



## What's Your Sign Activity

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| <b>Created by:</b> Linda McKie | <b>Time Required:</b> 45 minutes, or 3, 15 minute lessons |
| <b>Subject:</b> Social Studies | <b>Grade Level:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup>                       |

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| <b>Overview</b>   | <b>This lesson is ideal for three brief mini lessons for an after school enrichment program, or a homeroom program.</b> 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.   |
| <b>Goal(s) &amp; Objective(s)</b>   | 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.  |
| <b>Materials</b>  | Student computers, or computer with projector for whole class<br>CARE/SHARE POSTERS (or copies)<br>Copies of Student Note Guide<br>2 wastebaskets (hoops) and basketballs (constructed of wadded up paper with a couple strips of tape wrapped around them).<br>Drawing paper   |
| <b>Teaching Activities:</b><br><i>Instructional Approaches/Strategies</i> | <p><b>Introduction:</b><br/>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.</p> <p><b>Procedures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hand out student note guide to all students.</li> <li>2. Give students 3-4 minutes to read the note guide aloud with a partner or small group.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>4. Play videos for students - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GPPtHTj8tY&amp;feature=youtu.be">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GPPtHTj8tY&amp;feature=youtu.be</a></li> <li>5. In groups of four allow students time to confer and complete the study guide together.</li> <li>6. Display the completed note guide on the overhead for students to correct.</li> <li>7. Play "Rangeland Basketball".</li> </ol> |

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|                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divide class into two teams.</li> <li>• Use 2 wastebaskets for hoops and basketballs made of wadded up paper</li> <li>• Teacher uses the student note guide to ask questions (and reinforce today's lesson) for each student.</li> <li>• Each correct answer gives that student the opportunity to shoot a basket.</li> <li>• Basket scores 2 points.</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing:</b><br/>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?</p> |
| <b>Assessment:</b> | 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

*What's Your Sign?*

What's Your Sign2

## Student Note Guide

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 \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Pack your \_\_\_\_\_ out.
17. Take responsibility and protect the privilege of recreation on private land. Report \_\_\_\_\_.

***What's Your Sign?***

What's Your Sign3

## Student Note Guide Answer Sheet

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](http://www.idahorange.org)  
208-398-7002

What's Your Sign5

[www.idrange.org](http://www.idrange.org)

# SHEEP GRAZING IN AREA

Guard Dogs on Duty  
to Protect Sheep  
from Predators

PLEASE KEEP PETS UNDER  
CONTROL  
TO HELP AVOID  
CONFRONTATIONS

CONTACT



# PRIVATE PROPERTY

TEMPORARY ACCESS  
COURTESY OF  
LAND OWNER

Travel Off Existing Trails  
and Roads is  
**TRESPASSING**

CONTACT



**YOU ARE IN A  
MANAGED  
GRAZING  
AREA**

**PLEASE KEEP GATES CLOSED  
BETWEEN**

[Blank white box for date]

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

[Blank white box for location]

**CONTACT**

