

Fish Iowa! Fishing Unit

Unit Objectives

1. Introduction to Iowa's native fish species
2. Labeling/identifying characteristics and parts of fish
3. Confidently identify different fish species
4. Understanding fishing regulations and safety
5. Establish ethical fishing
6. Explore characteristics of different aquatic habitats and their importance
7. Learn about basic fishing equipment
8. Tying basic fishing knots
9. Practice casting and learning techniques
10. Water safety
11. Effectively apply skills on a supervised fishing trip

Day 1

1. Intro to Iowa's native fish species
 - Utilize fish posters or booklet
2. Labeling/identifying characteristics and parts of fish
 - Use a single fish poster, diagram and worksheet, possible dissection

Day 2

1. Identification of fish species
 - Use all fish posters to allow species differentiation
 - Play *Fish Iowa!* card game or match info to fish species
 - Utilize *Fish Iowa!* software program

Day 3

1. Fishing regulations and ethics
 - Scavenger hunt game to find answers to regulation questions
 - Role play ethical fishing behavior
 - End in discussion to the reasoning and impact of fishing regulation
2. Water Safety and regulation
 - Proper clothing and gear discussion
 - Bring clothing and gear samples to have students decide what is good or not good use while outdoors or on the water
 - Life jacket relay game
 - Simulate boat problems without proper safety gear

Day 4/Day 5

1. Explore different aquatic habitats. Have students break down into groups and research a specific habitat and what kinds of animals live there
2. Have students give short poster presentation over their habitat
 - Students emphasize on some habitat barriers such as pollution, temperatures, etc.

Day 6

1. Intro to fishing equipment, rod, reel, and basic tackle
 - Explain parts, how and why they function
2. Begin knot tying instruction
 - Students begin on practice rope then move onto real line
 - Students will have diagrams to follow and extra time
3. Teach how to put on terminal tackle

Day 7

1. Knot tying and terminal tackle placement review
2. Intro to casting
 - presentation of correct and incorrect manner to cast
3. Begin practice casting in open area outdoors or in gym
 - Place targets, (hula hoops) in various places to establish control
4. Discuss bait and lure choices
 - Have materials students can touch and get acquainted with
5. Demonstrate how to bring in a fish and gear to have

Day 8

1. Class fishing trip
 - Administering skills learned during class instruction
 - Check attendance, permission slips, and gear list
 - Go fishing!
 - Review the trip, and write thank you letters