect wildlife and their habitat
- . I leave arrowheads where I find them
- . I never feed, follow or chase wildlife
- . **Avoid Sensitive Areas**
  
- . I stay on the trail
- . I cross streams at designated fording areas
- . I go over, not around, obstacles
- . I avoid wet, muddy trails when possible
- . **Travel Responsibly**
  
- . I learned about the area I was going before I went
- . I am prepared with food, water and extra clothes
- . I have a map so I won't get lost
- . I wear a helmet
- . **Educate Yourself**

You head out on a trail with your friends for the day. You get back late in the day. You remember that you heard somewhere that to avoid the spread of invasive species you should wash your bike. It's getting late and you are tired from the long day. What should you do?

- ◆ What do you think happens if invasive species spread to a new area?
- ◆ Do you wash your bike now?
- ◆ You're going out on another trail the next day, you could wash your bike after that ride. Do you do that instead?
- ◆ Why?

You and your friend asked permission to ride OHVs on your neighbor's pasture, which passes through public land. You have ridden there before and are familiar with the land. You come to a closed gate. Your friend says, "Let's leave it open, we'll be back this way in an hour." You know your neighbor raises cattle but you don't see any nearby. What should you do?

- ◆ Why do you think the gate was closed?
- ◆ Do you listen to your friend and leave the gate open?
- ◆ Do you close the gate even though you don't see any cattle nearby?
- ◆ Why?

You and three other friends are riding your OHVs on a new trail on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. You see a meadow you would like to explore, but the trail doesn't go that way. What should your group do?

- ◆ Do you ride your OHVs through the meadow?
- ◆ Do you leave your OHVs on the edge and walk through the meadow single-file to minimize impact?
- ◆ Do you walk through the meadow spread out to minimize impact?
- ◆ Do you walk around the edge of the meadow instead?
- ◆ Why?

You are out riding your dirt bike and turn a corner and suddenly find yourself face to face with a group of four horse riders. The horses are scared and backing up quickly, appearing out of control. What should you do?

- ◆ Do you drive quickly past them to get out of the way?
- ◆ Do you pull to the side of the trail and shut off your engine? Why?
- ◆ Do you pull to the uphill or downhill side of the trail? Why?
- ◆ Do you take off your helmet? Why?

You and a few friends are out riding OHVs. One of your friends forgot their helmet at home. What do you do?

- ◆ What could happen if your friend rides without their helmet?
- ◆ Do you go for a ride all together and just be extra careful?
- ◆ Do you take turns riding so everyone riding has a helmet?
- ◆ What other kind of safety gear should you wear?
- ◆ Why?

You are traveling along a steep trail. There are many switch backs winding up the hill. You see a faint trail that goes straight up the hill, there are rocks blocking the entrance to the trail. What should you do?

- ◆ Why do you think the trail that went straight up the hill was blocked off?
- ◆ Do you travel around the boulders and save time by traveling straight up the hill?
- ◆ Do you continue traveling up the switch backs?
- ◆ What could happen if visitors keep using the closed trail?
- ◆ Why?

## Tread Lightly! beach ball questions and tasks

- Principle #1: Travel \_\_\_\_\_ (responsibly)
- Tell a friend/classmate a cool fact about TL!
- Write a short poem/story about respecting the rights of others.
- Name one land management agency.
- How old do you have to be to follow TL! practices? (any age)
- Principle #2: \_\_\_\_\_ the Rights of Others (respect)
- How many feet away from water should you camp and dig catholes? (200 ft)
- Drive \_\_\_\_\_, not around obstacles to avoid widening the trail. (over)
- Principle #3: \_\_\_\_\_ Yourself (educate)
- Is snow a durable surface? Why? (yes, the effect of travel is temporary if there's enough depth to prevent vegetation damage)
- Name one way you can minimize your campfire impacts?
- What is your outdoor ethic?
- What does TL! stand for? (Tread Lightly!)
- What is your most memorable outdoor experience?
- Name one sponsor of TL! (Jeep, Yamaha, Polaris, Honda, Google, BLM, Goodyear, etc)
- If wildlife begins to change its behaviors you are probably too \_\_\_\_\_. (close)
- Pack \_\_\_\_\_ what you pack \_\_\_\_\_. (out/in)
- How long does it take for a glass bottle to decompose? a) 100 years b) 1,000 years c) 100,000 years d) 1,000,000 years (d)
- Principle #4: Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ Areas (sensitive)
- Name two animals you may see on an outdoor adventure close to your home?
- What is an alternative to a campfire when camping?
- How many principles of TL! are there? Name two?
- Why is it important to TL! when enjoying the outdoors?
- What are two things you should always bring with you on an outdoor adventure?
- What is a cathole? (a means of waste disposal)
- Principle #5: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Part (do)
- It is illegal to take cultural artifacts from public lands: T/F? (true)
- What is a non-durable surface: gravel or native grasses? (native grasses)
- Why should you leave what you find?
- How deep should you dig a cathole? (six to eight inches)
- Where might you find cryptobiotic soil? (desert environments)
- You should wash your dishes directly in a stream: T/F? (false)
- Snow and ice are durable surfaces: T/F? (true)
- The best campsites are found, not \_\_\_\_\_? (made)
- Continued...

## Tread Lightly! beach ball questions and tasks continued...

- What is one way you can respect wildlife?
- When should you leave a campfire unattended? (never!)
- Do a TL! cheer!
- Show us your TL! boogie!
- What is cryptobiotic soil? (living soil that can be destroyed by one footstep)
- Dig a cathole to the best of your ability.
- Describe your favorite outdoor place.
- What's your biggest TL! pet peeve?
- What is your favorite outdoor activity? Why?
- How long does it take for a banana peel to decompose? a) up to 2 years b) up to 3 years c) up to 4 years d) up to 5 years (a)
- For campfires use \_\_\_\_\_ and down wood. (dead)
- Name two things you should do before an outdoor adventure.
- Why is it bad to feed wildlife?
- You are supposed to pack out toilet paper: T/F? (true)
- TL! is just for OHV Riders: T/F? (false)
- Cross streams only at \_\_\_\_\_ fording points. (designated)
- \_\_\_\_\_ gates as you find them. (leave)
- Yield the right-of-way to those passing you or traveling uphill: T/F? (true)
- Keep the noise and dust \_\_\_\_\_. (down)
- Name five things you should wear while riding an OHV. (helmet, eye protection, long pants, long sleeves and gloves)
- What should you do after a ride to avoid the spread of invasive species? (wash your OHV)
- Why is it important to stay on designated trails?
- What should you check on your ATV before a ride?
- When is it ok to have two people on an ATV? (When it is designed for two people)
- How do you walk through a meadow that doesn't have a trail? a) single-file b) spread out (b)