Signs on the JOIDES Resolution
Interpreting Safety Signs at Sea

Summary
Students will learn about safety signs posted around the JOIDES Resolution, discuss their meaning and their significance onboard the JR, and use these signs for a variety of creative thinking activities.

Learning Objectives
Students will be able to:
• Identify safety signs and symbols seen on the JR
• Use these symbols for matching, creative writing, critical thinking, or drawing

National Science Education Standards
Standard E: Science and Technology
Standard F. Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

Time: One class period

Target Age: K–4, 5–8

Materials
• Signs on the JR Image Cards
• Scissors
• Optional: cardboard or laminator
• Drawing paper

Background
The JOIDES Resolution is a research ship operated by the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program, an international program that organizes offshore scientific drilling operations. There are certain safety practices that go along with being on a drilling vessel, and communication of these practices to all who are on board is essential for a safe, incident-free voyage. Also, as with any ship, emergencies can happen and when they do, everyone needs to get help as fast as they can. The crew of the JR, like that of many large ships, is made up of people from many different countries, who speak many different languages. Signs and symbols are often used on ships, both national and international, to communicate safe practices effectively and quickly.

What to do
Prepare the cards according to your needs. You may want to cut them out and glue them to cardboard or laminate them for durability. Show students the cards and discuss where they came from. What is their purpose, and why are they necessary? After a basic introduction, there are several ways you can use these images:

1. As a guessing game and discussion starter
   a. Print out all signs on individual pieces of paper.
   b. Hold one sign up. Ask if anyone knows what the sign means.
   c. Discuss the meaning of the sign and why we would need it on board a ship.
2. **As a memory game**  
   a. Print and cut out 2 copies of the signs.  
   b. Tape or glue them to cardboard squares about the same size as the signs.  
   c. Turn them all face down on the floor or table without stacking.  
   d. Have your students take turns overturning only two of the squares without removing them from their original position.  
   e. If they match, have the student take them out of the pool of squares. If they don’t match, have the student turn them back over without moving them from their original position.

3. **As a matching exercise**  
   a. Give the students any number of different signs.  
   b. Ask them to match the sign with the meaning.  
   c. Ask them to write about the significance of the sign on a ship.

4. **As a creative writing exercise**  
   a. Give each student a different sign.  
   b. Ask them to write a creative story about it.

5. **As a drawing activity**  
   a. Allow students to choose a sign.  
   b. Ask them to draw a picture using their sign somewhere in the drawing.  
   c. Allow students to incorporate more than one sign in their drawing if they choose.

6. **As a critical thinking activity**  
   a. Brainstorm with students what shipboard safety practices were not included in this collection of images.  
   b. Have students choose a shipboard safety practice and create an image for that practice.  
   c. Have students write down the meaning of their sign, and relate why it would be needed onboard ship.

**Accommodations for Special Needs**  
- The teacher or teaching assistant should assist students as necessary.  
- Those students who cannot write can dictate their answers to a teacher or teaching assistant or draw their answer.  
- This exercise employs a number of learning styles to include every student.