

Fishing is Funtastic!



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Art on pages 29-31 courtesy of Wright & McGill Co.

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Fishing is Funtastic!

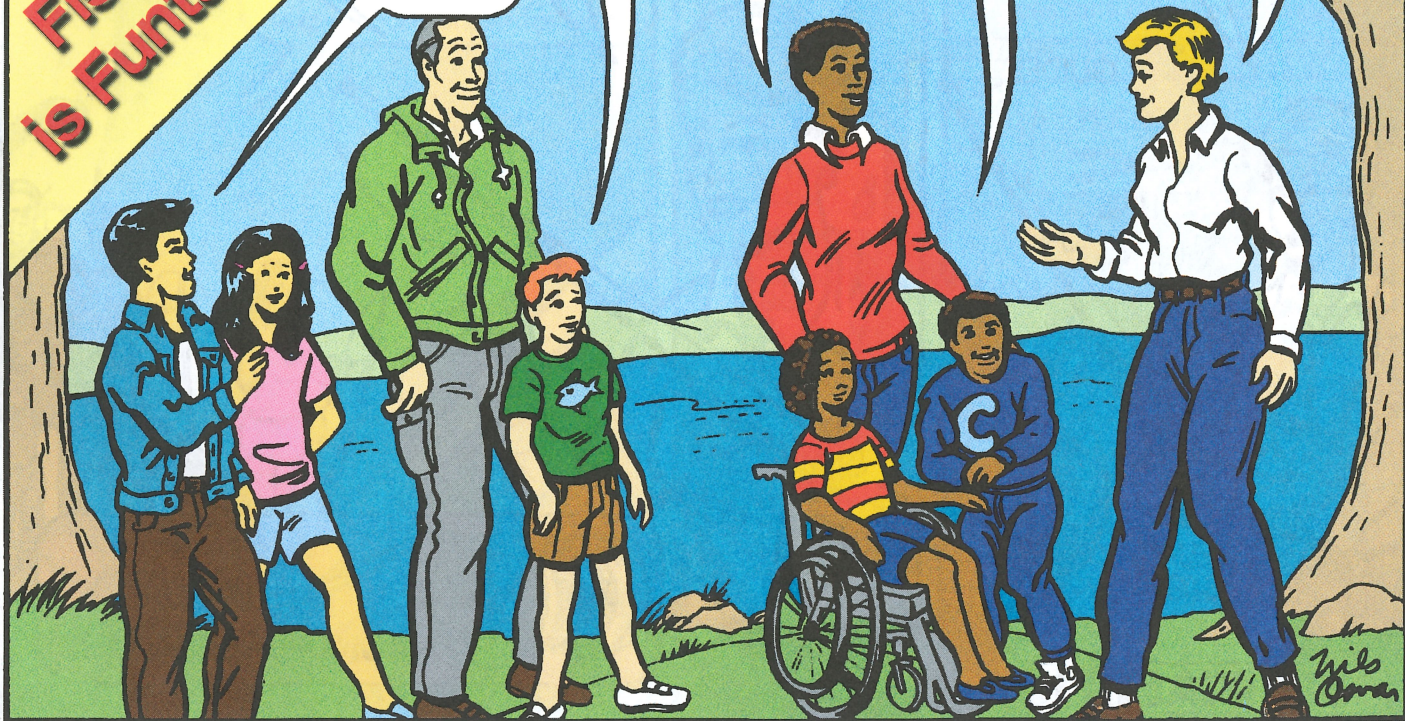
We want to learn to fish because it's fun.

I like being outside and enjoying nature.

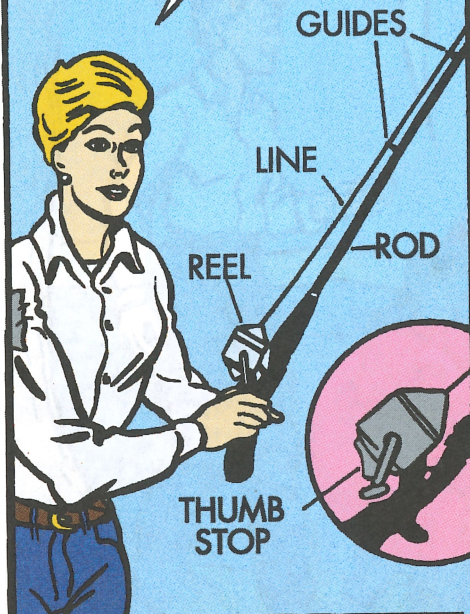
Fishing is fun we can have together.

I always have fun when I'm at a lake.

Those are great reasons for fishing. Fishing is **Fun** and anyone can learn to fish.

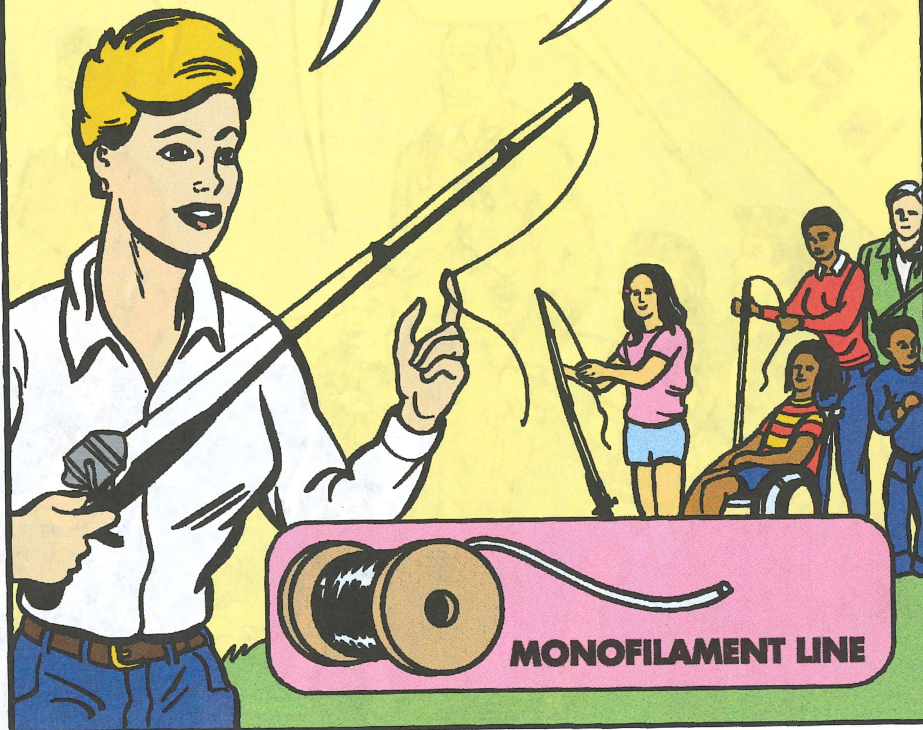


This is the easiest rod and reel to learn to use. You can use it to fish for many kinds of fish.

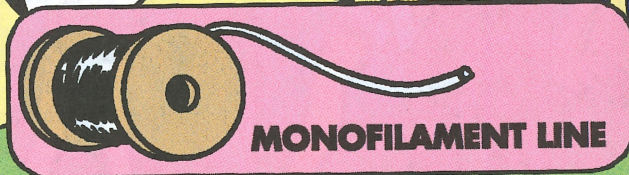


SPINCASTING

Monofilament fishing line is labeled according to its breaking strength. A good strength of line to start with is 8 or 10 pound test.



First, thread the fishing line through the guides.



MONOFILAMENT LINE

Your spincasting equipment will operate almost trouble-free if you replace the line when it becomes nicked or frayed. Follow the manufacturer's instructions or ask a more experienced angler for help.

FRAY

NICK

There are many kinds of fishing tackle. We are going to learn about just enough equipment to start catching fish. Your local tackle store is a good place to ask questions about equipment.

PRACTICE CASTING PLUG

SALMON EGGS

JIG

SALMON EGG HOOK

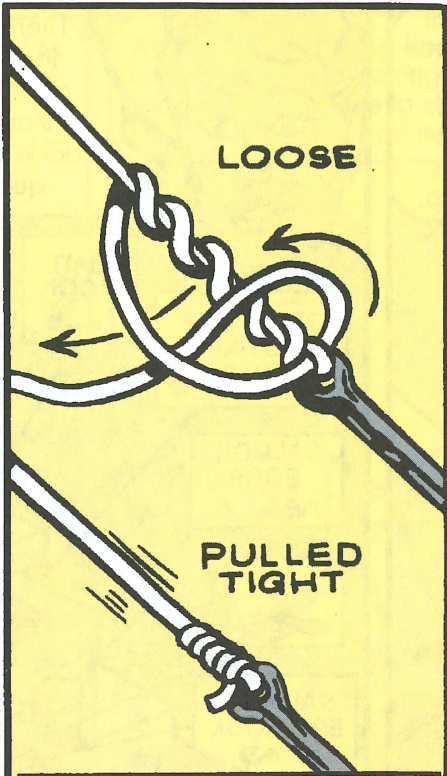
BAIT HOOK

PLIERS

BOBBER

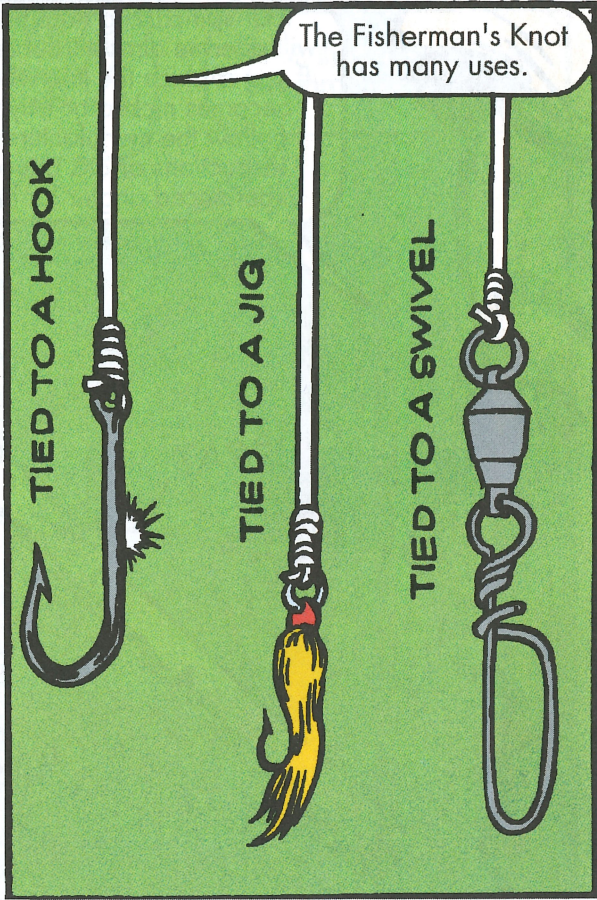
SPLIT SHOT SINKERS

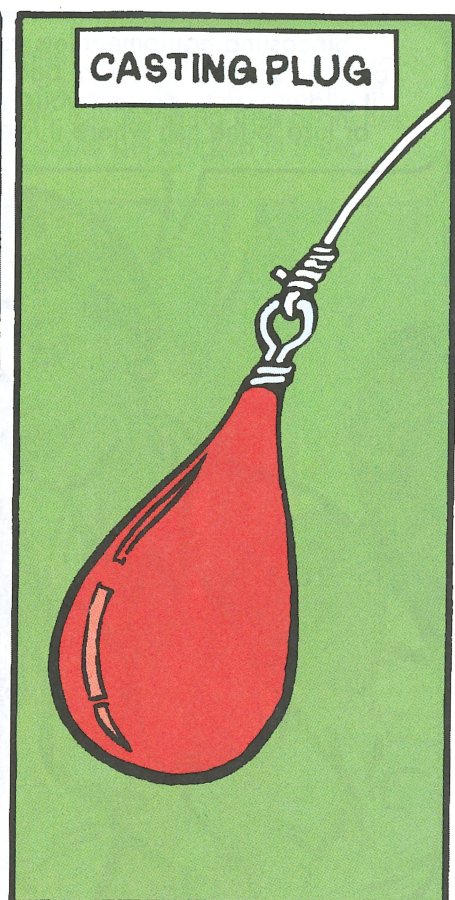
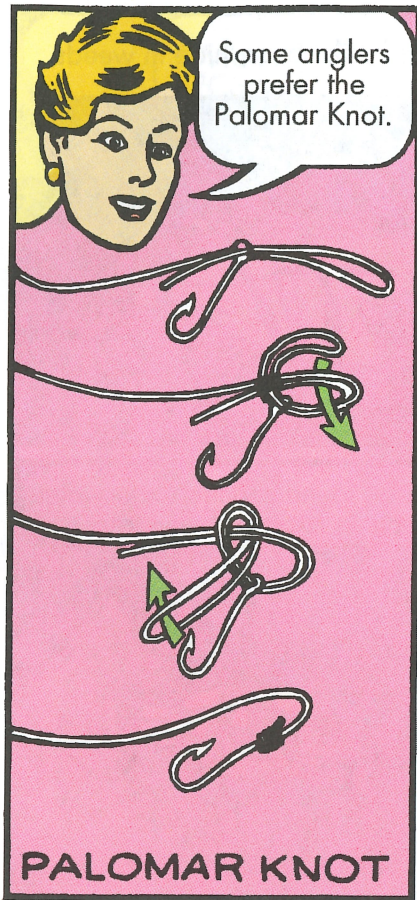
Every angler needs to know how to tie a good knot. The Fisherman's Knot, also called the Improved Clinch Knot, is easy to learn and very strong.



FISHERMAN'S KNOT
(Improved Clinch Knot)

The Fisherman's Knot has many uses.





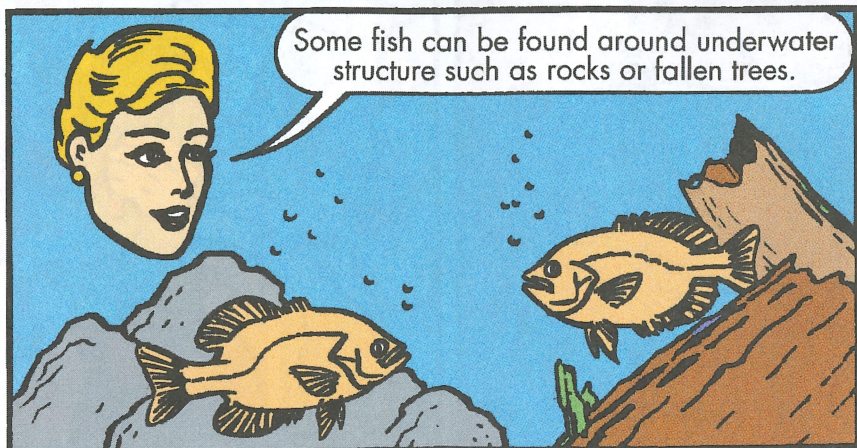
Spincasting equipment lets you cast. Casting is important because it allows you to present your bait or lure to the fish where it lives.



Some fish, like bass, hide in weeds.



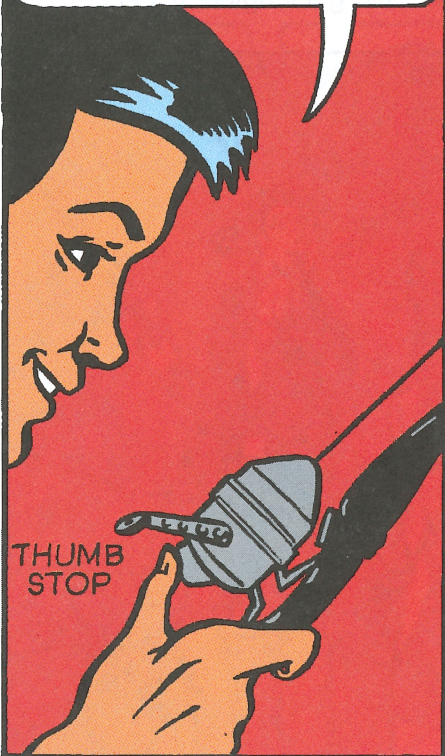
Some fish can be found around underwater structure such as rocks or fallen trees.





Now hold your rod out in front of you, put your thumb on the thumb stop and hold it in.

THUMB
STOP

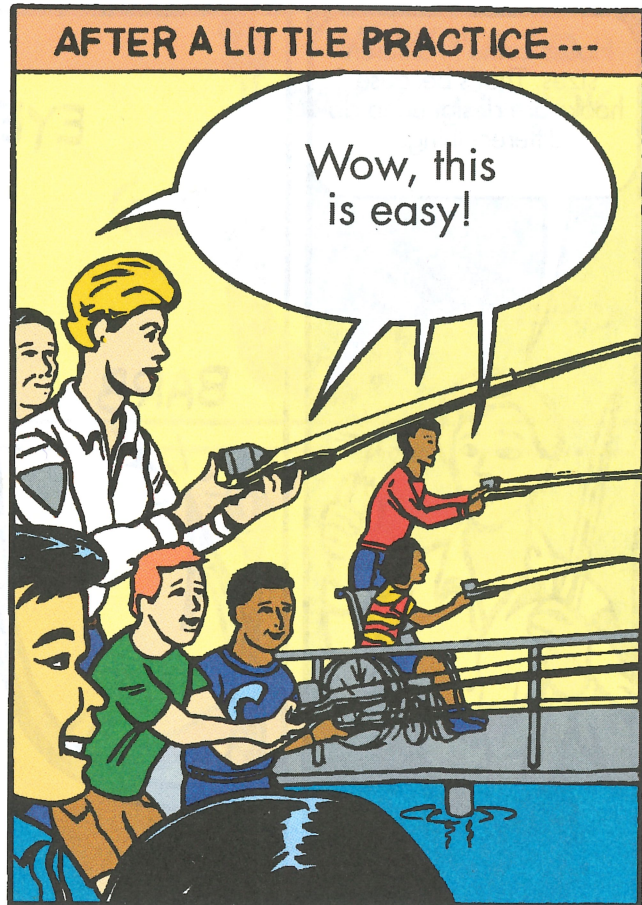
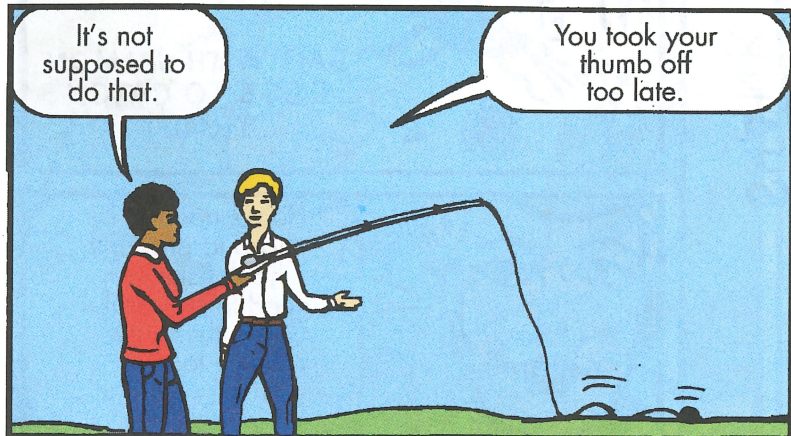
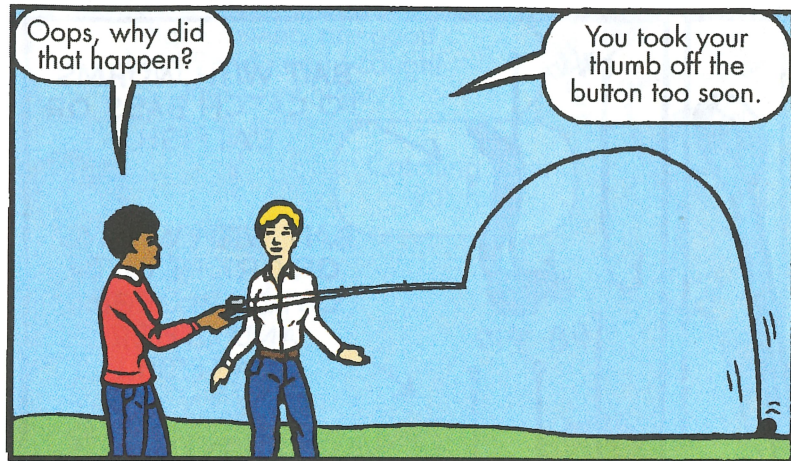


Swing your rod up just past your head.

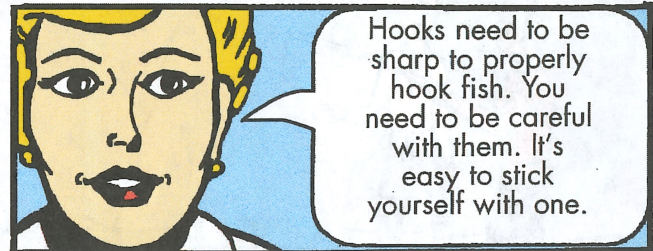
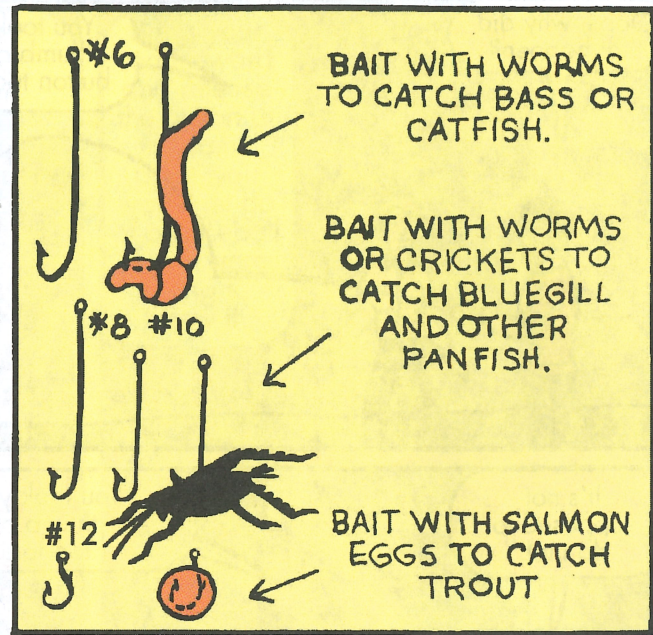
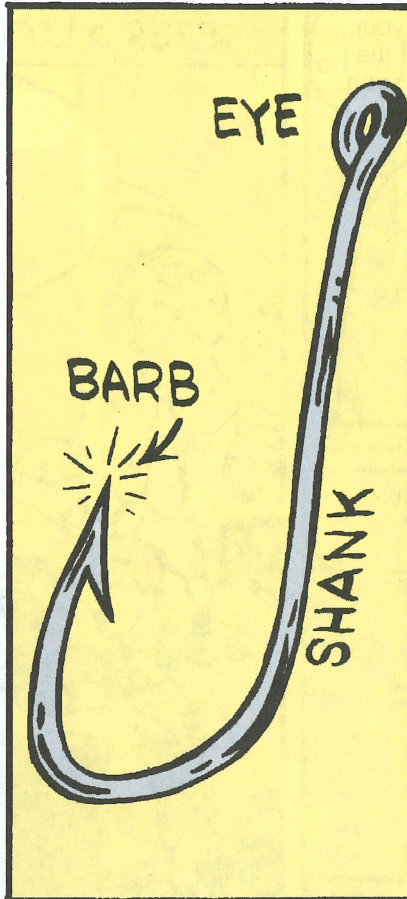


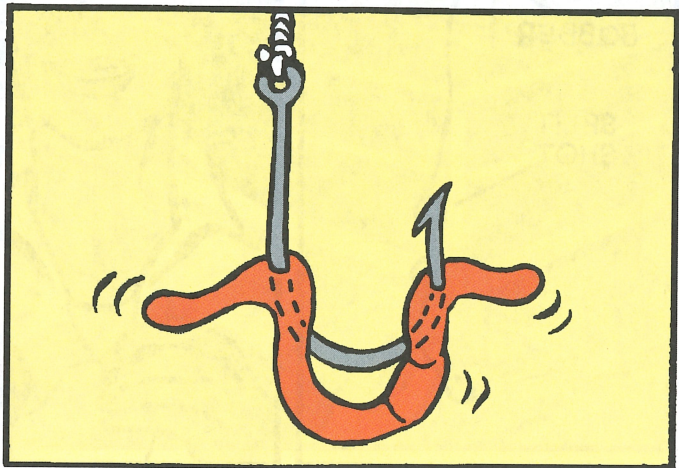
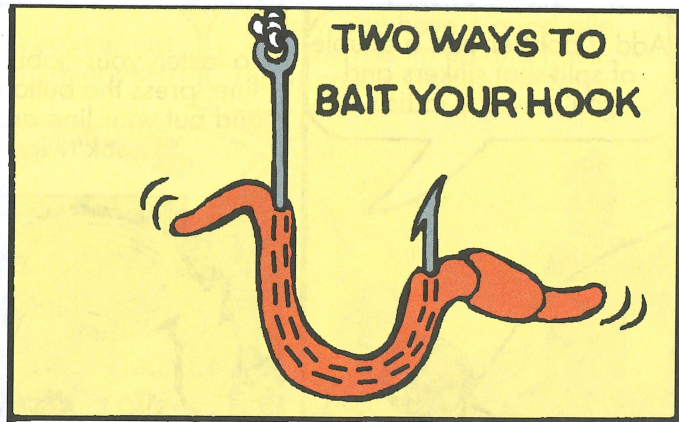
Bring your rod forward and release the button at the same place you would let go of a baseball if you were going to throw it.



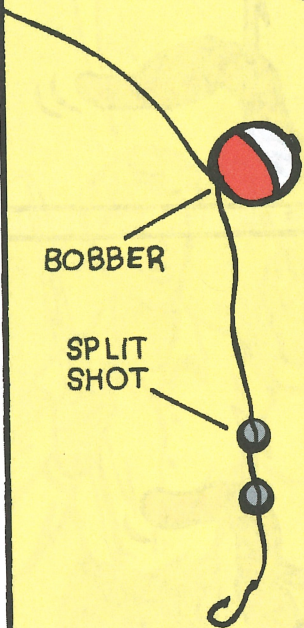


Hooks come in different sizes. That's because hooks are designed to do different things.





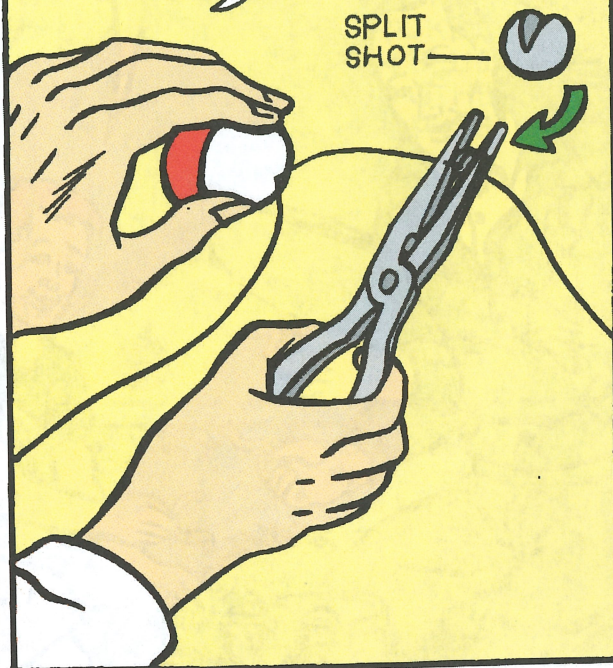
Add a bobber and a couple of split-shot sinkers and you're ready to fish.

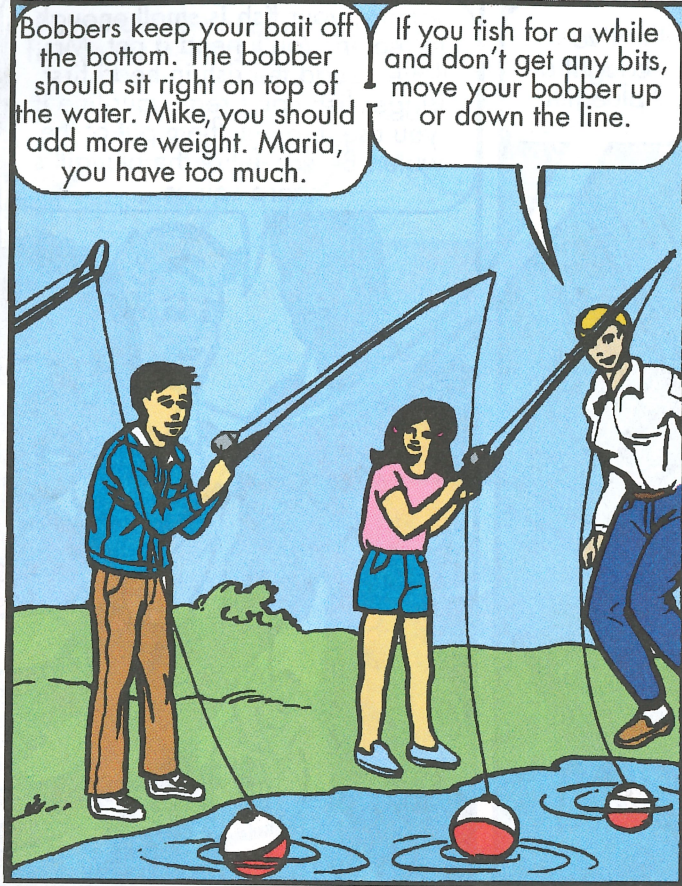


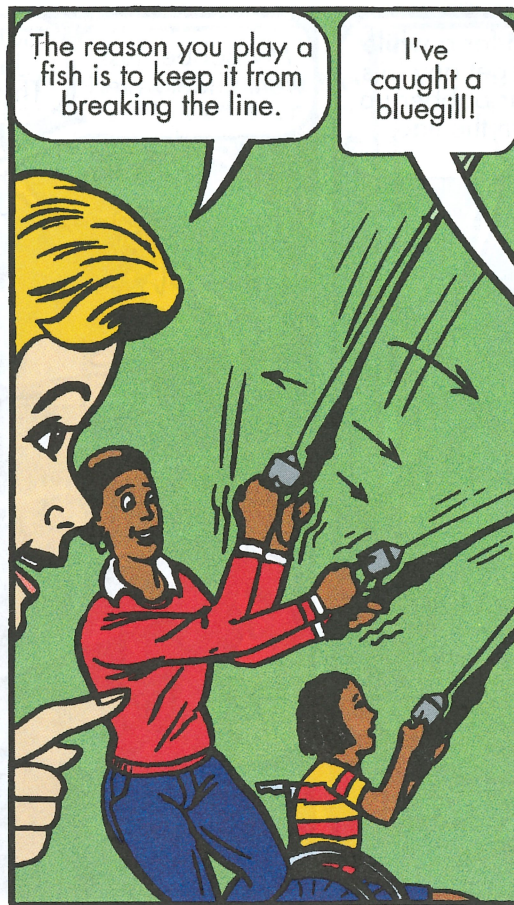
To fasten your bobber to the line, press the button on top and put your line around the J-hook twice.



Squeeze the split-shot on the line with pliers between the bobber and the end of the line.







To remove the hook, hold the fish firmly behind the gills with one hand. Use your other hand to pull the hook out with pliers or a hook remover.

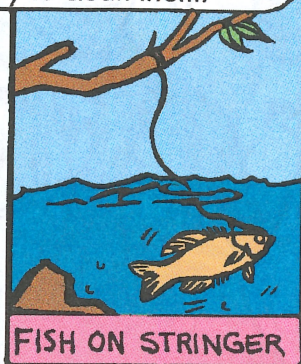
Sometimes you'll need to rotate the hook as you pull. Be careful of sharp teeth.



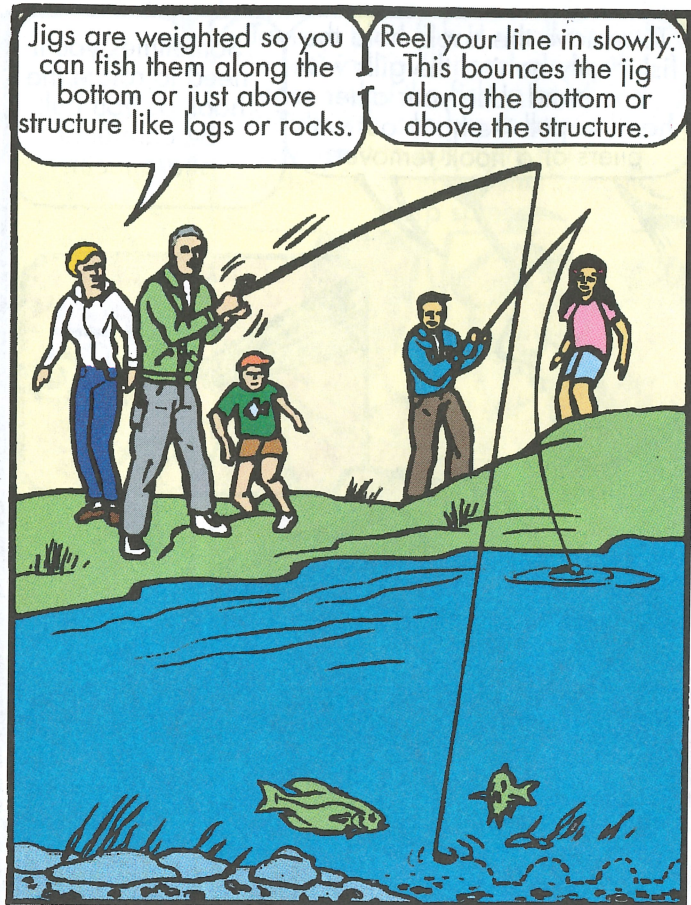
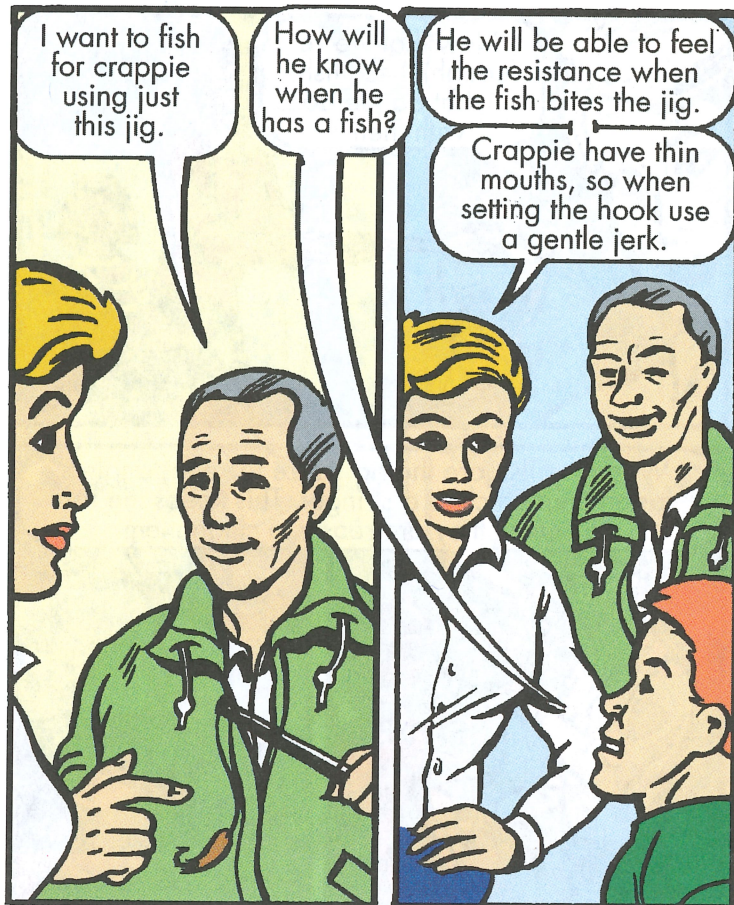
Now that we've caught these fish, what do we do with them?



When the fish are the right size to keep, anglers fasten their catch to a stringer. This keeps the fish alive until they are ready to clean them.



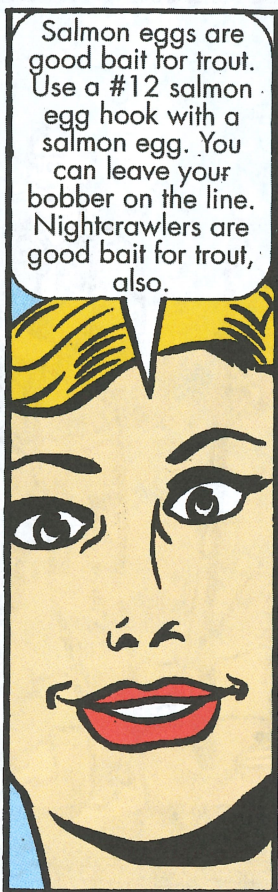
FISH ON STRINGER





Sara, I talked to the conservation officer this morning and he said that there are trout in this lake. I'd like to fish for a trout.

It was a good idea to check with the conservation officer about the fish that live in this lake. Especially about trout because they aren't found in every lake.



Salmon eggs are good bait for trout. Use a #12 salmon egg hook with a salmon egg. You can leave your bobber on the line. Nightcrawlers are good bait for trout, also.



Will you tell me a good way to catch catfish?

Catfish bite best at night. If you want to try now you can. Take your bobber off your line. You want your bait on the bottom where the catfish live.



LATER:

Preparing the catch is easy. A knife with a long, sharp blade is important. Fillet knives are knives made especially for fish.



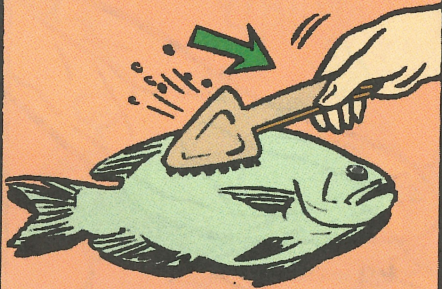
Children should never use a knife without adult supervision.



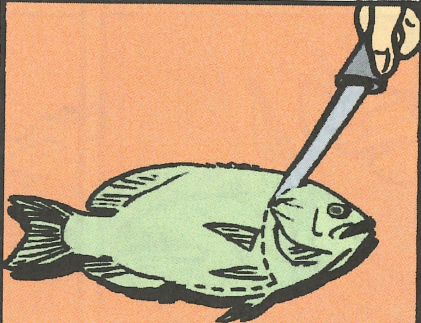
Some people prefer to dress small bluegill and panfish.



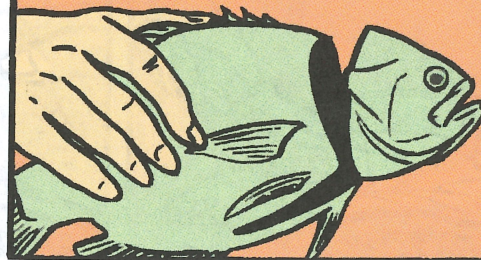
Scale the fish by scraping it with a scaler from the tail to the head.

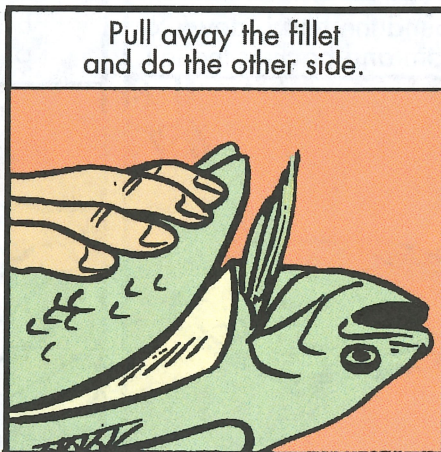
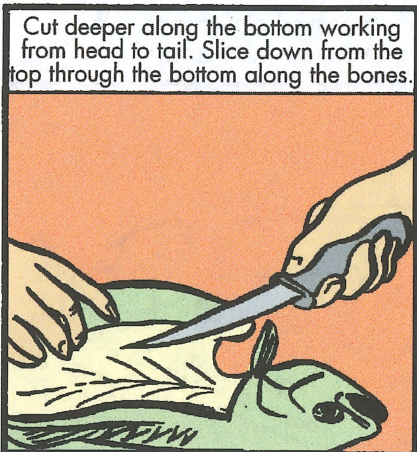
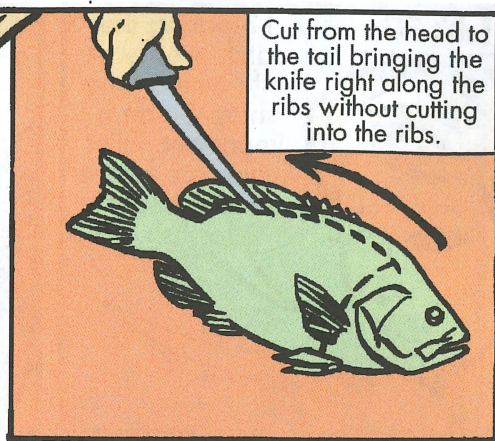
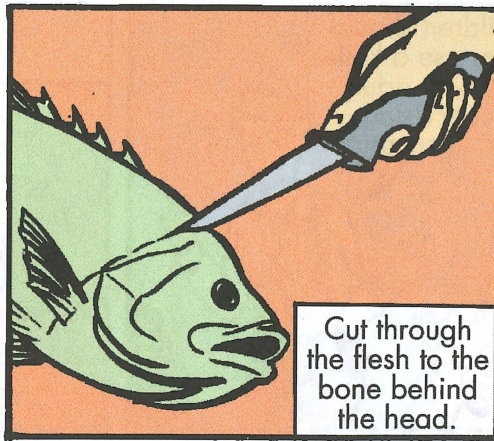


Cut around the head, down to the bottom and back of the tail.

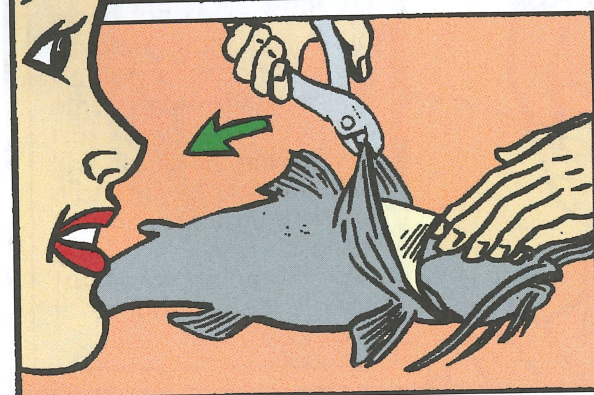
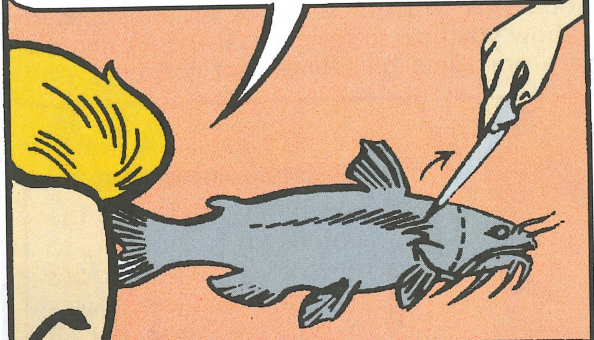


Bend the head down and off, pull out the organs and rinse.

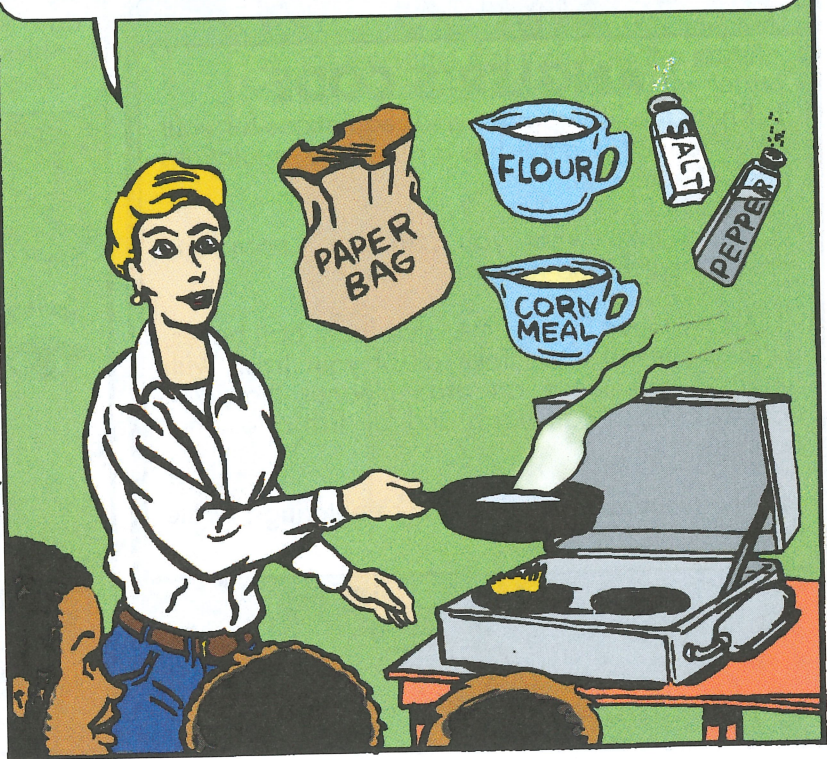




The easiest way to prepare a small catfish is to skin it. Completely cut through the skin around the head. Then take pliers and pull back the skin toward the tail.



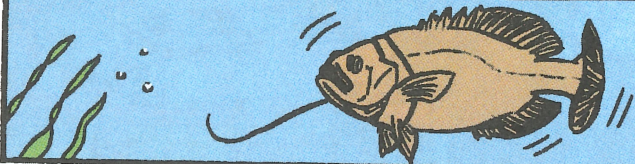
Frying is easy and delicious! Always have an adult present. Take a paper bag, add corn meal or flour, season with salt and pepper, and add your fish. Shake and place into a skillet with hot oil.





ANGLER'S CODE

1. Know the fishing rules and regulations for your state. Your state publishes a rules and regulations booklet each year.
2. Only take what you can use. Learn and practice catch and release.
3. Never leave fishing line, styrofoam bait boxes, or any kind of litter. Take all of your trash with you. Always leave an area cleaner than you found it. Trash can harm and kill fish and other wildlife.
4. Always ask permission before entering private land.



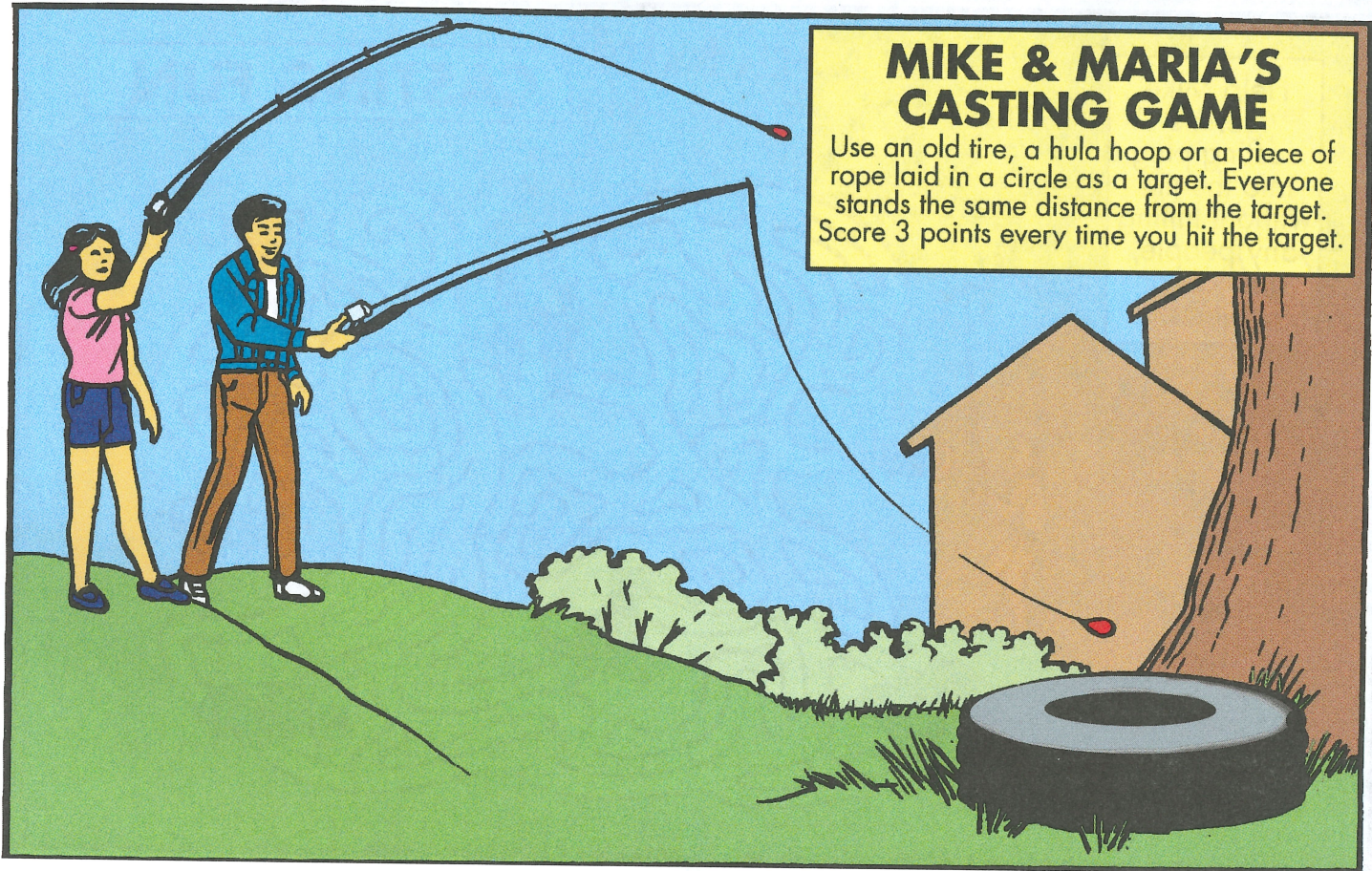
Many experienced anglers release the fish they catch. This is called catch and release fishing. Anglers also catch fish that are not within the legal size limit. It's important to learn how to release these fish properly so that they can live, grow and be caught again another day. A good way to learn is to ask an experienced angler to show you how to release a fish back into the water. Here are some guidelines that can help you:



Keep the fish in the water and try not to touch it. If the hook goes through its lip, use pliers to pull the hook out. If the hook does not come out, you can hold it gently and pull again. If the hook still won't come out cut the line just above the hook, it will rust away. Only handle the fish if you can not release the hook any other way. If you must handle the fish, handle it gently.

MIKE & MARIA'S CASTING GAME

Use an old tire, a hula hoop or a piece of rope laid in a circle as a target. Everyone stands the same distance from the target. Score 3 points every time you hit the target.



Help Mike get his casting plug into the tire without hitting any people, animals or objects.

CASTING FUN



Fish Find

Using the words below, complete the following sentences. Use the boxed letters to discover the hidden fish.



LICENSE

LITTER

PLAY

STANDING

CAREFUL

BASS

PLUG

RULES

_____ sometimes hide in weeds.

_____ can harm or kill fish.



All anglers should know their state's fishing _____ and regulations.

You should be _____ with hooks because hooks are sharp.

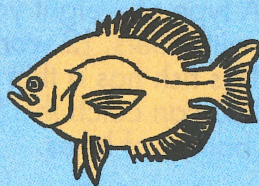
Attach a casting _____ to your line when playing Mike and Maria's casting game.

Never cast when someone is _____ behind you.

To _____ a fish, bring your rod tip up, then lower it back down as you reel in the line.

Anglers should carry their current _____ when fishing.

HIDDEN FISH: _____ .



Fishing Crossword Puzzle

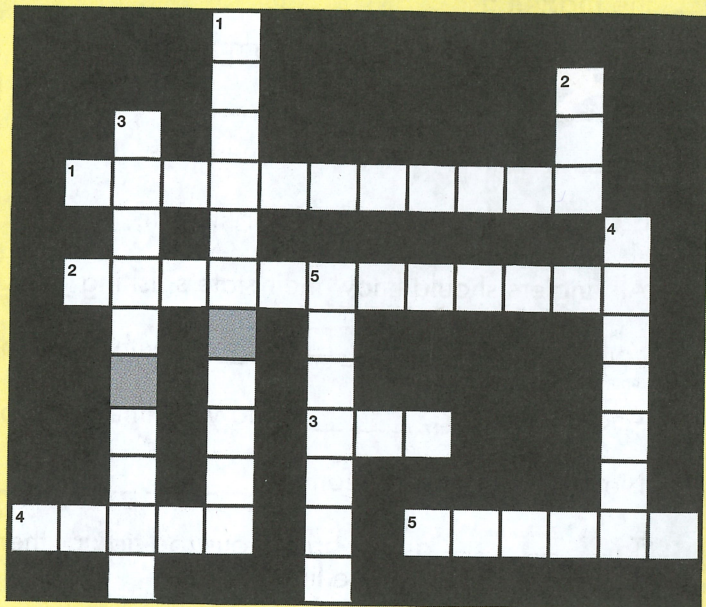


ACROSS

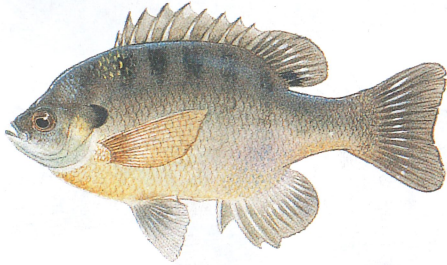
1. Easy fishing gear to learn to use.
2. A bait that is fun to catch at night.
3. Fishing is _____!
4. This fish can be caught with a small hook baited with salmon eggs.
5. This attaches to your line and floats on the water.

DOWN

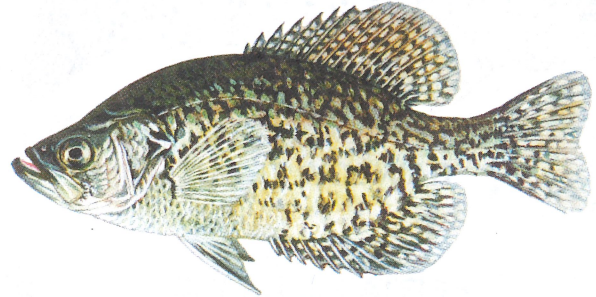
1. Another name for the "Fisherman's Knot."
(2 words)
2. Bounce this along underwater by logs or rocks.
3. A type of weight you fasten to your line with pliers. (2 words)
4. This fish has a thin mouth.
5. You can catch this fish at night on the bottom of lakes.



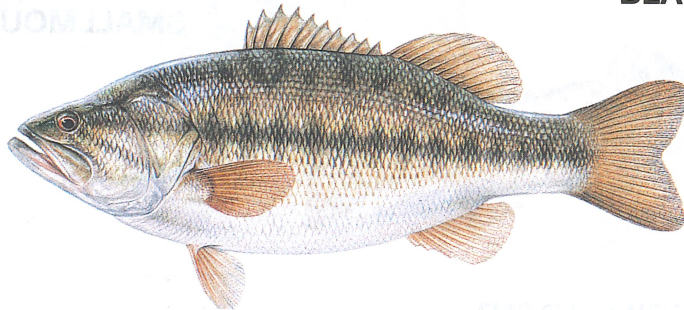
COMMON FRESHWATER FISH



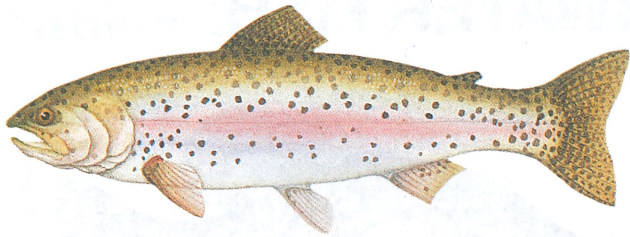
BLUEGILL



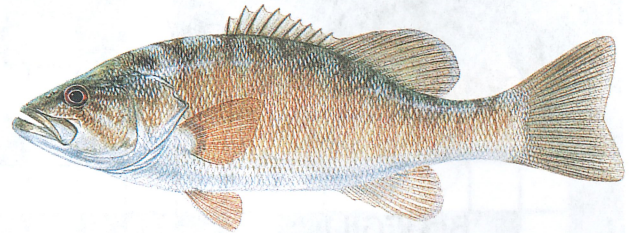
BLACK CRAPPIE



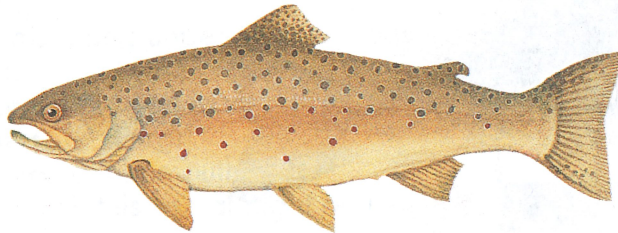
LARGEMOUTH BASS



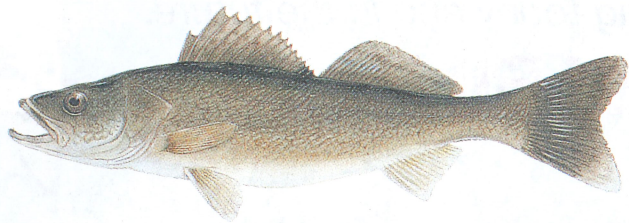
RAINBOW TROUT



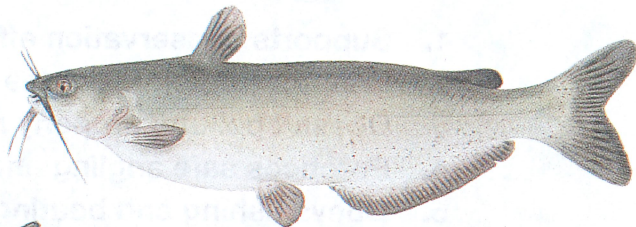
SMALLMOUTH BASS



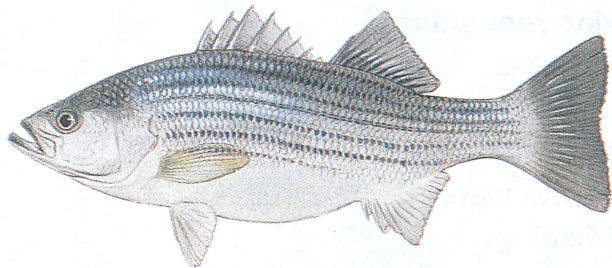
BROWN TROUT



WALLEYE



CHANNEL CATFISH



STRIPED BASS

Crossword Answers, p. 28

Across: 1) Spincasting 2) Nightcrawler 3) Fun 4) Trout 5) Bobber;
Down: 1) Clinch knot 2) Jig 3) Split shot 4) Crappie 5) Catfish

Fish Find Answers, p. 27

Bass, Litter, Rules, Careful, Plug, Standing, Play, License: Bluegill



*Be an **Ethical Angler.***

Contribute to enjoyable fishing today and in the future.

Angler's Code of Ethics

- 1. Supports conservation efforts.**
- 2. Practices catch and release.**
- 3. Doesn't pollute; properly recycles and disposes of trash.**
- 4. Practices safe angling and boating.**
- 5. Obeys fishing and boating regulations.**
- 6. Respects other anglers' rights.**
- 7. Respects property owners' rights.**
- 8. Shares fishing knowledge and skills.**
- 9. Doesn't release live bait into waters.**
- 10. Promotes ethical sport fishing.**



Look for this distinctive symbol where you buy fishing tackle or motorboat fuel, and where you fish or launch your boat. This symbol indicates that the manufacturer pays a special excise tax under the Sport Fish Restoration Act and that your state fish and wildlife agency is working to improve your fishing and boating. A portion of the funding for purchasing this instructional manual was provided by funds from the Wallop-Breaux Act.