Fish Iowa! Unit

Day 1

Teaching Objective
To give the student basic history of fishing in Iowa
To familiarize students with the basic understanding of fishing rules and regulations
Students will be familiar with the ethical position in fishing

Reference Materials
Fish Iowa! Unit #1 pages 1-21

Materials Needed
Iowa Fishing Regulations Booklet (one copy per student)

Description of Activities
To explain what the Fish Iowa! Program is all about. To give some basic history of fishing and how it has impacted Iowa. To teach, discuss, and review Iowa fishing rules and regulations. To discuss the importance of ethics in the sport of fishing.

I. History
   a. Food Source
   b. Commercial Fishing
   c. Recreational Fishing

II. Regulations
   a. Fishing Licenses
   b. Length Limit
   c. Fishing Season
   d. Daily Catch and Possession Limit
   e. Other Regulations

III. Ethics
   a. Privilege
   b. Respect
      i. Natural Resources
      ii. Private Property
      iii. Resource User

Day 2

Teaching Objective
To give students basics understanding of fish characteristics
Students will become familiar with the fish families
Students will be able to identify fish species common to the area
Students will understand basic fish anatomy

Reference Materials
Fish Iowa! Unit #2 pages 23-38

Materials Needed
Iowa Fish ID Guide
Fish Iowa! Game cards
Fish Anatomy Poster
Description of Activities
To give the students the general characteristics of fish. Teach, discuss, and review the fish families. Discuss what species of fish we need to identify in our area and go into detail on the identification of the fish anatomy.

I. General Characteristics and Senses
   a. Vision
   b. Hearing
   c. Taste
   d. Smell

II. Identify Fish Families
   a. Catfish Family
   b. Sunfish Family
   c. Perch Family
   d. Trout Family
   e. Pike Family
   f. Minnow Family

III. Identify Common Fish in the Area
   a. Catfish
      i. Channel Catfish
      ii. Bullheads
      iii. Flathead Catfish
   b. Sunfish
      i. Largemouth Bass
      ii. Smallmouth Bass
      iii. Sunfish
      iv. Crappie
   c. Perch
      i. Yellow Perch
      ii. Walleye
      iii. Sauger
   d. Trout
      i. Rainbow Trout
      ii. Brown Trout
   e. Pike
      i. Northern Pike
      ii. Muskellunge
   f. Minnow
      i. Common Carp
      ii. Grass Carp
      iii. Large Creak Chub
      iv. Others

Day 3
Teaching Objective
To give the students the terminology of the equipment used in fishing
Identify the different tackle used
To teach and practice the basics of knot tying
To teach and practice casting
Reference Materials
Fish Iowa! Unit #3 pages 39-52
Fish Iowa! Unit #4 pages 58-59

Materials Needed
Fishing Poles
Reels
Variety of Lures
String/Rope
Eye Bolt
Hoola Hoops
Casting Plugs

Description of Activities
To give the students basic information on equipment. Know the difference between closed reels, open-faced reels, and baitcaster reels. Teach the difference between an ultra light, medium, heavy, and fly poles. Teach, discuss, and review know tying. Identify the difference between improved clinch knot, palomar knot, and blood knot. Teach, discuss, review, and practice casting for accuracy.

I. Terminology
   a. Rods
      i. Ultra light
      ii. Medium and Heavy
      iii. Fly
   b. Reels
      i. Closed Faced
      ii. Open Faced
      iii. Baitcasters
   c. Line
      i. Monofilament
      ii. Braided

II. Tackle
   a. Hooks
      i. Single Barbed Hook
      ii. Treble Hook
      iii. Barbless Hook
   b. Sinkers
      i. Split Shot
      ii. Lead vs. Steel
      iii. Others
   c. Bobbers
   d. Swivels
   e. Leaders

III. Knots
    a. Improved Clinch Knot
    b. Palomar Knot
    c. Blood Knot
    d. Practice Knot Tying

IV. Casting
    a. Technique
    b. Demonstrations
Day 4
Teaching Objective
To give students basic information on the aquatic ecosystem
To present information on the variety of line bait
To present information on artificial lures and flies
To demonstrate and practice baiting with live bait

Reference Materials
Fish Iowa! Unit #4 pages 53-63

Materials Needed
Pictures or Examples of Live Bait (night crawlers)
Pictures or Examples of a Variety of Lure and Hooks

Description of Activities
Teach, discuss, and review the aquatic ecosystem and the path of the food chain. Present and describe natural baits and how they are affective. Discuss and present artificial lures and flies. Demonstrate and practice baiting a hook with live baits.

I. Aquatic Ecosystems
   a. Microscopic Organisms
   b. Predators
   c. Prey
   d. Food Chain

II. Live or Dead Baits
   a. Worms
   b. Minnows
   c. Leeches
   d. Crayfish
   e. Grasshoppers or crickets
   f. Frogs
   g. Other insects
   h. Scented bait
   i. Dough Bait
   j. Kernel Corn

III. Artificial Lures and Flies
   a. Jigs
   b. Plugs
   c. Spoons
   d. Spinners
   e. Soft Plastic
   f. Flies
      i. Wet Flies
      ii. Dry Flies

IV. Baiting Hooks
   a. Panfish Rigs
   b. Game Fish Rigs
   c. Catfish Rigs
Day 5
Teaching Objective
Students will learn procedures for playing fish, landing fish, and retrieving the fish from the water
Learn the “catch and release” program
Learn how to keep your catch fresh
To demonstrate proper procedures for cleaning and filleting fish

Reference Materials
Fish Iowa! Unit #5 pages 65-78
Audio-Visual CD

Materials Needed
Audio-Visual: Landing and Caring for the Catch
Fish Cleaning Tools

Description of Activities
Teach, discuss, and review procedures of the process of landing a fish. Watch the Fish Iowa!
Supplement CD on landing and caring for the catch. Discuss the importance of “Catch and Release.”
Discuss putting the fish on ice. Demonstrate how to clean a fish.

I. Landing the Fish
   a. Setting the Hook
   b. Playing the Fish
   c. Landing the Fish
   d. Retrieving the Fish from the Water

II. Catch and Release
   a. Land Quickly
   b. Keep in the Water
   c. Holding the Fish
   d. Hook Removal
      i. Barbless Hooks
      ii. Cut Line
   e. Revive Fish

III. Keeping the Catch
   a. Storage for survival
   b. On Ice
   c. Field Dress
   d. Cleaning

IV. Filleting
   a. Cutting Board
   b. Flexible, Sharp Fillet Knife
   c. Procedure