Where’s Your Life Jacket?

Name: _________________________________

Circle all the life jackets or personal flotation devices in the picture. Put an X on the people who are not doing the safe thing.
Name:__________________________________________________________

Read each scenario below and think about if you agree or disagree with the decision. Write why you agree or disagree.

1. After boating all morning, Jim and Elaine decide to put the anchor down. They see an island that is a short distance away. They decide to swim over to explore. They leave their life jackets on the boat.

   Jim and Elaine should wear their life jackets. They do not know how cold or how deep the water is. They do not know if there is a current.

2. Kaitlyn and Ashley are kayaking on a river with their scout troop. They both have life jackets in the kayak, but they are not wearing them. Both are very strong kayakers and very good swimmers.

   Kaitlyn and Ashley should wear their life jackets. If something unexpected happens and they fall out of the kayak, the life jackets will not do them any good.

3. Jesse and Mark want to fish from the end of the dock. The water is deep—over the boys’ heads, but there are more fish there than at the shoreline. Neither boy can swim very well. They agree that they won’t go in the water; they will just fish from the dock. They leave their life jackets at the shoreline.

   Jesse and Mark should wear their life jackets. They could lose their balance and fall into the water while fishing.
Life Jackets

Find the hidden words listed below. They describe things about life jackets and flotation devices. The words can run across or down.

Word List

- buoyant
- device
- flotation aid
- life jacket
- near shore
- off shore
- ring buoy
- seat cushion
- special use
- throwable
- vest

Name: ________________________________
Read the label in the life jacket and read the description of the life jacket. The important things to note are the type of life jacket, the intended use, whether it is approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, and the weight and chest size of the user.

Answer the questions that follow by circling Yes or No for each question.

Flotation Aid (Type III): Used for general boating in calm, inland waters and for the special activity that is marked on the label, such as water skiing. A person may have to tilt his or her head back to keep his or her face out of the water.

1. Is this life jacket approved by the U.S. Coast Guard? Yes No
2. Should an adult who weighs 120 pounds wear this life jacket? Yes No
3. Should this life jacket be worn for deep-sea fishing? Yes No
4. Should this life jacket be used for whitewater rafting on a river? Yes No
5. Would this life jacket be acceptable on a motorboat on a lake? Yes No
6. Should a child who weighs 50 pounds wear this life jacket? Yes No
7. Would this life jacket be acceptable for canoeing on a lake? Yes No
8. Would this life jacket be acceptable for water skiing? Yes No
9. Would this life jacket be acceptable for sailing in the ocean? Yes No
10. Would this life jacket be acceptable for use at a community pool? Yes No