

Fish Iowa Unit

Day 1

Objectives

The main objective for the first day of the unit is to have students understand the who, why, what, when, and where of fishing.

Reference materials

Fish Iowa! DVD

Intro to fishing and habitats

Needed materials:

Fish Iowa! DVD; AV equipment

Description of Activities

1. The teacher will talk about who can fish, why they choose to fish, what they need to have in order to fish, when and where they can fish.
2. Introduce students to the abundance of fishing opportunities within our area; discuss local outdoor recreation areas; Lake Ahquabi, Banner Recreation Area, Lake Red Rock, Saylorville Lake, rivers
3. Discuss the goals for the unit; obtain basic understanding of equipment, types of fish, skills and knowledge needed to be able to perform basic spin cast fishing.
4. View the DVD and have a short question and answer session to see what the students retained.

Day 2

Objectives

On day 2, classes will review previous material and will be introduced to basic spin casting and equipment. Students will learn to tie a usable knot for use with a hook and line.

Reference materials

Fish Iowa! DVD; basic spin casting

Knot tying techniques handout (pg. 43 *Fish Iowa! Unit 3*)

Needed materials

Fish Iowa! DVD and AV equipment

large eye bolts with string; hand outs on knot tying

Description of Activities

1. View DVD section on basic spin casting to learn about knots and tackle.
2. Students will practice tying the Improved Clinch Knot and Palomar Knot in groups of two. Each pair will work together in learning to correctly tie the knots. Students will use large eye bolts and string for practice so it is easier to handle and see. If time allows, we will have a contest to see who can tie a knot correctly in the shortest time.

Day 3

Objectives

We will review knot tying and then begin using a hook and monofilament line. Students will learn how to cast a line.

Reference materials

Knot tying hand out (pg. 43 *Fish Iowa!*)

Casting information found (pg. 44-45 *Fish Iowa!*)

Homemade rig instructions (pg. 83 *Fish Iowa!*)

Needed materials

hooks, monofilament line, homemade rig using a pop can or bottle
hand outs on knot tying

Description of Activities

1. The students will be asked to bring their own can or bottle to make a rig for casting practice.
2. Each student will receive a casting plug and tape.
3. Students will tie on the plug and wrap and secure the line on their can/bottle.
4. The students will spread out and practice casting straight out using correct form.

Day 4

Objectives

The students will be shown the parts of a rod and reel and how it works along with basic tackle. Students will use a rod and reel to continue working on casting so they are proficient. By using targets for practice and playing a target game much like archery and keeping score the teacher can assess each student's level. It will also challenge them and create a fun atmosphere. The instructor will also discuss the do's and don'ts associated with casting and fishing.

Reference materials

Casting instructions (pg.45 *Fish Iowa!*) and the target games (pg.48 and 49 *Fish Iowa!*)
Basic tackle info (pg. 41-42 *Fish Iowa!*)

Needed materials

Rods and reels; clippers; casting plugs; basic tackle (bobber, leaders, swivels, hooks, sinkers)
targets (cones or poly spots)

Description of Activities:

1. The parts of the rod and reel will be discussed along with the basic tackle that is used.
2. Student will be shown the different parts, what they do and how to attach different tackle.
3. Once the rods are set up; groups will then practice casting and play the games.

Day 5

Objective

Students will be taught about the typical sport fish found in Iowa, how to land and care for fish that are caught. We will also talk about the types of bait used for these fish. Length limits will also be covered. A question and answer session will be used in preparation for a quiz to be used for evaluation of their knowledge.

Reference materials

Fish Iowa! DVD; sport fish ID and landing and care of fish sections.
Fish Iowa! Unit 4 pages 57-60 covering bait and lures

Needed materials

Laminated posters with different species of fish
DVD and AV equipment
Examples of bait

Description of activities:

1. The fish posters will be set out so students can see the different species we discuss.
2. They will watch the DVD and will also be shown various types of bait that can be used.
3. The second part of class will be used to review the previous days in preparation for a quiz.

Day 6

Objective

The objective of day 6 is to evaluate the students' knowledge of the basic information and skills needed to go fishing. After the quiz, fishing ethics, dress, safety, and first aid will be covered.

Reference materials

Questions will be taken from Appendix L in the *Fish Iowa!* teaching module.

Information about fishing ethics, safety, first aid and dress (pgs. 9-12 *Fish Iowa!*)

Needed materials:

Each student will bring a pencil and will receive a quiz.

Description of activities

1. Before the quiz is taken, students will be allowed to ask questions to clarify any points.
2. After the quiz is done, we will cover the needed safety, dress, fish ethics and etiquette we will use when on the field trip.

Day 7

Objective

The students will take the information and practice they have been working on and put it to use. Students will be able to spend part of a day on a field trip to Lake Ahquabi to experience fishing.

Reference materials

Fish Iowa! Appendix K

Needed materials

First aid kits

tackle and related equipment

rods and reels

Description of activity

1. The students will take a bus to Lake Ahquabi State Park for a day long field trip.
2. We will review safety and expectations during the bus ride.
3. Once we arrive to the park, students will be shown the areas that are open to fishing.