

# **Goin' Fishin'**

**Dear Presenter,**

**This is a 30 minute HANDS-ON outside activity for approximately 25 - 30 ten year-old children. You MUST do this activity at home BEFORE you attempt to lead the activity during the Water Festival.**

**As each new group of students arrive, you should find the classroom teacher, introduce yourself, and let the teacher know this is a hands-on activity and you will need assistance from him/her. If you do not ask for assistance, the teacher will assume that YOU are the EXPERT and they are the observer! Plan when you will ask the teacher for assistance! DO NOT hesitate to call the teacher by name and politely ask for their assistance with ANY of your needs.**

**As each session begins, introduce yourself to the students. "Good morning, my name is.... and I work for..., I am a ..... or simply I am happy to be here today." Then introduce the topic of this presentation. Each step of this presentation is explained in this packet. These are recommended guidelines and do not have to be followed exactly word for word. However, you may present this material just as written. Feel free to personalize the presentation to suit you, if necessary.**

**Thank you for volunteering to present "Goin' Fishin'." Have fun, enjoy yourself, and we hope you will consider volunteering again next year!**

**~ Big Sioux Water Festival**

# Goin' Fishin'

## BACKGROUND

Background information is provided as a basic overview with both general and specific information. Share this information with the students throughout the presentation.

Everywhere on earth, wherever there is water, people fish. People have been fishing since the beginning of human time. Except for a few changes from the hand-caught to the store-bought, fishing is pretty much the same as it was for the first people who threaded an angleworm on a hook and gave us the word “angler.”

Fishing is a sport in which you compete with yourself. Did you cast your bait in the right spot, attract the fish with your lure, release the fish unharmed? That's how you win on a day of fishing. All that's needed to be a member in good standing in the oldest unofficial club on Earth is a promise to follow state regulations, respect anglers and the environment, and a commitment to be safe and careful.

A smart angler weighs many factors before venturing out for a day of fishing. Whether or not you'll be able to catch fish may depend on the weather conditions. Fish are just like people in that they prefer certain kinds of weather conditions over others. Some fish hate the rain and wind and will go deeper under water. Others such as bass, trout and sunfish are insect-eating fish. When it rains, insects get knocked into the water, so these fish will be biting more and staying close to the surface in a downpour. Nice weather is not always the best fishing weather.

Fishing accidents, although rare, can be very dramatic. They are most common when you are tired, cold, or hungry and aren't paying attention. The elements can be dangerous if you do not respect them. Lose your concentration and you may get hooks in your fingers, cuts, fall off rocks, or end up in the water, yourself! A few tips to keep you happy, healthy and fishing are:

- The number one rule is: NEVER FISH ALONE. In an emergency, having someone around who can help is always best. It's always a good idea to carry a whistle with you to use to call for help. You can also use the whistle to let your fishing buddy know where you are.
- Stay hydrated. Make sure you keep water handy so you can get a drink when you need to. If you wait until you are thirsty, it may be too late. Drink fluids before you get thirsty!

- You need to keep your strength up, so make sure to pack some snacks. Fishing is an endurance sport so have a good meal before you head out.
- Make sure you are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. Take along an extra jacket, socks, and change of clothes.
- “Slip, Slop, Slap” is especially important. “Slip” on a shirt, “Slop” on some maximum protection sunscreen, and “Slap” on a hat and sunglasses. Make sure your hat gives your face good protection from the sun. Try to use water-resistant sunscreen in case you end up getting wet!
- Wear polarized sunglasses to eliminate the glare from the water. You will also be surprised at what you can spot in the water with them on, that you wouldn’t be able to see with your naked eye! Sunglasses will also protect you from burning your eyes. Yes, you can burn your eyeball!
- If you’re going to be wading into the water always wear a life jacket. They’re not just for boats. Many styles have pockets where you can put your fishing stuff. A life jacket can also help keep you warm.
- If you are going on a boat to fish, make sure to wear a life jacket. There needs to be one life jacket for each person on board. It is important that you wear a life jacket that fits correctly.
- Take along some extra dry clothes and shoes, in case you accidentally fall into the water! Then you can keep right on fishing!

# **Goin' Fishin'**

## **MATERIALS LIST**

(for 6 presentations with approximately 24 - 30 students per session)

### **CONSUMABLES:**

- Water and live bait
- "Go Fishing" handout
- Some type of "prize" for a successful cast (suggestion could be a bobber, practice jig, sinker, etc.)

### **NON-CONSUMABLES**

- 28 large plastic fish
- 12 children's fishing rods, reels, and casting lures (Zebco 202's work well)
- 5 gallon bucket (if you want to show live bait)
- Tackle box with tackle
- Miscellaneous fishing equipment (nets, depth finders, bait containers, minnow bucket, etc., all optional)
- Life jacket
- Fisherman's First Aid Box
- Example Poles (cane, open reel, closed reel, fly rod, etc)
- Set of 9 laminated pictures of native fish (11 x 17" pictures)
- Current Year South Dakota Fishing Handbook
- Laminated Poster of Fishermen with Northern Pike
- Laminated Free Fishing Weekend Poster
- Wear It Poster
- 3 Pages of laminated Fish Trading Cards of South Dakota Fish

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## AREA REQUIREMENT

**Large, outside grassy area**

### **PRE-PREPARATION**

- Check supplies against supply list
- Make sure you have 150 copies of Fish & Fishing handout
- Memorize important information
- PRACTICE ACTIVITY

### **PREPARATION : (approximately 1 hour to set up)**

- Place bait in 5 gallon bucket with water
- Display fishing equipment
- Open and display Fisherman's First Aid Kit
- Display life jacket
- Place large plastic fish randomly out on the lawn
- Lay poles about 30- 40 feet out from the fish
- Test rods to make sure they all cast well

# Goin' Fishin'

THIS IS A 30 MINUTE PRESENTATION

**(Procedure note cards for this presentation are included)**

To best explain and supervise this activity, *ONE MUST DO THIS ACTIVITY BEFORE* the actual presentation.

## **INTENDED STUDENT OUTCOMES:**

By completing this activity students should be able to:

- Identify ideas for fishing safely
- Identify common South Dakota native fish and some types of bait
- Identify components of a tackle box and show familiarity with several types of fishing equipment
- Cast a line
- Be familiar with the Fisherman's First Aid kit
- Recognize the need for safety

## **PROCEDURE**

1. Begin by asking, "How many of you have ever been fishing?" After a show of hands, encourage students to relate a few fishing stories to the group.
2. Discuss the different types of tackle on display, emphasizing the specific type of tackle used to catch a specific fish (use the laminated fish pictures to match with the specific tackle). Talk briefly about how to be safe with fishing tackle and introduce the Fisherman's First Aid kit as part of this discussion, as well as the life jacket.
3. Have children hold some of the live bait and explain what type of fish can be caught with it.
4. Spend a few minutes discussing the differences between bank fishing vs. boat fishing vs. bridge fishing and the safety issues involved with each. While talking about boat fishing, display and have children try on the life jackets. Explain why it is important to wear a life jacket, how many you need in a boat and why you need to wear the correct size.

5. Display and talk about any miscellaneous fishing equipment you have and explain the role of each piece to fishermen. Talk with them about what type of special equipment every fisherman needs to be successful during their fishing day. Introduce as “special equipment” correct clothing, necessary fluids and food. Explain “slip, slop, slap.” Ask the students why having a pair of sunglasses would be important.
6. Explain that there are many different types of rod and reels as well as lures and bait that are used to catch fish. Show students the rods that you have and tell them that they are going to learn how to fish today. Ask the students to pick a partner (you may want to have the teacher help you with this) and line up behind a fishing pole. Explain that each of them are going to have a chance to cast their lure into the pond to try and “catch a fish.”
7. Demonstrate how to cast several times. Try to give each student at least 3 casts before moving on to their partner. **MAKE SURE YOU STRESS SAFETY BOTH WITH CASTING AND WITH CATCHING A FISH**
8. Give each student a “prize” for a good cast.

### **SET UP FOR NEXT SESSION**

- Have each set of students carefully wind up their fishing poles so that the casting lure is back at the top
- Place pole back at the head of the line
- Give each student their the “Go Fishing” handout
- Thank everyone for participating, compliment behavior and answer any questions the children may still have.

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## **FINAL CLEAN UP AFTER LAST SESSION (Approximately 30 minutes)**

- **Wind up each rod and reel. Place all extra casting lures into ziplock bag.**
- **Replace laminated fish pictures into tote**
- **Gather large plastic fish**
- **Re-pack (if you've removed items) the Fisherman's First Aid Kit and the tackle box**
- **Gather left over casting "prizes" and copies of Fish & Fishing and return them to storage container**
- **Replace bait into original container, empty 5 gallon bucket. Make sure to tell the presenter chair that you have live bait that needs to be disposed of.**
- **Return the instructions and cue cards to presenter folder**
- **Place all items into Rubbermaid storage container and return to the Information Booth**