

Fishing



Complete six activities.

- 1.** Find out about the differences between fish that live in salt water and those that live in fresh water. Use books, a computer, videos, or other reference materials. Find out where different fish live and what they look like. Identify three fish in your area. Learn about the parts of a fish's body. Identify its fins, tail, eyes, scales, skin, and mouth.
- 2.** All living creatures need four things to survive: food, water, shelter, and air. Learn about a fish's habitat. Include information about its life cycle, predators, water, vegetation, and food. How does the quality of water affect a fish's life cycle and habitat? Be an advocate for a fish: talk with your troop about why fish are important to the ecosystem. Know what *ecosystem* means.
- 3.** Identify and learn about equipment that is used for fishing. Learn about the different types of fishing rods and their uses.
- 4.** Learn about five basic artificial lures and five natural baits. Learn when to use them. Find out the best way to keep fishing lures and equipment. Invite an experienced fisher to speak to your troop. Possibilities include a warden from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries or a representative of the Virginia Sportfishing & Aquatic Resource Education Program. Ask an experienced fisher to share her or his tackle box with you. Ask the fisher where she or he gets natural baits and how she or he keeps them.
- 5.** Learn how to knot a hook on your fishing line and how to bait your hook. You can start with corn and rubber worms as practice.
- 6.** Learn how to take a fish off the hook without doing any damage to it or yourself. Learn what to do if you get a hook stuck in your skin or if someone fishing with you gets a hook stuck in her or his skin. Make a small first aid kit to keep in your tackle box.
- 7.** Practice casting your line toward a target such as a hula hoop on the ground. Be sure that you have plenty of room all around you and that you have only some weights on your line — no hooks for practice. Learn how to cast a line safely.
- 8.** Go fishing with an adult. Before you go, review the safety rules you should always follow while fishing and while being near water. Before you go, also find out about the fishing laws in your area. Do you need a license to fish?
- 9.** Help an adult clean or cook a fish. As you help clean the fish, look at the different parts of the fish. What parts of a fish anatomy are similar to yours?
- 10.** Create a piece of art using fish as your inspiration. Wind chimes, a sun catcher, a collage, a drawing, notepaper, a model, or even a costume are all possibilities.

OR

Write a poem or chant about fish and/or fishing and share it with your troop.

OR

Help create or take part in a skit or play about fish and/or fishing.

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11. Invent a fish. Draw your special fish or create it out of clay or craft scraps. Write a description including information about its habitat.

12. Visit a fish hatchery or trout farm and learn about what they do.

Resources:

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (www.dgif.state.va.us/)

Virginia Sportfishing & Aquatic Resource Education Program (www.dgif.state.va.us/fishing/sarep/index.html)

Northwest Women Flyfishers Association (www.northwestwomenflyfishers.org/)

Women's Flyfishing (www.womensflyfishing.net/index.htm)

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