## What’s Your Sign Activity

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<tr>
<th>Created by:</th>
<th>Linda McKie</th>
<th>Time Required:</th>
<th>45 minutes, or 3, 15 minute lessons</th>
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<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Grade Level:</td>
<td>5th</td>
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### Overview

This lesson is ideal for three brief mini lessons for an after school enrichment program, or a homeroom program. Students will watch a video about ranchers and guard dogs, and look at actual signs they may see on Idaho’s rangelands. Students will play “Rangeland basketball” and make a drawing to discuss what they have learned.

### Goal(s) & Objective(s)

Students will recognize the importance of obeying signs to maintaining good relationships on public and private land. Students will recognize that disobeying signs leads to realistic, negative consequences.

### Materials

- Student computers, or computer with projector for whole class
- CARE/SHARE POSTERS (or copies)
- Copies of Student Note Guide
- 2 wastebaskets (hoops) and basketballs (constructed of wadded up paper with a couple strips of tape wrapped around them.
- Drawing paper

### Teaching Activities: Instructional Approaches/Strategies

**Introduction:**
Display CARE/SHARE posters and have students read them aloud. As part of your regular DOL or other journaling activity, have students answer the question “What would you do and how would you feel if you saw the “Guard Dogs on Duty” Sign? Do you have a dog? How do you think guard dogs would respond to your pet dog on or off of a leash?” Pair up with another student in class and discuss your response.

**Procedures:**
1. Hand out student note guide to all students.
2. Give students 3-4 minutes to read the note guide aloud with a partner or small group.
3. Explain to students that it is always a good idea to take notes during an instructional video to be able to recall facts later on. Please use the note guide during this video.
4. Play videos for students - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GPPtHTj8tY&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GPPtHTj8tY&feature=youtu.be)
5. In groups of four allow students time to confer and complete the study guide together.
6. Display the completed note guide on the overhead for students to correct.
7. Play “Rangeland Basketball”.

www.idrange.org
<table>
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<th>Divide class into two teams.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Use 2 wastebaskets for hoops and basketballs made of wadded up paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher uses the student note guide to ask questions (and reinforce today’s lesson) for each student.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Each correct answer gives that student the opportunity to shoot a basket.</td>
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<td>Basket scores 2 points.</td>
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**Closing:**
Discuss as a class – did you learn information that might be useful to you when you are out recreating this summer? What was most useful? What are some benefits of obeying signs? What could happen if you didn’t obey each of the signs from the beginning of class?

**Assessment:**
Pass out blank sheets of drawing paper and have students get out colored pencils or crayons. Display the signs again from the beginning of class. Have students choose one sign to focus on. Tell students they have 15 minutes (possibly with a partner) to make a drawing showing what might happen if someone did/did not obey a specific sign. Student drawings should show that disobeying signs leads to realistic negative consequences.

**Background:** Multiple use is an important current issue regarding public lands. Ranchers pay fees to use the land, yet recreationists still have the ability to use the same land within established rules. This is a workable situation, yet it takes effort and patience from both groups.
Many public and private land areas have signs posted in order to inform the public about appropriate land use. Without understanding the purpose of these signs, it is tempting for people to ignore them. Obeying signs shows good stewardship, is important for multiple use land management, and promotes good relationships between different groups that use Idaho’s rangelands.

**Preparation:** Before the lesson, print, display, or make an overhead of the CARE/SHARE posters. Print student note guides and make “basketballs”. Have paper and colored pencils/crayons available.

**Expansions and Modifications:** If available, find a landowner within walking distance who has a wire gate. Ask permission to have students practice opening/closing the gate. Take students on a brief field trip to the area to practice (could be combined with a GPS or plant identification outdoor trip).

**Attachments:**
What’s Your Sign? Worksheet & Key
1. Government agencies issue ranchers __________ to graze livestock on public rangelands.

2. Ranchers pay fees and must comply with many ___________, regulations, and polices.

3. Many ranchers use ______________ systems where cattle graze in some areas, but not in others to allow grasses and shrubs to grow and reproduce.

4. Another management plan is resting ______________ during growing seasons until plants have completely gone back to seed.

5. ___________ and ___________ are critical tools to keep cattle out of areas that are resting and rejuvenating.

6. Also, ___________ and ___________ have three very important purposes to rangeland animals: help maintain, manage, and improve wildlife habitat.

7. Two keys to closing a wire gate:
   - Make sure the __________ loop is parallel with the ground and then set the bottom post in the loop looking back to see there are no kinks in the gate.
   - Use your ___________ for leverage to slip the wire loop over the top of the post

8. A ________________ bar is used to help you to close the gate.

9. If the gate is hanging on the fence, leave the gate ____________.

10. If the gate is laying in the road, ____________ the gate.

11. There is plenty of room on Idaho’s rangelands for all of us if we take care of the land and treat each other with _____________.

12. Guard dogs are ________________ or Akbash that are bred and trained to protect livestock and take their jobs very seriously.

13. When encountering sheep or cattle on a trail or road, it is best if you take care to slowly make your presence known which gives ___________ dogs the chance to recognize you as no threat.

14. Obey _______ signs.

15. Close ________.


17. Take responsibility and protect the privilege of recreation on private land. Report ______________.

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**What’s Your Sign?**

What’s Your Sign3
1. Government agencies issue ranchers **permits** to graze livestock on public rangelands.

2. Ranchers pay fees and must comply with many **laws**, regulations, and polices.

3. Many ranchers use **grazing** systems where cattle graze in some areas, but not in others to allow grasses and shrubs to grow and reproduce.

4. Another management plan is resting **pastures** during growing seasons until plants have completely gone back to seed.

5. **Gates** and **fences** are critical tools to keep cattle out of areas that are resting and rejuvenating.

6. Again, **gates** and **fences** have three very important purposes to rangeland animals: help maintain, manage, and improve wildlife habitat.

7. Two keys to closing a wire gate:
   - Make sure the **bottom** loop is parallel with the ground and then set the bottom post in the loop looking back to see there are no kinks in the gate.
   - Use your **shoulder** for leverage to slip the wire loop over the top of the post.

8. A **cheater** bar is used to help you to close the gate.

9. If the gate is hanging on the fence, leave the gate **open**.

10. If the gate is laying in the road, **close** the gate.

11. There is plenty of room on Idaho’s rangelands for all of us if we take care of the land and treat each other with **respect**.

12. Guard dogs are **Pyrenees** or Akbash that are bred and trained to protect livestock and take their jobs very seriously.

13. When encountering sheep or cattle on a trail or road, it is best if you take care to slowly make your presence known which gives **guard** dogs the chance to recognize you as no threat.

14. Obey **posted** signs.

15. Close **gates**.

16. Pack your **garbage** out.

17. Take responsibility and protect the privilege of recreation on private land. Report **abusers**.
FENCES DO NOT INDICATE OWNERSHIP BOUNDARIES.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS ARE INTERMIXED. CHECK A MAP TO DETERMINE IF YOU ARE ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE LAND.

CONTACT

PLEASE TREAT ALL LANDS WITH CARE.

CARE SHARE
FOR IDAHO’S RANGELANDS THEM RESPECTFULLY WITH OTHERS
Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission / www.idahorange.org
208-398-7002
SHEEP GRAZING IN AREA

Guard Dogs on Duty to Protect Sheep from Predators

PLEASE KEEP PETS UNDER CONTROL TO HELP AVOID CONFRONTATIONS

CONTACT

CARESHARE

For Idaho's Rangelands Them Respectfully with Others

Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission / www.idahorange.org
PRIVATE PROPERTY

TEMPORARY ACCESS COURTESY OF LAND OWNER

Travel Off Existing Trails and Roads is TRESPASSING

CONTACT

CARESHARE

For Idaho’s Rangelands
Them Respectfully with Others

Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission / www.idshare.org
YOU ARE IN A MANAGED GRAZING AREA

PLEASE KEEP GATES CLOSED BETWEEN

To Keep Cattle in Proper Pastures and Allow Resting Areas to Rejuvenate

CONTACT

CARE SHARE

For Idaho's Rangelands Them Respectfully with Others

Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission / www.idsrange.org