



OUTDOOR RECREATION AWARD



PROJECT: FISHING

GOALS

A. FISHING FACTS: Learn 4 key terms of **fishing** and 4 types of **fishing**.

B. FISHING TRIP: Practice casting a fishing rod, then try fishing.

A. FISHING FACTS

Fishing Terms (Identify 4.)

Angling: The sport of fishing with a hook, line, and rod. It comes from an old English word that means “hook.” An “angler” is the one fishing!

Rod and Reel: The rod is the long pole, and the reel holds the fishing line in a way that can be spooled out. The easiest way to start is with a beginner’s spinning rod. You can also use a bait-casting rod. Fly-fishing takes extra technique and is a harder place to start, unless you have help from an experienced angler.

Tackle: All fishing equipment, but usually refers to fishing lines, hooks, weights, and bobbers.

Lures and bait: Lures (artificial worms, fish, etc.) or bait (worms or power bait) attract your fish and entice them to bite the hook. Look up information on your area to see which fish you will be catching and the bait/lures you need.

FISHING TIP: Depending on where you are fishing, you may need a fishing license.

Fishing Types (Identify 4.)

Freshwater:

Fly fishing: Fishing where the line and rod create momentum to cast to your intended target. Primarily done on moving water, lakes, and reservoirs. Target fish are often trout and salmon.

Bait/lure fishing: Fishing where the weight and lure create momentum to cast. Primarily done on lakes and reservoirs. Target fish are often bass and sunfish.

Ice fishing: Cut a hole in the thick ice and drop a baited line.

Saltwater:

Shallow-water fishing: Primarily done on bays and coves. Target fish are likely flounder and fluke.

Deep-sea fishing: Trolling from a boat with the heaviest line. Target fish are tuna and swordfish.

B. FISHING TRIP

Go on a fishing trip with a friend or family member. Practice casting your rod, then try fishing!

FISHING SAFETY: Be very careful before casting your line. Look for surrounding people so you don’t accidentally hook them.

Step 1—Practice Casting Your Rod

Practice fishing with a beginner’s spin-casting rod and reel on dry ground without a hook.

- **Stance:** Hold your thumb on the button and point your shoulder where you want the hook to land.
- **Rod:** Pull your rod back halfway. Quickly bring the rod forward and then angled in front of you.
- **Release:** As the rod comes to an angle in front of you, release the button and hold the rod at that angle. The lure and weight should carry the line out to your destination. More force bringing the rod forward equals a further casting distance.

Step 2—Go Fishing

Now that you've practiced casting your line, try fishing! Read below for tips of where to fish, and how to catch a fish once your line has a tug!

Fishing Tips

- Fish love structures. Any underwater object that provides a good hiding place, such as logs, dead trees, rocks, or a dock or pier is a prime place to find fish.
- Look for ripples on the water, a splash, or the presence of large flocks of birds to find signs of fish movement.

Catching a Fish:

- When you feel a tug on the line (or you see your bobber dip below the water), drop the rod tip then reel in any slack in the line.
- Once the line is tight, pull up quickly so the rod is at an angle to make sure the hook is secure in the fish's mouth.
- Drop the rod and reel in the line to pull the fish in. If the fish begins to swim, hold the rod up at an angle. Once it stops swimming, drop the rod tip and reel in.
- Once it is close to you—you can land your fish! If you have a net, use that to pull the fish from the water.
- Make sure your hand is wet when you touch the fish to avoid removing the fish's protective "slime."

FUN FACTS:

- A record-sized Lake Trout caught in Lake Athabasca in Canada and weighed over 102 lbs!
- The largest catfish was caught in 2005 in Thailand. It was over 9 feet long and weighed 646 lbs.

FISHING TIP: Make sure you know if your area is catch and release. To release, gently release the fish from the hook, and hold it in the net under water until its gills are moving. Then let it swim away!

RESEARCH MORE

- *Adventures with Jonny: Lets Go Fishing* by Michael DiLorenzo.
- Go to your local library and check out a book on fishing.
- See if there are any local fishing clubs or events in your area. Look for local fishing ponds to practice in or local events to take part in.

My child has successfully completed the Project Goals for the topic—Fishing.

Adult Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Complete SIX projects to earn your RECREATION award)