

Fish Iowa! Lesson Plan

Social Studies

Unit objectives:

1. Identify Iowa's State Parks on a DOT map
2. Know how to locate Iowa's Fisheries on a map using the map grid system
3. Be able to use the state map to recognize what types of facilities are available at various state parks.
4. Use the DNR Website to make a more detailed plan of where to fish in their area.
5. Familiarize students with fish species, fishing regulations, and fishing ethics.
6. Plan a week of fishing and camping across Iowa

Day 1: Map familiarization and Where to Fish

Materials: DOT Maps of Iowa

Anticipatory activity: Into your journal write a paragraph about a time you have been fishing. Have student partner up and share their fishing story.

Ask students to name places they have gone fishing in Iowa. Ask the student to share the name of any State parks they have visited.

Have student come forward to an Iowa DOT map that is posted. Ask them to show on a finger scale of 1-10 how comfortable they feel with using a map at this point. Familiarize them with the key and various features of the map. Show them 3 pre selected state parks on the map so they can see what they look like. Demonstrate how to locate the places on the map using the grid system on the map.

Distribute one map to each student or to the smallest group you can based on the number of maps (free from the DOT) you have. Allow them to work with a partner, give them a grid coordinate to locate the State Park at the coordinate. Repeat working alone.

Assign the students to find 3 state parks on the map by grid coordinate. The next day have them quiz a friend by seeing if they can find the parks using their coordinate and vice versa. Assist students as needed.

Day 2: What to fish for and what is biting?

Anticipatory activity: Ask students to name into their journals as many Iowa fish as they can think of. Star the ones they have caught before. Have student share with a partner.

Give a pretest to the class using the species identification posters. Correct student work and go over the various families and types of fish in Iowa.

Have the students use the *Fish Iowa!* Game Cards to play "go fish" to get more familiar with fish appearance.

Ask the student if they know the regulations for each of the types of fish by length and bag limits. Direct them to the DNR website regulation portion and make sure they are aware of the fishing regulations.

Quiz them with some scenario on whether the supposed fisherperson is in violation of the regulations.

Tell students about the fishing report on the DNR website that will give advice on where to fish. Allow time for them to experiment with the report and set up an account.

Day 3: Fishing ethics

Anticipatory activity: Give students a scenario from the resource guide provide by *Fish Iowa!* about fishing ethics. Have student write a journal response about how they would respond to the situation. Share with a partner.

Divide the class into small groups. Distribute a note card with one of the *Fish Iowa!* ethical situations on it. Have the group select a recorder and a reporter to write down and share the group's responses. Allow 4 minutes for each of the 5 scenarios. At the end allow the groups to report how they would handle the situation. Help the students understand that the fisheries of Iowa are for the enjoyment of all Iowan and the responsibility of all Iowans as well.

Day 4: Detailed fishing information

Today's goal is to show students the DNR website resource (under the where to fish link) that shows detailed information on the various fisheries in an area.

Take students to the computer lab and get them to the DNR website. Allow 5 minutes for the students to explore the website freely. After free exploration lead the students to the "where to fish" link. Have them select the region near where they live.

Select 3 specific fisheries in the area you want students to be familiarized with. Have them link to one of them and show them the features such as size/type of fish and map links.

Quiz the student on the next one by having them answer questions from the website about that fishery.

Show the students the contour map feature and explain to the students what a contour map is.

This would also be an opportunity to teach about best places in a fishery to fish for specific species if time permits.

Allow student the remainder of class to explore this feature of the website.

Day 5: Fish Across Iowa Teams

Allow the class to divide into groups and come up with a 5 day fishing plan across Iowa. They will need to start on one side of the state and work across to the other, have them highlight the route on the DOT map. At each stop they should use the DNR website to see if the location has camping and what type of fishing is available. They should also note the greatest depth of the fishery. For at least one of the locations the students should include a fishing report they got from the DNR site.

When finished have the students present their plan to the class.